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Politics take a front seat

THE YEAR IN REVIEW

In a two part series, senior reporter Chris Aagaard reviews the year 1983. The second part will be published next week along with more year-end photos.

Change.
There hasn't been much of it in Halton Hills in 1983; but in terms of plain importance, what change we have had far outweighs what we might have enjoyed in quantity. Not surprisingly, it's the political changes which will affect us most, and these largely

Town council begins 1983 with a lead "whether" balloon of its own: whether or not to buy the Steven's Estate—a 30-acre property on Georgetown's Maple Avenue—possibly using the site in the future for a town hall.

The municipal complex issue will linger throughout the year and

TV: Halsey's Water Beds opens in Georgetown and William McNally Construction Ltd. is named business of the year for 1982-83.

THAT'S ENTERTAINMENT
The John Elliott Theatre comes of age as more and more residents turn to it as a primary source of weekend entertainment. Globe Productions, Georgetown Little Theatre and District High School enjoy sell out performances, and visiting troupes are appreciated as well.

In its second year, Globe produces Roger's and Hammerstein's Oklahoma which is highly praised by a professional theatre critic.

Georgetown Little Theatre has two successes for the latter half of the 1982-83 theatre season: Allan Stratton's Nurse Jane Goes to Hawaii and Ira Levin's spine-tingler, Death-trap.

Among the highlights of those visiting the theatre: the Elizabeth Patterson Dance Company from Oakville and the Second City and Good Brothers performances for the library-cultural centre second anniversary.

Nornic Studio's Bev Nicholas, Enid Williams, Glen Tarlin, Michael Burgoyne and Florence O'Conner discuss the attributes of Hell in G.B. Shaw's Don Juan in Hell. The reading is uniquely performed, not at the John Elliott Theatre, but at Oxbow Books in Georgetown.

THE TRAGEDY OF FIRE

An August blaze guts a Willow Street, Acton apartment, killing Kathy Wears and Eugene Miller. Acton residents rally around the Miller family and build up a trust fund. That same week in Georgetown, residents support the King family after their Chapel Street home is razed by fire. Fire isn't only dangerous to homeowners, it's



YOU SEE?

Now can you see, Mr. Decaire? It was one optician fitting another Tuesday night as Clarence Decaire of Toronto fooled around with some of the approximately 3,000 lenses collected by the Georgetown Lions Club. Georgetown optician and Lion Don Goghlan helped collect the eyeglasses from Quebec and Ontario and categorized them for shipping to Ecuador. Mr. Decaire will be taking them with him Jan. 14 when he goes to Quito, Ecuador. There, the lenses will be distributed to those with sight problems. The project has been going on ten years, Mr. Decaire said, although this is the first year the Lions Club has become involved in it. (Herald photo)

Bicentennial contests offered by historical club

By ANI PEDERIAN
Herald Staff Writer

If Santa's brought you a camera for Christmas then you're all set to click your way through 1984 and perhaps win a prize in the Esqueusing Historical Society photo contest.

Society president Elaine Bertrand said the group is holding a contest for photos recording the bi-centennial year in Esqueusing. With the entries, which become part of the society archives, the Society hopes to make up a book recording the history of the township during the bi-centennial year, much like the Tweedsmuir books put together by the Women's Institute.

More details on the photo contest will be forthcoming as the Society finalizes its bi-centennial plans.

The Society also hopes to hold a historical essay contest, open not just to school children, but to everyone in the community. They're looking for essays on the history of the old township of Esqueusing. It could be a history of the town of Georgetown—

"What the town was like when I was young"—or a history of a street in the township, perhaps naming people who used to live on it and explaining how the street got its name.

The Society will also be taking part in the bi-centennial fair being organized by the Georgetown Business Improvement Area for June.

"We're hoping to put

together a slide show of the history of businesses in the area," Mrs. Bertrand said.

Already, work has been done by the Society members to prepare a walking driving tour through Halton Hills. The tour, pointing out historical buildings in the area, with some genealogical background, is being published as a bi-centennial project by the region.

