

Times bring us closer together

They say that in hard times, people grow closer together. Georgetown and Acton and their neighboring villages have always been close-knit communities, but things seem warmer and more accommodating in this era of looking out for ourselves and our neighbors.

Annual Christmas drives for our less fortunate residents continue to exemplify this trait in Halton Hills: where government assistance falls short, or when a paycheque from Queen's Park can't quite capture the spirit of Christmas the way a big dinner with all the family can, those special visits by dedicated groups of neighbors bearing personalized presents and gifts of food mean a lot.

Our fervent thanks once again to Roma Timpson and other volunteers in Georgetown's Good Neighbor Service, to Marny Malcolmson and the Kinette Club for their toy drive and to Acton's Salvation Army for bringing badly-needed Christmas cheer across town.

Our thanks also to the Kinmen for their annual tour of the Christmas light displays for senior citizens, and to all the groups and individuals who helped out. Most did quite a lot of work to make the occasion a memorable success, and most no doubt have drawn ample satisfaction from seeing the fruit of their labor.

A very special Merry Christmas to you all, and thanks from all of us.



DOING A GOOD TURN

The 19th annual Kinette toy drive in aid of Georgetown's Good Neighbor Service got a big boost last Thursday from First Georgetown Cubs at St. John's United Church. Kinette Marny Malcolmson (left), chairman of the club's toy drive committee, was delighted to accept several well-stuffed Christmas stockings the boys had assembled for local children less fortunate than themselves. The Cubs had been shopping the previous week for toys and other stocking stuffers. Thinking of others at Christmastime were Cubs Barry Ewing, Jeff Hannah, Russell Hyde, Stephen Athertley, Paul Sergeant, Todd McGivern and Stephen Hayden and their leaders Ken Nokes, Monty Hyde, Arch Hayden, Ken House, Brenda McMurray and Sybil Ewing.

(Photo by Jean Layman)

McDermid extends Yuletide greetings

By JOHN McDERMID, M.P.
Brampton-Georgetown
It is a pleasure to extend the best of the holiday season to all in Brampton-Georgetown.

The past year, as we all know, has been quite difficult for many in our midst. It is during times like these that members of a community must continue to work together. In a world full of strife, we should be thankful for the peace and freedom we enjoy in Canada. The problems facing us are a challenge that we can and will meet.

It has been a pleasure to represent Brampton-Georgetown in Ottawa and I look forward to doing so for many more years. Parliament has dealt with legislation in the areas of housing, national training, unemployment insurance and small business. This legislation will hopefully give some assistance to those sectors that have been affected by these hard times.

In November, 1981, the government presented a budget to Parliament that was little more than a poorly thought out attempt to reform the tax system. There were no real measures in the budget that would enable the economy to become more efficient or more productive. Indeed, the budget was anti-investment and anti-growth. The June and October budgets of 1982 were little more than efforts to undo the damage of the November budget.

This year also brought us the "S and S" program which in principle is a restraint program. However, the present administration seems to have turned it into a Liberal slogan that hurts only those who can least afford to be hurt. In the interest of Canadians, I sincerely hope that new policies are introduced in 1983 to alleviate some of our economic problems. As the recent Auditor General's report indicates, the fiscal mismanagement of the current government cannot be denied.

The past year also brought home the Canadian Constitution. It was an honor to be present at the historical proclamation April 17 and I know that both my wife, Elaine, and Gina Osborne of

Brampton were thrilled to witness the event.

On a more personal level, the death of long-time Brampton Mayor James Archibek left me, and I am certain many in the area, very saddened. His contribution to the community of Brampton will long be remembered. We not only lost a concerned, compassionate mayor but a good friend as well.

I wish our new city of Brampton Hills and town of Halton Hills council best wishes in the New Year and during their entire three-year mandate. I look forward to working with them and other local government representatives for the betterment of our communities.

