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Page 4 - SECTION A. THE HERALD, Wednesday, December 19, 1984

## Searching for the Christmas spirit

What is Christmas spirit?

In Halton Hills we measure it using a variety of different meter sticks.

Christmas is music and more than any other time of the season we find young and old alike joining together in song. Carols are special because we reserve these sacred melodies for only one month of the year.

Thanks to church groups, and organizations like Brownies we have music for parents, seniors and others. For the finely tuned ear, the sweet sounds of the Georgetown Choral Society and the massed choirs of Carolfest are particularly appealing.

Christmas is sharing. To the service clubs in town who work so hard to provide a happy time for seniors and the needy we extend our thanks to you. The Kinsmen senior's lights tour is an annual highlight along with Acton's Rotary Club dinner for seniors. There are too many good deeds to be able to mention them all.

Christmas is helping the needy. Here a pure and true spirit of the season is displayed. It's people working for the Acton IODE chapter and the Kinettes toy drive who deserve a word of praise. It's the volunteers involved with The Salvation Army and Good Neighbors who work to provide Christmas baskets of food.

Christmas is the church. Time is set aside for us to join together and give our thanks at this special time to celebrate the birth of Jesus. The true meaning of Christmas is not forgotten for us as we meet in our place of worship.

Christmas is friends. It's a chance to thank friends and co-workers for being loyal companions. It's finding the time to re-new old acquaintances and savoring the feeling that Christmas brings to the faces of even the most grumpy of people.

Christmas is little children. Jumping from room to room in excitement, shaking presents, helping dad with the tree lights or choosing presents for brothers with mom

at the store. The spirit of Christmas can be found everywhere in Halton Hills. With or without snow, it's our favorite time of the year. Strive to make it a happy time for everyone.

Merry Christmas from the staff at The Herald.

What others say

# Cuts a step backwards

By ARLIN HACKMAN Federation of Ontario Naturalists

The new federal government has

lost no time in announcing its priorities. And environmental protection does not appear to be on the list.

The details are just beginning to emerge. But the overall direction seems clear from the first round of program cuts within Environment Canada and the National Research Council. Key research and public education

programs will disappear on April 1, 1985, in what is only the first phase of major reductions to the federal budget aimed at freeing the entrepreneurial zeal of Canadians to spur economic recovery. The strongest blows to date have

been dealt to the Canadian Wildlife Service. One third of its scientists have been given their walking papers. With them will go a unique expertise and research effort that is world class and vital to our ability to track the circulation of poisons in our environ-

In addition, across the country the axe has also fallen on wildlife interpretation centres and a variety of research and reintroduction programs for endangered species.

egg research program, carried out on a shoestring budget, and responsible for Grenier.

FUNNYSIDE

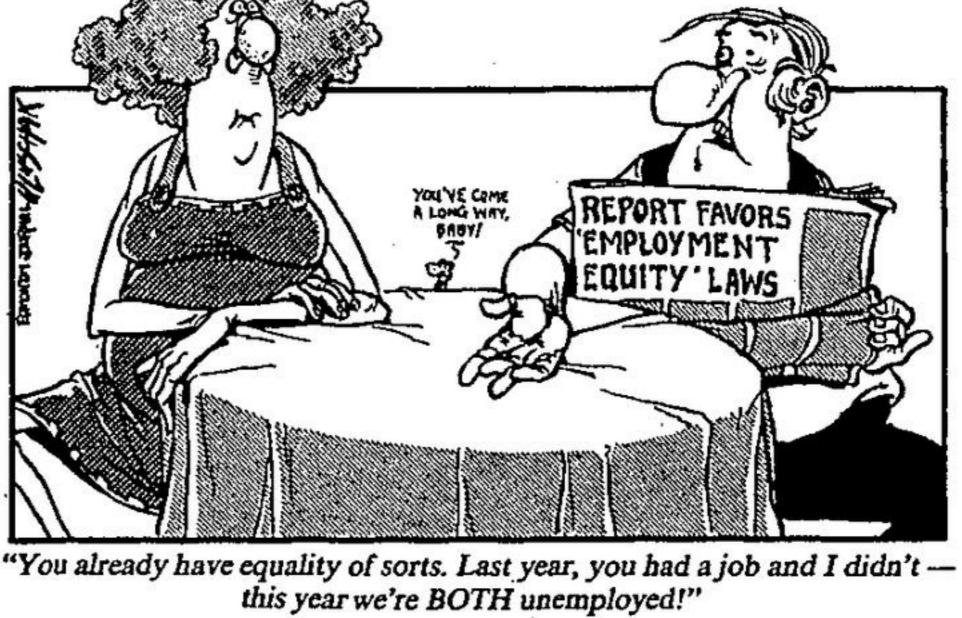
pointing out the presence of dioxins in the Great Lakes, tops the list of casualties. Chopping this program is akin to killing the fabled canary which miners took underground to warn them of unseen dangers. We simply won't know the hazards we face.

