

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 6, 1982



CEDARVALE FUN TAKES A SLIDE IN WINTER

Lurking somewhere in the imaginations of these youngsters tobogganing at Georgetown's Cedarvale Park last Wednesday was probably the possibility of participating in the 1988 winter Olympics in Calgary as part of Canada's bobled team. Snowfalls over the Christmas holiday assured toboggan fanatics that conditions would be just right. Besides, many of these

kids received saucers and sleds and sliding mats for Christmas and these needed testing out. The hill, located at the corner of Maple Avenue and Main Street south, has for years been popular for youngsters' winter sports and, as long as there is snow, that tradition should continue.

(Herald photo by Dave Rowney)

Roadside stops result in 42 liquor charges

Spotcheck figures please Halton cops

By ANI FEDERIAN
 Herald Staff Writer

Although only 42 liquor-related charges were laid during nine weeks of spot-checks in which 1,958 vehicles were stopped, Halton regional police are pleased with the pilot project instituted Nov. 3 and call it a great success.

Deputy Police Chief Bob Middaugh attributed a sharp reduction in deaths due to car crashes this holiday season to the spotchecks.

He said there was only one death this year compared with nine during the same period last year.

Extremely pleased with the results, the deputy chief said he hopes to have a spotcheck program every three months for a three-week period through 1982.

Replying to the point that very few liquor charges were laid for all the drivers stopped, Mr. Middaugh said the thrust of the program hadn't been to see how many impaired drivers police could catch.

He said the program is designed to make drivers aware that drinking and driving don't mix and that they should make arrangements for getting home if they plan to drink.

"Speaking to citizens, I got the message that they were very concerned about the spotchecks. People told me they were making plans to use taxis and other means of transportation to get home after their Christmas parties," Deputy Chief Middaugh said.

The preventive aspect of the program was a success, according to Mr. Middaugh, yet one that cannot be measured by statistics released by police. How many people stayed home to drink? Or slept over at their host's home? Or

ordered a taxi to take them home when they'd had one too many? Statistics can't be compiled on these cases. However, other statistics were collected.

Over 600 drivers stopped during the just-completed two-month program received verbal warnings. Sergeant Jim Chapman, acting head of the four-man spotcheck squad, said most of the warnings were given out for mechanical problems like headlights or taillights that didn't work, or for not wearing seatbelts.

Over 875 Highway Traffic Act charges were laid over the same time period and Sergeant Chapman said they were mostly for failure to wear seatbelts.

During the campaign, Halton police used their ALERT roadside alcohol tester on motorists, of whom 14 passed the test, 17 received warnings and 14 failed. Three refused to take the test.

The breathalyzer test was given to 20 drivers, with 15 charges laid for impaired driving, 17 charges for driving with over .08 per cent alcohol in their blood, and six for refusing a breath sample.

Staff Inspector Raymond Andress said Halton police will be asking for a similar traffic squad when the 1982 budget comes up for discussion. Operating year-round, a five-man squad could handle complaints for speeding in certain areas or other problems.

"At the present time we don't have such a traffic unit. We have zone officers who set up radar in areas where complaints have been made. However, they often can't finish the job because they get called away to other police work like a break and enter,"

Sergeant Andress said. "With a traffic unit, they can stay in the area until they solve the problem."

Deputy Chief Middaugh said having the spotcheck program cost the force some money in

overtime. No extra personnel were hired.

As for the enforcement of the new provincial legislation that went into effect Dec. 18, allowing police to suspend drivers' licenses for some time.

Continued on page A2



NUMERO UNO

A day late, Ashleigh Louise Gani still clocked in as the first Halton Hills baby born in 1982. Born Jan. 2 at 10:48 a.m., Ashleigh weighed in at eight pounds one ounce. She's got two older sisters, Andrea, 8, and Jaime, 2, said her mom Vicky. Mrs. Gani said she picked the name Ashleigh from Parent's Magazine. The Gani family has lived in Georgetown since April when they moved to Elgin Street from Mississauga.

