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WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 13, 1982

**Large area blacked out Saturday**

## High winds and cold left us in the dark

By CHRIS AAGAARD  
Herald Staff Writer

For the second weekend in row, high winds and unstable weather conditions throughout Ontario slowed or shut down commerce, forced school buses off the roads and encouraged residents to remain indoors.

The weekend cold snap, coupled with gusting winds reaching at times up to 80 kilometers per hour, may have contributed to a power failure Saturday night which left half of Georgetown and southern Etobicoke without light and many homes without heat.

Police and fire department officials in town reported no major incidents along roadways or in homes during the

blackout, which began just after 8 and continued until 10:06 p.m. Saturday.

As winds whisked the limited snowfall into blinding gusts and hazardous drifts and temperatures plummeted to 30 degrees below zero, policemen were forced to direct traffic at the Mountview - Guelph Street intersection in Georgetown because street-lamps and traffic lights had blinked out with the power failure.

Halton Hills Hydro general superintendent Hugh Campbell told The Herald Monday that a guy wire supporting a wooden hydro pole near Pineview School on Trafalgar Road snapped and fell across power lines.

The short circuit immediately

blacked out homes as far west as Highway 25 and as far east as Brampton. Homes in Acton and the northern part of town were unaffected.

When the power went out, Mr. Campbell explained, hydro employees began a systematic check of the circuits feeding electricity into town to pinpoint where the break occurred. Crews were shortly dispatched to correct the problem.

Zeller's department store in the Georgetown Market Place was open to 9 p.m. Saturday, but had to close suddenly when the power failed.

Store manager Gordon Finney said that customers were very understanding about the inconvenience, which shut down the store's

electric cash registers.

Under the eerie glow of the emergency lights in the store, remaining customers were able to complete purchases as clerks wrote up invoices and dipped into money bags to make change. Employees remained in the store until the power returned.

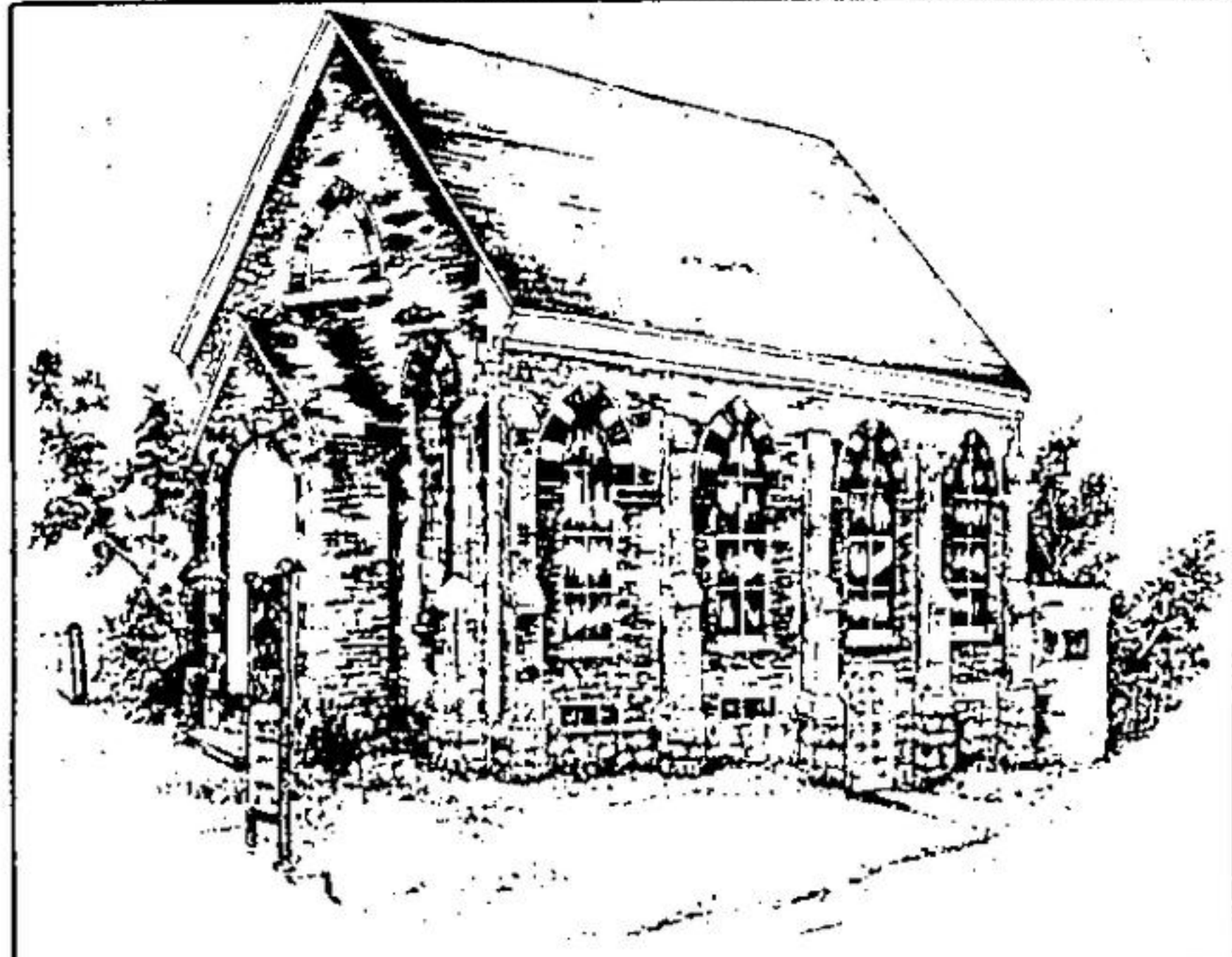
Although the high winds and snowfall which left about five centimeters throughout most of southern Ontario continued until Monday morning, schools opened as usual in Halton Hills.