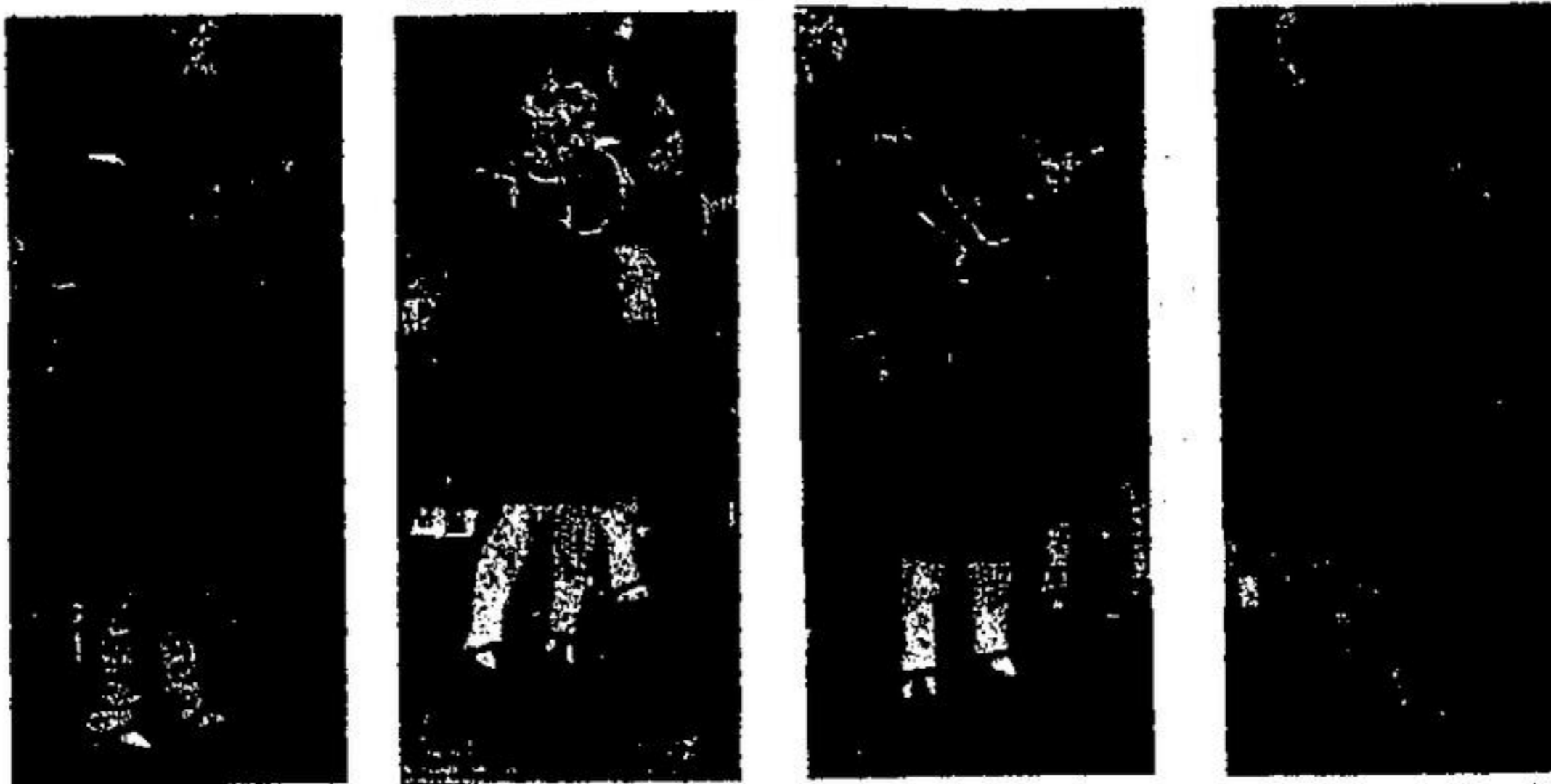
The year 1983 will bring some very new procedural changes to the House of Commons. All members of parliament are looking forward to the experiment with new sitting hours, temporary rules of the House and standing committees. It is hoped that the changes will increase efficiency and expedite handling of legislation.

In closing I would once again like to wish all of you the very best for a happy, prosperous and healthy new year.

SANTA'S MAILBAG

Appears throughout Sections B and C

CHRISTMAS TOY STEP



One of the toy dolls left her cross-legged position and started to dance Thursday night on the Park School stage. The jack-in-the-boxes also got into the action, bouncing so heartily that one of them tipped over in their

box, bringing gales of laughter to spectators. Soldiers marched about and toy trains choo-chooed by. It was a veritable Toyland come alive at the school's Christmas concert.

Merry Christmas

To all our readers from the staff of The Herald

Levesque's 'colonial' beef remains utter nonsense



Ottawa Report

By Stewart McLeod

By STEWART McLEOD

Ottawa Bureau

Thomas News Service

All things being considered, it's little wonder that Quebec Premier Rene Levesque reacted bitterly when the Supreme Court of Canada ruled that the province has no constitutional veto.

It's little wonder because it has Levesque who effectively gave away any claim to a veto and the court's decision was undoubtedly a painful reminder of this fact. The premier could therefore be forgiven for over-reacting - which he did.

He was also bitter. "What the Supreme Court should have said, is that as long as it didn't go against the interests of the English Canadian Majority and its government, he could keep our illusions (of a veto). But once it did go against those so-called fundamental interests; goodbye to even the illusion of a veto."

By appearing to direct his attack

on the Supreme Court's decision; the premier conveniently overlooks the fact that the decision merely upheld a unanimous decision by the Quebec Court of Appeal; which had also rejected the province's claim to a veto.

NOT SURPRISING

And when he talks about the interests of English Canada; the premier also seems to overlook the fact that 14 judges have now ruled on the argument and nine of them were French-speaking. None held to the Quebec government's view that the province has constitutional veto power.

And it really isn't very surprising. If there had been a traditional view that Quebec held veto power over constitutional change; this has effectively changed in 1981 when Premier Levesque got together with the so-called "Gang of Eight" premiers and embraced the "Vancouver Formula" for amending the constitution. This formula; which was later adopted as a trade-off for accepting the federal government's Charter of Rights and Freedoms; says constitutional changes requires the consent of seven of the 10 provinces, comprising 50 per cent of the population.