(Herald photo)

Southern Ontario weather system buffets pedestrians, downs lines

A "fairly deep, strong low pressure system" that moved into southern Ontario Sunday night was largely responsible for Monday's erratic weather in which rising and falling temperatures played havoc with traffic and high winds buffeted power lines and pedestrians.

However, Halton regional

police reported no major mishaps in the Halton Hills area. The unusual conditions included, briefly, a hail shower in the area.

According to a spokesman at the federal government's Toronto weather office, Halton Hills was part of the region sandwiched between cold and

warm weather fronts resulting in Monday's instability.

Considerably warmer, lower air masses rose into colder volumes of air and gave us the participation which fell as rain earlier in the day and changed to snow squalls that evening.

Weather office supervisor Brian Kirkpatrick said that wind speeds at the Halton

weather station adjacent to the Toronto International airport averaged 45 kilometers per hour with some strong gusts of up to 87 kilometers recorded around 6 p.m.

"With the exception of a few downed power lines, Halton Hills remained relatively unscathed, although there were power outages in Orangeville

attributed to ice and snow buildup on the lines. More severe wind damage occurred in Woodstock, southwest of Halton Hills.

Temperatures, which rose above freezing Monday causing minor flooding in parts of southern Ontario, have since dropped to more seasonal readings and the low pressure area and accompanying warm weather have since moved northeast.

Interest slated to drop on unpaid municipal taxes

By CHRIS AAGAARD
 Herald Staff Writer

Responding to the recent slide in the prime lending rate, town council next Monday night is expected to pass a recommendation from its treasury department asking that interest charges on overdue tax bills should also be reduced.

Town treasurer Ray King told The Herald that the

province recently allowed municipalities to peg interest rates on overdue tax accounts closer to the country's prime lending rate rather than the previous 15 per cent charge. While many municipalities boosted their interest charges in October, Halton Hills waited for the prime rate to drop slightly before raising charges Dec. 1.

Adjustments in the

province's Municipal Act allowed towns to charge the prime rate plus one and a half per cent on overdue accounts. When Halton Hills' charges rose last month, the prime rate was hovering around 20 per cent. Rates have since dropped to about 16 per cent.

New charges calculated after next Monday (council's next meeting) will reflect the recent drop, Mr. King said,

adding that while he expects prime rates to remain relatively stable, another bylaw may lower town charges even further later in the year.

Town charges will remain low even if the prime lending figure suddenly rises, he said.

Even at December rates, Mr. King said he didn't think the town's charges were "unfair" considering that utility bills and charge card accounts incur greater interest charges for overdue debts (around 24 per cent).

Faced with losing money because taxpayers were not paying their bills quickly when the interest charges were at 15 per cent, municipal representatives last year lobbied the provincial municipal affairs and housing ministry to change the Municipal Act.

Without prompt payment of taxes, Mr. King said, the town must borrow money to cover its annual budget, increasing its own interest expenses which may be reflected in higher tax bills the following year.

Halton Hills has four interim tax billings each year: two prior to the passing of the annual budget in April and two afterward.



THE OL' ARTS TWO-STEP

The town recreation department and Halton Hills library board must have decided Brenda Archer (right) of Georgetown has too much talent not to be sharing it around. Already a familiar performer on local concert and drama stages just after graduating from high school, Brenda and Hellen Schwartz treated area youngsters to some music, mime and acting lessons at both the Acton and Georgetown libraries last Wednesday. Brenda and Hellen emphasized the use of imagination in putting on a show for any audience, whether it be for the Little Theatre or the Canatite Singers.

(Herald photo by Harald Bransch)

Icy tracks derail CN train in Acton

There was a train derailment due to a build-up of ice on the CNR tracks crossing Highway 7 in Acton Saturday evening.