However, school bus service ground to a halt and some institutions reported that many of their teaching staff were having problems getting to work. GO Transit trains ran normally Monday but bus service to Georgetown and Acton was interrupted because of bad weather.

Several minor calls for aid were received by the Georgetown Volunteer Ambulance Service during the blackout and throughout the weekend. GVAS crews were also dispatched to help at accidents in neighboring Brampton.

A spokesman with the weather office at Toronto International airport said temperatures will become "more seasonal" today (Wednesday) and for the rest of the week, hovering between minus five and zero degrees Celsius.

Partly cloudy conditions and the possibility of snow flurries complete the week's weather forecast.



**IT'S BALLINAFAD'S TURN**

The centennial celebrations of the Ballinafad United Church congregation in 1978 included the publishing of a booklet recording the history of the congregation. This sketch by Robert Pinkerton adorns the cover of the booklet written by long-time members of the congregation. See page A6 for an in-depth look at Ballinafad United, part of our series on churches.

## Roma's annual thankyou for town's 'Good Neighbors'

By ROMA TIMPSON  
GNS Co-ordinator

Another successful Good Neighbor Service campaign is drawing to a close and all that remains is send out thank you cards to all who helped and donated either their time, money and food.

Actually, just about the whole town was involved in one way or another when you consider the fact that so many of the donors were the students from all of our schools; in second spot would be the many people who gave through their church.

We begin by thanking Harold Fobert for the warm, comfortable place he gave us to work in; Officers Raj Swaminathan and Bill Phipps (Halton regional police Milton detachment); Rob Horning (his fourth year helping) and Greg Quinn (Georgetown District High School); Tom Garstka, Wanda Szymczyk and Robin Thomson (Sheridan College enforcement course) who picked up all the food from the schools; Grace Harrison of the Legion Ladies Auxiliary who helped us by contacting the schools; Bubbles Waites, Nellie Bell, Mid Brunski, Alice Elliott and Elsie Montgomery (Legion Auxiliary) who helped sort food and helped pack the baskets.

Also helping to sort and pack were Joyce Gosling (President of the Lions Club) Ed and Siena Van Hoekeken (Holy Cross Church) and Cathy Johnson. Helping with the deliveries were Joe Poirier and Gib Telford (Legion), and Tom Breen can always be counted on to get a team of Lion Club members out to do the deliveries. This year they were, besides Ron, Pearce Porter, Howard Murphy, Carl Hanson, Bob Gordon and Frank Griffe.

