

For those who like to hibernate all winter

Herald Ontario Outdoors columnist Bob Ollivier has some ideas for those who love the Great 'Indoors'

This is for all who are unable to handle cold weather for any reason. There are a great many people who are in this category, and others who aren't able to take part like they used to. Great expense is not needed to keep busy indoors.

Try various crafts until you find the one that suits you or one you're able to work at with reasonable

results. You can always progress to others as your skill increases. Many get into crafts that are so expensive that they have to sell what they produce in order to keep up their so-called hobby. Then, of course, it's a business and the hobby aspect is long gone.

Reading is something that almost anyone can do, even the blind. Braille

books and "tape" books are available through various agencies, and for the partially blind, large or even giant print books are obtainable at the local library.

Personally, I read about 20 books a month, and read on a great variety of subjects, although I do have my favorites. Recent loans from the Georgetown Library have come from

as far away as London and Owen Sound in order to satisfy my needs.

Our local library staff are a great help and some of the nicest people you may wish to find anywhere. Of course there are many books available on that hobby or craft you may wish to get started in.

Many others may just want to sit around a warm fire and relax. Fine, just

don't burn yourself or your family residence.

Our local fire department and some of the suppliers of the popular woodburning stoves have copies of safety booklets and the fire department prints one especially on wood-burners. There have already been 400 home fires due to these fireplaces being improperly installed and operated this winter alone, and that's just Ontario.

Age wood nine months to one year. No longer as it will then begin to rot.

Pine may need more than other woods in order to remove gummy saps as will other firs.

Another way to enjoy the cold months is herb teas. That may sound a little odd, but I spend a little time each day surrounded by the scents of summer. Throughout the milder weather months, I collect various herbs, leaves and roots to make

herb teas. A little knowledge goes a long way here, and most books are available at the library. Identify by name, location, sight and then when to pick for peak benefit and flavor.

The method of preparation is usually as simple as drying, then steeping a teaspoon of the dried herb per cup. Add honey to increase the healthful benefits and learn to mix

various herbs for greater variety. The summer and fall months come back to me each time I prepare and drink such teas as golden rod, borage, birch leaf, camomile, red clover, catnip and the various mints. The healthful benefits actually far outweigh other aspects of herbal teas, but it all adds up to summer in the winter.

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ABOUT THE HILLS

Ballinafad family left homeless

A Ballinafad family was left without a home Dec. 31 when a \$35,000 fire demolished their 35-foot house trailer on Lot 31, Concession 7. Halton Hills deputy fire chief Bob Hyde said the trailer, owned and inhabited by Allan White, was empty at 10:54 a.m., the time of the blaze. A passerby reported the fire for which cause has yet to be determined.

Anonymous baby

The first Halton Hills baby of the new year was born at Georgetown Memorial Hospital Saturday afternoon at 5:22 p.m. The hospital declined to name the newborn at the request of the mother.

Off to great start

An Acton family of five is starting the new year \$100,000 wealthier. Shelagh and Kirk Wirth of Eastern Avenue were the lucky winners of a Wintario draw Dec. 30. A dental receptionist in Acton, Mrs. Wirth had bought a book of tickets as stocking stuffers for the family. One of her three sons discovered they had a winning ticket.

Struck by train

A 20-year old Georgetown man suffered from a fractured left leg and arm, abrasions and lacerations following an encounter Sunday at 11:50 a.m. with a moving train just east of Sixth Line on the CNR tracks. Alex Patterson of Guelph Street is in satisfactory condition at Georgetown Memorial Hospital. Halton regional police said he had come up from the ravine towards the tracks and, standing too close to the tracks was struck by a westbound CNR train. The driver of the train realized a man had been hit, stopped the train and called an ambulance to the scene.

Damage \$20,000

There was \$20,000 worth of cable TV equipment removed Sunday at 1:15 a.m. from the Hornby Cable TV site on the Tenth Line, south of Steeles Avenue. Halton regional police said the theft was discovered by an equipment failure alarm signal at the Barrie relay station. The alarm indicated that channel 4, NBC, was no longer functioning, a station which is normally relayed from Hornby to northern Ontario. Police said thieves entered the site by crawling into a three by three foot air duct.