Ring in New Years

Both downtown Georgetown and Acton will be ringing in the New Year with special bicentennial celebrations.

The bicentennial committee is hoping residents will take time out from parties to gather with family members to ring in the New Year together.

The Georgetown celebrations will be held outside the Knox Presbyterian Church (Main and Church Streets) with carillon players commencing at approximately 11:30 p.m. Georgetown's 1983 Citizen of the Year Esme Ball will ring in the New Year at midnight and 200 helium filled balloons will be released.

In Acton, at the renovated town hall Citizen of the Year Ted Tyler will ring in the New Year and balloons will be released.

Australian visitor spends Christmas in Halton Hills

Canadian weather certainly knows how to welcome a girl, doesn't it?

When Australia's Karen Knock, who's staying in Halton Hills as part of a cultural exchange, arrived a week ago Sunday, most of Canada was locked in the icy grip of an Arctic air mass.

At home in Gosford, New South Wales, people were doing their Christmas shopping in short sleeves and complaining about the heat.

"You have a white Christmas here," Karen said in an interview. "Ours is a sun-burned one. It's been very dry there for the last couple of years."

Karen, 18, is one of over 100 young Australians who have fanned out over the world for a six week cultural adventure sponsored by Australia's Lions Clubs.

She applied for the exchange through the Wyoming (Australia) District Lions Club which represents her area and she and her brother, Michael were chosen. (He's visiting Germany).

For the next several weeks, Karen is staying with Fifth Sideroad residents Gord and Peggy Early.

LIONS PROGRAM
The Lions program, she explained, is open to people between the ages of 15 and 21. "They're looking for people who enjoy meeting other people," Karen said. "You have to be able to accept different cultures." On the application form, she had two choices of countries to visit. Canada was her first pick and Japan the second.

The first days of Karen's visit include a number of "diplomatic" ges-

tures; she has exchanged club pins and banners with local Lions clubs (Mr. Early is a member of the Huttonville Lions) and she presented Halton Hills Mayor Russ Miller with banners and a letter of greeting from his counterpart, Peter Coleman, in Gosford, a city of about 105,000 people.

The balance of her trip will be spent finding

out more about Canadians. With the Early family, she hopes to visit Ottawa, Niagara Falls, at some point, she's going to step into skis and really enjoy the winter.

Karen's not only keeping track of her adventures to tell her parents, four sisters and Michael; she also plans to brief the Wyoming Lions when she returns home.



Karen Knock, 18, is a special guest in Halton Hills for the next few weeks. She's an exchange student from Australia staying with Gord Early (left) and his family. Last week, she visited Halton Hills Mayor Russ Miller and presented him with greetings from Mayor Peter Coleman, and her home town of Gosford, New South Wales.

Icy roads

Icy roads conditions Thursday at 8:20 a.m. caused a driver northbound on Ninth Line turning onto Highway 401 to lose control of his vehicle. The Georgetown driver struck a bridge post and sustained \$3,000 damage.

Joseph Clark, 40, was treated for minor injuries and released from Georgetown Memorial Hospital. No charges were laid because of the icy road surface in the region.



Heritage Acton spends over \$180,000 of federal grant money to restore the old town hall on Willow Street.

came in the last half of the year. In the course of one evening last month, the face of the town council changed considerably with three appointments—a controversial occasion which will undoubtedly ripple into the New Year.

Not long before, Pete Pomeroy stepped down as mayor to take over Jack Rafits' former job as chairman of Halton region.

For politicians and Herald readers alike, the decision came as a complete surprise: Mayor Pomeroy had steadfastly denied he was interested in the job and his about-face came late in the campaign for the region's leadership. But that's what makes change newsworthy—its suddenness and the chain of events which follows from it.

If changes in local politics have brought their share of turbulence, changes in other areas of community life have been more subtle.

In the arts, there isn't so much change this year as there is maturity, a growing ease with new facilities at the library-cultural centre.

Other community groups have proved that change isn't without its benefits, such as the elevator for handicapped students to use at Georgetown and District High School and the infusion of new faces and ideas on the fall fair boards of Acton and Georgetown. Let's take a look at 1983 in Halton Hills.