Another fellow who gives

a hand is Doug Woods. I must make special mention of Nellie Bell (Legion Auxiliary) who took on the mammoth job of delivering out to the country when she knew we were stuck Dec. 24. And I can't forget my good husband, who helps in many ways. Thanks to all of you.

The bills are paid, there will be more money going into the bank and happily we have a balance for next year. Although the work is mainly done in three to five days, it begins in November with a phone call to Gordy Preston to order turkeys and ends sometime in January when the last thankyou card is mailed.

Deserving a large part of the credit for assuring this year's campaign ran smoothly was the help from Betty Sandifer. Everyone needs another "right hand". Thanks, Betty. Also a large thankyou to the Salvation Army, which took ten families off our lists and did those who were out in the country. The Georgetown Elks Club who again helped us by taking six names off our list, leaving our Lions and other helpers to deliver the remaining 66 baskets.

I've been working with Gordy Preston for many years now and, as before, when Gordy says he'll deliver at a certain time, he's as good as his word. He makes our job that much easier. Thanks to Pearce Porter, who co-signs the cheques, and all the help you've given with deliveries.

Ah, yes. Last but not least, where would the Good Neighbor Service be without those fabulous Kinetix? Their tanks are few, but they do the job of many. Under crowded circumstances, with limited time and only a handful of members, they did a truly fine job of making up toys for over 80 children from the very small into the teen

years. Thanks so very much, girls.

Several people sent food, toys, gifts and they either left it or gave us no name. We thank you for your thoughtfulness. Others sent us cheques and asked to remain anonymous. Our grateful thanks to you also.

Our local papers have been a tremendous help in their coverage of the Good Neighbor Service and it is much appreciated by all to have had pictorial coverage of different instances by The Halton Hills Herald and the Independent.



Georgetown residents Roma Timpson (right) and Betty Sandifer have been showing their townfolk for years how a little organization and some volunteer effort can make Christmas a lot merrier for dozens of local families whose incomes don't allow them the comforts of the season we all take for granted. Stocking boxes and baskets with food, children's toys and a few other Yuletide ingredients - all donated by area businesses and individuals - is just one of the tasks Mrs. Timpson co-ordinates every December for the Good Neighbor Service with Mrs. Sandifer's personal help. The other jobs, from pick-up to delivery, are undertaken by volunteers from every walk of life, saying more than any Christmas card about the true spirit of the season.

(Herald file photo)



**ENOUGH POPCORN FOR 101 MOVIES**

Older movie-goers will probably look enviously at this photo and wonder why they weren't invited to participate in Georgetown Little Theatre's (GLT's) recent coloring contest for kids held in conjunction with the Christmas production "Once Upon a Time". Bracketed by children's librarian Judi Starkey (left) and GLT president John Roe, Angie Gambles picked up her bag of popcorn (almost half as big as she is) for winning in the contest's eight to 12-year old category. Colin Campbell won for his poster submitted in the up to seven years category. Runners-up in the competition were Deanna Colgan, Kevin McMurray, Michelle Robinson and Colin McMurray. The photo was taken at the John Elliott Theatre box office Saturday.

(Herald photo by Chris Aagaard)

**Pomeroy denounces FIRA over firm's closure**

## 'God help real Canadians' - mayor

By CHRIS AAGAARD  
Herald Staff Writer

With the fate of Irwin-Dorsey Ltd. finally sealed, Mayor Pete Pomeroy dropped the gloves Monday night, unleashing

ing a scathing condemnation of the federal government and its Foreign Investment Review Agency (FIRA).

Directly involved in discussions between FIRA and the Georgetown plant's parent company, Dow Jones Company of Delaware, which closed Irwin-Dorsey Dec. 31 and terminated 21 local jobs, Mayor Pomeroy had previously declined to comment at length on the matter.

With MP John McDermid, he met FIRA officials in Ottawa last month to discuss the agency's decision ordering Dow Jones to divest itself of its Canadian publishing holdings, or at least a major share of

them. Rather than lose control of the Guelph Street plant, the American parent chose to close it.

Describing his conclusions on the Irwin-Dorsey closing as "personal", he charged that FIRA is having a "negative impact" on Canadian industry and warned that Canadians had "better brace themselves for a lot more Irwin-Dorseys and further secret and unexplained decisions".