And that means no veto for any single province.

In accepting this formula; the premiers turned their back on the long-debated "Victoria Formula" which did contain an effective veto power. This formula; under consider-

ation for 10 years, would have required the consent of any province that contained 25 per cent of the population as well as two Western and two Atlantic Provinces; Ontario and Quebec would both have had veto powers under this formula.

MANY IRONIES

Regardless of how one views the negotiations that led up to the new constitutional accord - and there are a good many who feel that Levesque was shafted by his fellow premiers - the fact remains that the Quebec premier agreed to an amending formula that did not provide his province with a veto.

And one of the many ironies of this stormy squabble is that the federal government was not particularly opposed to a veto for Quebec - in fact, federal spokesmen have made it clear the issue may still be negotiated. Federal Justice Minister Mark MacGuigan says that Ottawa will be willing to discuss a provincial veto if it is raised by the provinces, but that he has no plans to initiate talks. That seems reasonable.

It certainly isn't difficult to understand why Premier Levesque would be acutely embarrassed by the whole business; but he really is stretching things when he says that "we are nothing more than an internal colony that lives at the will of another people."

That's nonsense.

Fifty cent life-saver idea collects dust in MTC office



Queen's Park

By Derek Nelson

Queen's Park Bureau

Thomas News Service

Sitting on a shelf at the Transportation and Communications Ministry because it lacks money for development is a 50-cent life-saving idea.

That's what it would roughly cost each driver in Ontario to have his or her photograph made part of the driver's licence at time of renewal.

The price-tag is estimated at \$2.5

million. There are 5.1 million licensed drivers in Ontario.

And according to police, having a photograph on a licence is the surest and quickest method of checking that the licence a person shows an officer is, in fact, his or her own.

Knowing that, police believe, will help cut down on the number of people driving around the province who have one way or another "borrowed" someone else's licence.

One estimate is that there are as many as 75,000 licenceless drivers on the road at any one time.

MANY DANGEROUS

And the worst of it is that many of them are dangerous weapons loose on our roads, for generally they don't have a licence because it has already been suspended for some legal act such as impaired driving.

Unfortunately, having photos on

driving licences is not an MTC priority. That ministry is much more interested in its new \$13 million program of having licence plates registered to people rather than automobiles.

Being phased in over the coming year, it will probably result in police catching a lot more parking ticket dodgers (your plates won't be renewed if tickets are outstanding), but it won't do much for public safety.

And cutting the carnage on the roads has to be a major concern of government, not just for humanitarian reasons but also because of cost of everything, up to and including the medical system.

IMPAIRED DRIVING

This being Christmas, there has been the usual talk about mandatory jail sentences for impaired drivers, although Attorney-General Roy McMurtry has thankfully rejected that approach.

The simple truth is that a high number of the driving population would be in the clink if police arrested every legally impaired person behind a wheel at this time of year.

The real problem police face is segregating the dangerous drunk driver from those less likely to be a threat on the roads. (I quite realize any alcohol impairs ability, but many people who know they are impaired often drive with exaggerated caution.)

The RIDE program, the random mechanical spot checks, the roadside breathalyzer 24-hour suspension (more than 15,000 issued this year so far, two-thirds by the Ontario Provincial Police), seat belt enforcement (30,000 charges laid this year by the OPP alone), all help force people to be safety-conscious.

AGE FACTOR

But two groups seem poorly deterred by these actions.

One is composed of youth, (usually defined as under 25) who lack the maturity (or knowledge, or fear - take your pick) that comes with age, who have a tendency to run risks because they somehow think they are immortal. (Yet they compromise half the highway deaths.)

The other group are the incorrigibles, who speed and drive dangerously while drunk, or get behind the wheel when their licence is suspended.

About being young maybe not much can be done, but the incorrigibles would be hurt by the MTC photo plan, especially if it were combined with stiff sentences - up to and including jail - for driving without a licence, in particular if impaired.



THIRTY YEARS AGO—Georgetown's new clerk-treasurer and collector of tax and water rates is John D. Kelly. One of eight who applied for the position being vacated by Charles Wilson, clerk for the past five years, Mr. Kelly was hired by council at a meeting Monday. He will assume his new position Jan. 1.

TWENTY YEARS AGO—The bid from Aedile Construction Co. Ltd. of Whitby, amounting to \$115,967 has been accepted for the construction of a new six-room Pineview Central school near Hornby.



What do you like about swimming? Why did you join the Halton Hills Blue Pines swim club?



KARL CARLISLE, 13: "I like meeting new friends and going to meets. Both my brothers were on the swim team at the high school so I started."



BRETT SERJEANTSON, 13: "I like the competitive part of swimming. I like to learn to get better in some strokes and learn the race style."



EDUARDO FIGUERAS, 9: "I like to meet lots of friends and play a lot of games. I wanted to swim in the meets and learn to swim better."



CHRISTY LIGHTOWLER, 7: "I like the relays the most and I like to play games. I wanted to learn how to swim faster."



CHRISTINE WELD-RICK, 12: "I like swimming and meeting different people and I like racing."