HOW IT BEGAN
Many residents ended 1982 without power as a Boxing Day, 1982 storm whistled through Halton Hills, knocking down powerlines and buffeting shoppers cashing in on half-price sales.

another chapter promises to begin 1984 for council Jan. 9.

In early 1983, councilors moved to crack down on wrecking yards ordering them to clean up and raise fences so that piled cars can't be seen. On a somewhat lighter note, Acton Coun. Rick Bonnette cries "fowl" when Fairy Lake swans are threatened by a freeze-over. Town staff eventually move the birds to open water.

Halton MP Otto Jelin-



School teachers, like George Kennedy's Judy Luker, protest high class sizes in February.

ek snubs Joe Clark and supports Brian Mulroney as the new leader of Progressive Conservative Party.

Former town council candidate Dennis Devine is arrested by police and charged with the theft of almost \$17,000 from an Acton gas bar. He's later sentenced to six months in jail and ordered to make restitution to the gas bar owners.

Acton school board trustee Arlene Bruce assails First Choice's plans to air Playboy programming on Pay

a hazard to firefighters, too. Six Halton Hills firefighters succumbed to smoke inhalation in June while fighting a blaze at a video store on Willow Street in Acton. Firefighters spend almost three hours to bring a mid-winter fire under control at Acton's Thompson's Fuels.

A SENSE OF OUTRAGE

Halton Hills residents were appalled at the 1981 murder of Acton's Colleen Oates and the details which came out during her trial in April. Continued on Page A2

Painting by local artist Couple wins in library draw

A Terra Cotta couple, both avid readers were the lucky winners of the original wildlife painting in the Halton Hills Public Libraries' Christmas draw. W. Ray Jones, a retired carpenter and his wife, Norah, who reside on Leslie Hill in Terra Cotta, were informed of their win by telephone a few moments after the draw held last Thursday evening.

The draw for the wildlife painting by Georgetown artist Reginald A. Finlayson was made on the stage of the George Elliott Theatre just prior to the library-sponsored program, A Child's Christmas in Wales.

By coincidence, Mr. Jones was born in Wales although the couple has resided in the area almost 30 years. Mr. and Mrs. Jones are both staunch supporters of the library and are visited by the library mobile service, headed by Esme Ball, every three weeks.

They estimate they read more than 125 books each year. Mr. Jones donates some of his garden plants to the Library-Cultural Centre gardens. Before his retirement, he was employed by the Peel Police department.

In appreciation for the library home service, the Jones gave a \$25 donation to the library early in December. In return, they had received 13 tickets for the draw on the painting.

When telephoned on Thursday evening, Mr. Jones commented that "this time, 13 proved to be lucky, not unlucky". The painting of a small Red Fox in a wooded setting was hanging in their living room for Christmas Eve.

Conducted by the "Friends of the Library", the draw is the Public Libraries' first venture in an appeal to the public to be conducted throughout 1984 for needed capital funds.

Minor injuries

Two parked cars on Georgetown's Hale Drive obstructed the view of a driver going south around the bend in the road Saturday afternoon. Falling to see another vehicle, the driver moved out to pass a parked car and collided with an oncoming Dodge pickup. John Jeffrey, 21, of Hale Drive, was taken to Georgetown hospital by ambulance.

Early gifts

J.V. Clothing at the Georgetown Marketplace offered an early Christmas to two customers Friday Dec. 23 when their names were picked in the store's lucky draw.

Joan Padillo from RR2 Georgetown and Brenda Fava of Brampton both won Hitachi stereo radio cassette recorders.

WHAT'S INSIDE

Community

The Herald's Stewarttown correspondents review the history of their church and community, now 150 years old. Page A6

Sports

The Raiders dumped Collingwood with a miracle finish. See Sports Page B1 for the details. Also, the Gem veteran Chris Peavoy takes a look at the struggling junior team.

Family

Hospital Auxiliary members recall their 25 year history. Our Legion representatives are zone curling champs. Page A5

The year in review. Page A2, A3

Happy New Year