Does all this sound somewhat familiar? It should. There are definite parallels with the early actions of the Reagan administration when it unleashed James Watt and Ann Burford to attack the American government's environmental programs.

Whatever the Mulroney government's motivation, it was not elected with a mandate to reduce the federal commitment to environmental protection. Repeated public opinion polls show that a huge majority of Canadians favor stronger, not weaker, efforts to clean up the environment.

Canadians do not see environmental quality as a non-essential "service" that in any way blocks economic recovery, as it has been described by one cabinet minister. Furthermore, a mammoth federal survey, aummarized in 1983 in The Importance of Wildlife to Canadians, revealed that wildlife activities generate billions of dollars in consumer spending every year.

Start today by sending a letter to Here in Ontario, the herring gull Prime Minister Mulroney and Environment Minister Suzanne Blais-



Frank Miller

### Assets and liabilities



Assets and liabilities. When a candidate enters a political leadership race the first thing an observer does is try to tally the advantages and disadvantages the person brings into the contest.

And so it was when Industry and Trade Minister and cabinet veteran Frank Miller announced he is seeking to replace Bill Davis as premier of Ontario.

Naturally, it was his strengths that Miller took with him to the press conference here where, flanked by six fellow cabinet ministers (out of 28), he told us in his usual engaging and open way about his intentions.

The presence of the six was intended to display the kind of strength Miller commands among elected Conservatives, particularly on the party's right wing. And his prepared text was a

masterful listing of assets. MANY ASSETS

He underlines his reputation for

openness by suggesting one reason he ruled himself out of the leadership lists last year was that, since he assumed Bill Davis was staying, an "undeclared race was too covert for my liking."

He stressed that he understood the regional nature of Ontario, being raised in Muskoka, for which he is now the sitting member. He didn't need to say three of the four other major contestants are identified with Toronto, which party-wise isn't good.

Known as a "fiscal conservative" he said he remained committed to that view, thereby reassuring the rightwing, while at the same time he promised a "firm grip on the public purse doesn't mean squeezing the helpless," thereby soothing left-wing party fears.

He made much of his "blue collar" family background and his self-made success, his working his way through school and his record as a small-business entrepreneur and risk-taker as well as engineer.

**DAVIS NAME** 

He invoked the Davis name, suggesting that Davis wanted Miller (along with others) to contest the leadership. And he made a bow to the Davis style with the remark that "time has tempered my ambition" and taught him "tolerance" for the views Cost estimates enormous

Challenging repair reports

He handled the question of his Cross auditorium for his 4,837th blood health well, noting that he'd had five donation for the old fellow. years in Treasury since his heart attack, five years in the toughest job in the Ontario government in terms of hours and stress, especially considering it took place during a recession (and, although he didn't say it, the infamous Globe and Mail budget "leak" as well as "gupples and puppies" sales tax changes).

But in a couple of areas it was his liabilities that were evident.

In particular, his reversal of his 1983 decision against running leaves doubts about Miller's decisiveness and ability to lead. It's quite clear in many ways that he is simply the draft choice for premier of those who don't like any of the other potential candidates.

Good lieutenant that he is, would he make an equally good general?

And however much one dislikes the stereotyping that goes with it, the media does identify Miller with the right-wing - a word in their lexicon that carries tons of negative baggage. (For an example, it was clear in the CBC television report the night he announced).

Still, judging by his performance at the press conference here he may yet force me to eat my words thought about his running -- which was that his time is past.

of the Tiny Talent Time television Purchase of eight portables for \$60,000 has been approved by Halton Board of Education. They are currently in use in Georgetown.

History

to's 1955 mayor.

January.

living in one.

this week.

THIRTY. YEARS AGO-A Norval

native, Donald Russell, is New Toron-

Master of Credit Masonic Lodge in

ed \$1,000 damage to a building and

contents on the McMurchy Woollen Mills property at Hultonville last week.

