

# Nothing's wrong: stop worrying!



**Staff Comment**

**CHRIS AAGAARD**

Oh, Oh. The CBC's up to it again: the annual bout of navel-gazing to answer the eternal question, "What's wrong - now?"

The most recent epic journey on which our national broadcasting corporation has embarked explores CBC AM and FM and why more people my age - the baby boomers - aren't tuning in.

CBC Radio, Toronto's Globe and Mail quotes the study as saying, faces a "major audience crisis". There's too much political news on CBC AM and too much classical music on its FM sister station.

The study says that we 18 to 35-year olds aren't supposed to like that. We prefer faster paced stuff - science, real estate and recreation information and musical programming geared to moods.

As a teenager, I used to sneer at the stodgy old CBC. I mean, who was this guy Brahms, anyway?

**HONED INTEREST**  
At university, my roommate from an isolated community in the Gaspé was a loyal CBC listener. He knew his operas, arias, concerto-number-what-ers and was keenly aware of politics.

With the most beery, thunderous parties in progress around him, he

could calmly tune into Tezaco's Metropolitan Opera broadcast.

It was unbelievable that, with only a pair of headphones, he could serenely survive in the midst of soporific chaos. I was then, and still am, an avid rock and roller, and I didn't pick up all his musical tastes.

Nevertheless, I tune in regularly to As It Happens, and my Sunday mornings crumble into the doldrums unless I begin with Sunday Morning.

Opera? I can take it or leave it, and I still don't know my Brahms from Bach.

But my musical tastes are varied and I can easily settle in for a good long read with a background of classical music.

**NEUROTIC?**

What we have in the CBC's latest soul-searching is pure neurosis; its success is not based in change, but in its already proven ability to provide balanced, informative programming. Let the commercial stations lump age groups into audiences and adjust their programming.

If the CBC's traditional shows are sturdy to a group of researchers, they are old friends to millions of listeners who count on their faithful appearance weekly or nightly.

Frankly, I find all the attention to my age group patronizing. The CBC is not a commercial network, and shouldn't stoop to the marketing devices of commercial stations to attract listeners.

I'll wander across the radio dial at will, but I like to feel the CBC is an old home I can come back to.



Young and old raised their voices Monday night to belt out "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" and "Ding Dong! Merrily on High". Choir directors and choirs from 26 choral groups gathered in Georgetown's Holy Cross Roman Catholic church to raise the Christmas spirit.

## TWENTY CHORAL GROUPS CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS



Georgetown Choral Society conductor Dale Wood had his hands full directing 20 choral groups from local churches. Over 600 people turned up to the first carolfest in Halton Hills. Proceeds from the concert went to the Elevator Fund for Handicapped Students at Georgetown District High School. (Herald photo)

## More provincial support School board trustees share their yule wish

By ANI PEDIERIAN  
Herald Staff Writer  
School board trustees want more money from the provincial coffers to come their way, if they can have a Christmas wish. Halton board of education trustee and chairman Betty Fisher expressed that very desire Thursday.

"I would love the province to send us more money so we can give the local taxpayer a break this year," she said.

Along with the increase in transfer payments, Mrs. Fisher wanted to see more emphasis put on the arts and the technologies in the schools.

"I would like for the positive relationships to continue, where we all work together for the common good because of the kids," she said.

On a personal level, she's hoping for a telephone answering machine to take her calls when she's out.

"When I'm out during the daytime, I'm on the move so much, some people are getting frustrated trying to get in touch with me," Mrs. Fisher said.

She'd also like a diamond ring, though not necessarily with a new husband. Mrs. Fisher said she'd lost her diamond ring two years ago.

When asked what he'd like for Christmas, trustee Dick Howitt laughed and said "Oh golly! Boy, I have to think about that one."

"I guess I would hope that the school board would continue to function as smoothly and as co-operatively amongst trustees as we have in

the last year that I've been on," he said.

A good spirit of co-operation exists on the board and between trustees and the administration, and Mr. Howitt would like that to continue.

"It would be nice if we could get more money from the ministry and keep our taxes down," Mr. Howitt said. "And I would hope we're able to resolve things with the teachers and it doesn't become a big salary hassle with them now that restraints have been lifted."

Last year's contract negotiations lasted for months and included mass teacher demonstrations of board meetings.

Personally, Mr. Howitt would be pleased if Santa would bring him a new brief case to replace his battered one.

Asked what she would like for Christmas, trustee Arlene Bruce immediately said a nice warm fire, good friends and somebody else making and bringing her her Christmas dinner.

In terms of education, Mrs. Bruce would like more facilities for special education children.

"At the top of my list I would like to see a place for all the kiddies who have special problems - the right centre to look after their special needs," she said.

Many "special ed" children are waiting for a place where their needs can be met, biding their time in a regular classroom, Mrs. Bruce said.

"There's a real shortage of facilities available in the north to service our needs," she said. "We're very dependent upon the facilities in Burlington and Oakville. They're very good at trying to make room, but those facilities weren't set up for our area, they were intended for the south."

Mrs. Bruce would like to see more money or at least a recognition of shared responsibility from the social services ministry.

"It's something that most people don't realize, that these costs have to be shared. Why's it all being dumped on education?" she asked.



BETTY FISHER



DICK HOWITT



ARLENE BRUCE

## \$1,500 fire

There was a chimney fire Thursday at a home on Georgetown's Hillside Drive, causing \$1,500 damage. Halton Hills fire chief Bill Cunningham said the fire was due to improper insulation around the base of the fireplace. Nobody was hurt, he added. The fire took place at 5:45 p.m.

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### False identification

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The property was rented from Thomas Home Video and Disc Rental at Moore Park plaza. Police have a suspect.

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