Meet 'the Pod'

Canada's Steve Podborski, who dazzled the world of skiing last year with his slalom feats, will be on hand at the Glen Eden Ski Area in Milton this Sunday (Jan. 9) for the first Molstar Race. Register from 10 a.m. to noon and try your best against the world champion in bids for gold, silver and bronze medals. Call 878-5011 for more information.

'Chocolate Factory'

Series "A" of the University Women's Club's Super Sundays series begins Jan. 23 with "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory" at the John Elliott Theatre. For information, call 877-7829.

Spotchecks bring 24 drunk charges

Halton drivers made it through the holiday season alive, and Halton regional police attribute the lack of fatalities to the spot-check program.

"We aimed to get through the Christmas season without a fatality," deputy police chief Bob Middaugh said Tuesday. "That was our objective, and there's no doubt in my mind that this program reduced them."

Last year there was one death compared with nine in 1980 during the same time period. The spot-check program was instituted last year by the Halton force as a pilot project. Pleased with its success in reducing deaths in car crashes, police put it into force again this holiday season.

Although only a six-week program this year compared to nine weeks last year, the four officers assigned to the program checked 3,166 vehicles.

Deputy Chief Middaugh said the spot-check program had been cut short this year due to a shortage of manpower.

Of the 3,166 vehicles checked throughout the region, 871 warnings were issued to drivers, and 399 charges of seatbelt infractions laid under the Highway Traffic Act. There were 172 other charges laid.

If a driver disagrees with the reading of the ALERT breath test, he can ask to be taken to a police station to use the more accurate Berkenstein breathalyzer.

to take the breathalyzer test. ALERT roadside alcohol tests were conducted on 92 drivers and 33 drivers had their licences suspended for 12 hours as a result.

The ALERT test was brought in last December, allowing police to suspend drivers' licences if a breath sample shows .05 per cent alcohol in the blood. No charges are laid against the driver and no records kept of the suspension except for a temporary one during the time of suspension.

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Miles of power lines down as winds hit 120 kmh

High winds put town in a spin



Georgetown Choral Society and Cantante Singers director Dale Wood (centre) has been busy lately with another newly-formed musical group in Adjala township which made its debut this Christmas season. Called the Achill Choral Society, it has discovered some great new musical talent from all over the township and surrounding communities like Bolton, Palgrave and Orangeville and as far north as Alliston and Cookstown. Adjala Community Association rep Marilyn Cook (left) and Achill Choral Society member Luitgard Meyer (right) were seen with Mr. Wood's Dawson Crescent house last week with a token of appreciation from township residents for the work he has done directing the fledgling choir. (Herald photo by Chris Aagaard)

Adjala choristers come bearing gifts

Music fans to the north out to steal our Dale away

By CHRIS AAGAARD
Herald Staff Writer

At the end of one recent Christmas concert enjoyed by about 200 residents of Adjala township, one viewer said the performance by the Achill Choral Society was the best of its kind he'd seen in 25 years.

Adjala township and the Achill Choral Society (ACS) share something in common with Georgetown besides a rural heritage: Dale Wood.

Mr. Wood, musical director of the Georgetown Choral Society and the Cantante Singers, started building the ACS as a choir in September from framework discussed in April with music lover Martin Mayer, a resident of the area bounded by Palgrave in the south and Orangeville to the west.

Over an eleven-week period which preceded ACS concerts in Alliston and Tottenham Dec. 11 and 12, Mr. Wood spent Wednesday nights in the Adjala Central Public School grooming a fledgling choir.

Choir members, 48 in all, come from all over the township.

The historical significance of the name "Achill" may be blurred with time, but it has its roots in the choir of St. Mary's Church on Adjala township's Fourth Line.

Mr. Mayer and his wife Luitgard have been great fans of the Georgetown Choral Society for about three years, braving the foulest weather to attend concerts here. Last spring, Mr. Wood and Mr. Martin, backed by the Adjala Community Association, roughed out plans for their own choral society.

An elaborate brochure, "Do You Like Music? Do You Like to Sing?" was published. It asked whether residents would like to see a choir formed in the area, whether they would support it financially, even if they didn't sing, whether they would attend concerts and what type of concert music they preferred.