"faint check" to be given to any patron who passes out during the showing of "Return of the Vampire" and "Island of Doomed Men", billing the shows as

"strictly adult entertainment".

Walter Fidler will be installed as

Fire of undetermined origin caus-

The Roxy Theatre advertises a

A classroom of pupils from Milton Heights, whose school was destroyed by fire a week ago will finish next term's education at Campbellville.

When Ian M. Ritchle decided to

The town fire department assisted

retire he picked Georgetown as a

perfect place because it's close to the

cities without the inconvenience of

with the clean up at the North Halton Golf and Country Club after the dams

FIFTEEN YEARS AGO-Georgetown

council members will now be paid \$30

per day for attendance at special meetings as well as committee of the

Georgetown blood donor clinic at Holy

Stewarttown Senior Public School, has

region involving Halton and Peel

counties and squatting between Toron-

to and Hamilton will come before the

Ontario Legislature this spring, James

W. Snow, Halton East MPP confirmed

Donna Haynes School of Dancing in

Georgetown has been invited to be part

Angela Martineau, a student in the

been appointed acting principal.

Santa Claus showed up at the

John Lenz, vice principal of

Legislation to create a giant metro

whole or council meetings.

were destroyed by Hurricane Hazel.

TEN YEARS AGO-Recent Georgetown and District High School graduates have been invited to the first annual "Grad Day" to be held there.

Bill Johnson found himself on the other side of the fence when he was forced to defend his selection of an area near Appleby Line and 5 Sideroad as a possible regional landfill site.

The Georgetown Figure Skating Club hosted the annual inter-club competition and won the overall team contest. Ab Cordingley, an ex-Georgetown

resident now living in the Wiarton area, is the oldest registered driver in Ontario at 98.

A date has finally been set for the opening of the Acton Lions Club indoor

swimming pool; Sunday Jan. 19. Twin-Cee of 20 Armstrong Ave., Georgetown has been awarded a

\$43,049 federal contract to provide the government with waste receptacles; After less than two months, a two year freeze on self-serve gas stations

here may be thawed out. FIVE YEARS AGO-Town council has approved a conceptual design for the \$1.7 million arts and crafts theatre and library complex to be built around

Georgetown Public Library. Ian Maclaren and Paul Stevens

recently received awards from the Georgetown Rotary Club when they won a contest to design a new banner recognizing the club's 25th year in Rae Stoness has been chosen

superintendent of instruction by the Halton Board of Education. The executive committee of the

Credit Valley Conservation Authority has approved a request by the ministry of natural resources to construct a "fishway" on the Julian Reed dam in Norval.

Kris Barber from Glen Williams, placed ninth in the dance competitions against the best in the USSR and Eastern Europe.

Halton board of education's progress report from the long-term plan steering committee cites economics as the major problem facing the board for the 1980s.

#### Clergy Comment

THIS IS OUR GOD-Isaiah 25:9

This is our God, the Father's Word. Who in the manger lies. He Who created all the world Now smiles with Baby's eyes.

This is our God, the Lord our King, Whom prophets had proclaimed, Whom saints of God awaited long When times were not yet named.

This is our God, Whom angels praised. The shepherds heard them sing, Then ran to see and, bowing low, Adored the new-born King.

This is our God, Whose star was seen By wise men from the east. In faith and hope they travelled most Who heard the prophets least.

This is our God. They worshipped Him. They worshipped Mary's Son. That would be sin if He were not Both God and Man in One.

This is our God, the Lord of all, Who rules the universe, Was born and lived and died for us To break the ancient curse.

This is our God, in Whom we trust, He died to save us, then He rose and lives and we rejoice, For He shall come again.

-Dr. John M. Drickamer Immanuel Lutheran Church

McLeod Ottawa Bureau

By Stewart

Ottawa

Report

of The Herald

Far be it from me to challenge the validity of that consultants' report on the prime minister's official residence, which suggests a mere \$600,000 worth of repairs, but I would feel decidedly reassured if, just once, some consultant would declare a scrutinized building to be in good shape.

Perhaps I am not getting my hands on the right reports, but so far I can't pinpoint one consultant who decided that, after exhaustive examination, the building in question was in dandy shape. On the contrary, every structure subjected to such evaluation seems to be on the verge of collapse.

This one is no exception. The Ottawa engineering firm of Demann Large Patterson, after a painstaking review, has come to the conclusion that 24 Sussex Drive, where we confine our prime ministers and their families, is drafty, damp, dangerous and otherwise in need of repair. The only thing that has prevented the roof from falling in is the fact that the building faces north and catches the prevailing wind. Heaven alone knows what keeps the chimney from spewing stones on innocent passers-by.