Mayor Pomeroy maintained that the government believes FIRA is popular, protecting Canadian business from being excessively controlled by foreign interests.

But, he said, FIRA appears to impose "serious restrictions on the industrial growth of our country."

"It imposes these restrictions without any clearly defined set of guidelines for a company to become Canadianized, and therefore avoid the FIRA process," Mayor Pomeroy wrote in a letter to council.

He added that the decision (based on FIRA's conclusions), about whether a company is attempting to "Canadianize" is reached by the federal cabinet in secret.

After the closure was announced during a press conference called by Irwin-Dorsey president Dick Willis Nov. 13, Mayor Pomeroy and Mr. McDermid met with FIRA officials.

"If this is the kind of mandate our federal leaders think they have been sent to Ottawa to exercise, God help the real Canadians."

In an otherwise bitter invective about FIRA policies, Mayor Pomeroy saved his highest praise for Mr. McDermid, thanking him for his efforts in the Irwin-Dorsey issue and describing the MP's dedication as an elected official as "second to none".

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## Town, school board face off on sharing

By CHRIS AAGAARD  
Herald Staff Writer

Town recreation officials and representatives of the Halton separate school board are expected to meet next week to try and resolve a dispute over the board's use of ice time at civic arenas.

Recreation director Tom Shepard told councilors at Monday night's meeting that the town's separate schools - Georgetown's Holy Cross, St. Francis of Assisi and Sacred Heart and Acton's St. Joseph's - have been making "unauthorized" use of the arenas during school hours, racking up ice time which cost the town \$6,000 to \$7,000 last year.

Mr. Shepard explained that the town has a written arrangement with the public school board which allows students to use municipal recreation facilities free of charge during school hours in return for letting the department book school gym and classroom space for other organizations. Costs are compared annually and arrangements are made in the following year to iron out major inequities.

However, Mr. Shepard said, the town has no such agreement with the separate schools, and until the town has been compensated in some way, only public school students will be allowed to use the arenas.

Last year, the rec department discovered that the use of the arenas by separate schools was monitored along with the

public schools. Mr. Shepard said he ordered the ice time broken down between the public and separate schools and discovered that about one third of the ice time accumulated during weekdays is used by the separate schools.

Separate school trustee Irene McCauley told councilors that her board has a written agreement only with Burlington and argued that Halton Hills has full use of the separate schools' playing fields. A local ladies' basketball league also used Holy Cross' gym last year. The league now plays Wednesday nights at Centennial (public) School.

Mr. Shepard acknowledged

that the separate school board has offered the town the use of its schools after hours; but, he added, Halton Hills has no urgent need for them at present.

There are no activities booked through the department currently being run at any of the separate schools he said.

The separate school's use of the arenas is "something that has to be paid for," Mr. Shepard maintained, "and it is not going to come out of my pocket."

Left unresolved while the town formulates a new budget, the ice time dispute could show up as a \$6,000 to \$7,000 deficit in the rec department's budget allocated yearly to assist community organizations.



**PIPIN' HOT**

Braden Hulme of Georgetown, age 11, recently passed Intermediate Bagpiping, Level One. Presenting him with his certificate, is Bill MacPhail, co-ordinator of piping and drumming classes at Sheridan College in Oakville. Braden attended the two-week summer school at Sheridan, in July, where he was tested for this level, and also tied for second place in the solo-piping competition held on the last day of the school. Braden, the younger son of Francis and Virginia Hulme of Georgetown, has been taking bagpipe lessons since he was eight years old.

(Photo submitted)

## Where there's smoke...

Town council's long running amateur musical, "When Smoke Gets In Your Eyes", began a second season of semi-regular performances last Monday night. As part of her campaign to clear council chambers of the often noxious clouds which build up, especially during long meetings, Coun. Marilyn Serjeantson, joined by Mayor Pete Pomeroy, attempted to pass a resolution prohibiting smoking in the chambers. Council, however, voted to table the motion until councilors Roy Booth and Mike Armstrong, both smokers, are present at a future meeting. Coun. Serjeantson recently suggested that the town look into getting air purifiers for the chambers.