Following a surprise presentation last Wednesday of a basket of fruit and a festive floral arrangement at his home by Mrs. Martin and Adjala Community Association representative Marilyn Cook, Mr. Wood recalled that interest in the proposal was so great that an extra 100 brochures were needed to meet demand.

The response from the viewing public to ACS' first performance, entitled "The Sound of Christmas" and the enthusiasm behind forming the new group has been "phenomenal", Mr. Wood said.

"During auditions, I don't think I was any more or less strict than I am here. This is going to be a really good group," Mr. Wood maintained.

FAIR SHARE

The brochures brought out a fair share of sopranos, altos, tenors and basses, and from the group, Dale was able to coax a few solo performances for the recent Christmas concerts.

Like the Georgetown Choral Society, participation in the ACS is a learning experience for many who, while they have strong voices, can't read music.

The revitalization of arts not only in the township but across the province is something to get excited about, Mrs. Cook said. Groups like the Village Players and the ACS "help bring our spread-out community closer together," she added.

Mr. Wood is now busy considering separate spring concerts for the ACS and Georgetown choirs. In the future, he mused, it's conceivable that the two groups might do a joint concert.

By CHRIS AAGAARD
Herald Staff Writer

As gusts reached 100 and 120 kilometres an hour, winds which roared through Halton Hills at the tail end of unseasonably mild weather last Tuesday blew down trees, fences and even garden sheds and knocked out power in many areas of town.

According to Gordon Gee, chief meteorologist at the Ontario Weather Centre, wind speeds reached their peak between 4 and 6 p.m. While Mr. Gee didn't rule out the possibility that the combination of incoming cold with outgoing warm air contributed to the turbulent weather, he placed most of the blame on the large storm system which clobbered the mid-western U.S. with up to two meters of snow.

The storm bypassed southern Ontario, steering into northeastern sections of the province before heading into central Quebec.

Mr. Gee commented that southern Ontario suffered the storm "relatively lightly" compared to our neighbors in the south, but crew members of Bell Canada, Halton Hills Hydro and Halton Cable Systems Ltd. might disagree, having worked through the night and well into Wednesday to re-rig

miles of downed line.

SOME PARTS
Power outages were reported across town, Halton Hydro manager Gerry Trudell told The Herald Wednesday morning. In some parts of the rural area, particularly Limehouse and Speyside, trees fell in so many places "they literally took miles of line down", he said, causing power failures which lasted six to seven hours for some residents.

All of the town's hydro crews were called in to

restore power to between 500 and 600 Halton Hills homes which were blacked out at some point during the day. Two private electrical contractors were called in to help, adding eight more men to the town's own commitment.

By the time they had restored power to all areas of town, they had worked about 26 hours straight, breaking only for meals.

In one incident, a car with two passengers trapped

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Charge uncle in stabbing of man, 24

A 24-year old Georgetown man is in stable condition following surgery at Georgetown Memorial Hospital for a knife wound to his abdomen.

Robert Currie of Guelph Street was rushed to hospital Thursday at 8:15 p.m. after a domestic dispute took place at a

Main Street North apartment.

The uncle of the victim, Michael Blake Ryall, 33, of Georgetown, was arrested and charged with attempted homicide and wounding under the Criminal Code. Mr. Ryall was released following a bail hearing Friday and will appear in Milton provincial court Jan. 10.



Four large pine trees toppled across one Esquesing driveway last Tuesday when southern Ontario was buffeted by high winds. While the unusually mild weather and wind was inconvenient for some people, it meant good business for others. Clare Mathies of Salamanca Construction in Acton was out Wednesday morning with his chain saw clearing the tree-strewn driveway just outside Acton's eastern boundary on Highway 7. (Herald photos by Chris Aagaard)

WOULD YOU BE INTERESTED IN FORMING OR SUPPORTING A VOCAL GROUP IN YOUR AREA?



MR. DALE WOOD
OF TORONTO AND GEORGETOWN
WOULD CONSIDER FORMING SUCH A GROUP IF SUFFICIENT INTEREST IS INDICATED