No one was injured and there

was no damage to the westbound train when the front engine wheels on the secondary siding track derailed. The westbound train was proceeding at a slow rate of speed to allow an eastbound

train to pass when the 7:30 p.m. event occurred. The train was brought to a halt without injury or damage and passengers transferred to a bus and taken to their destination.

Snow cancels school buses

Icy back road conditions caused the cancellation of school bus service to 2,850 children living north of Steeles Avenue Monday.

Halton Board of Education transportation officer Jim Hunt said he decided at 6:30 a.m. to keep the board's 65 buses off North Halton roads because although regional roads were fairly safe for driving, gravel roads in the rural areas were covered with sheer ice.

Long since resigned to the firm's imminent closure, Irwin-Dorsey president Nick Willis shook his head Thursday at the months of discussion which ended the company's 13-year history in the community.

"Of what benefit is this kind of shutdown to Canada?" Mr. Willis commented in an interview with The Herald. "It cuts out suppliers, carriers — all those things like paying utilities and federal and municipal taxes are just wiped out."

13 YEARS

Irwin-Dorsey stopped shipping books Nov. 13 following Dow Jones announcement that it would shut down, leaving 21 employees out of work. The company's seven salesmen, scattered from Vancouver to Halifax, are currently employed by Richard D. Irwin.

A 61-year old native of New York City, Mr. Willis said he plans to remain in Terra Cotta, retained by Richard D. Irwin as an assistant to its president, aiding in the parent company's international affairs.

"The irony of the situation," Mr. Willis added "is that the American parent company will still be shipping books to Canada and doing business here; but it will hurt the

students waiting for the books to arrive because it will take that much longer."

Sadder still, he said, is that the company was growing and generating about \$5 million a year in revenue. Profits for 1981 have yet to be announced.

REAL CRUX
 "All the plans for the future which we laid before the agency were determined not to be of significant benefit to the country," Mr. Willis explained. "That was the real crux of the problem and Dow Jones refused to sell the company."

Usually when a company closes, it's because it is losing money, Mr. Willis said. However, the Irwin-Dorsey shutdown is attributed to legal difficulties and "hardline"

positions adopted by FIRA and Dow Jones while negotiating with each other.

Mr. Willis charged that the agency's decision to force Dow Jones to divest itself of its Canadian publishing arm was "completely subjective."

"It was their evaluation that there would be no benefit to Canada in the Dow Jones takeover," Mr. Willis said, even though the Georgetown company had been apart of the Dow Jones umbrella since 1975.

Depending on years of service, former Irwin-Dorsey employees will receive up to five months of severance pay. Mr. Willis described the severance arrangement as

"very liberal" and said it will help workers get through the winter and into the spring while they look for new jobs.

Although he is optimistic that younger former employees will readily find work — in fact, a number have been hired by Irwin-Dorsey's Rexdale-based competitor, John Wiley and Sons Ltd. — he expressed concern that some of the senior workers might find it tough on the job market.

According to a company spokesman, Irwin-Dorsey's Guelph Street plant will be leased out and prospective tenants have indicated they are interested in the building.

Mr. Willis declined to say who the interested parties are.

Only a few skids of books and some office furniture remained Thursday as employees of Georgetown's Irwin-Dorsey Ltd. closed the Guelph Street plant for good, ending months of wrangling among officials, Dow Jones Co. of Delaware (Irwin-Dorsey's parent firm) and the federal government's Foreign Investment Review Agency (FIRA). FIRA insisted this year that Dow Jones divest itself of the Canadian publishing firm

which has been in the community for 13 years and the company refused, forcing 21 people from their jobs. Among those who've had to look elsewhere for work are (left to right) Donna Reed, Carmela Stringer, Rose Wilcox, Sharon Hewatt, Carol Pearson, Laura Clifford and Rick Island (rear). Seven sales reps with Irwin-Dorsey will continue working for the Illinois-based publishing firm, Richard D. Irwin.