The place is, by this commissioned

account, a merry old moss. SOUNDSSAME

Disregarding the size of the joint, the depressing description of its assorted ills gives me the eerie feeling they are talking about my own home except that I don't have a problem with leaky skylights over a swimming pool. Neither do I have a problem with "seeing room exhaust". But otherwise, we do have a great many faults in

For considerably less than \$600,000 could make my place reasonably habitable. And I somehow suspect that the federal public works department, with perhaps a touch of moonlighting, could do the same with 24 Sussex.

This is not to suggest that the consulting report is invalid. Far from it, I suspect. It's just that all these reports in their search for perfection not only come to the same conclusions, but they all tend to sound the same.

There was a report a few years ago on Britain's 10 Downing Street which warned, predictably enough, that the place was in danger of collapsing unless some inordinate amount of money was spent to prop it up. A few years carlier, it was Big Ben that was weakening under the weight of its bells, or somesuch, and that lovely old landmark might sink unceremoniously into the Thames. Some of the Vatican buildings, subjected to the scrutiny of consulting engineers, were found to be wanting on the materialistic side of things, and unless something was done pronto, there could be a collapse. I was a kid at the time.

sake, was supposed to be crumbling to the ground at various times in our history. "Bathrooms are still being serviced by outdated galvanized pipes," sald one report. So, for that matter, is my bath-

Buckingham Palace, for goodness

room. And it works like a top. When John F. Kennedy moved into

the White House, a consulting report said the place was in dire need of repair. I can't recall hew many millions were required to make if safe from collapse, but it was an awesome We have been warned since 1917

that the Parliament Buildings are inching closer and closer to the banks of the Ottawa River and, unless corrective action is taken, they will someday take the plunge. Then there is the Leaning Tower of

Pisa, completed in the 14th century and toppling ever since. If we had all the money paid out for doomsday predictiong on this structure, we could stop worrying about exhaust (ans in the prime ministerial sewing room. On the other hand, if the tower had been reconstructed as some consultants had suggested, the city of Pisa might need our financial help. Perhaps, come to think of it, we

should encourage a tilt at 24 Sussex Drive and then sell tickets to curious tourists who might, in turn, be interested in buying pool tickets on when the house might collapse. Apart from being far cheaper, it

would be a lot more fun.

Why should we be filled with joy to

remember and proclaim the birth of

Jesus? Those who believe in Christ

know the answer. Jesus is Himself the

Reason why believers can be happy,

Christ makes Christmas merry. Let's

wish one another "Merry Christmas".

became the historic Son of a woman.

This one Person is both God and Man.

This one Person came for one main

purpose. He lived a perfect life but

suffered and died on the cross. With

our sins. Those who believe in Christ

have received the gift of forgiveness.

With forgiveness goes eternal life with

everlasting joy in God's presence.

There is a reason to be happy, no

matter what problems there are in this

life. Let's wish one another "Merry

share in the joy of Christmas, Christi-

Christians should want everyone to

He satisfied God's anger against

His blood He paid for all our sins.

The eternal Son of the Father

# Non-commital expression



horn does pour.

COMMENT

By DR. JOHN M. DRICKAMER Immanuel Lutheran Church wish one another "Merry Christmas".

Every year we hear the same lament. Christmas is too commerciali-

to get worse and worse. With all the hustle and haste, with

merry? Let's work at changing attitu-But it is so vague that it would be just des. Let's wish one another "Merry Every year we hear the same challenge. We need to put Christ back

into Christmas! But, as someone has said, when all is said and done, more is said than done. Here is where we can do something by saying something. Maybe we can begin to reverse the trend. Let's wish one another "Merry Christmas".

empty formula. "Merry" means "happy, jolly, joyous". "Christmas" means "the festival of Christ". Let's Now hasy farmer, for his toll the lavish keep the meaning in mind. Let's wish

Why should Christmas be merry?



signs that say "Season's Greetings". -That may be nice, but it is a no-name shorter than saying both "Merry Christmas" and "Happy New Year". as fitting for Groundhog Day. Let's Christmas".

#### Poets' Corner

**FARMERS WEATHER** Wind from the North, frosty cold Wind from the East, when wet is bold Wind from the South, heat wave test Wind from the West, is natures best The weather does storm a rainy day Man has no control, he has no say Mows of hay bins of grain, and root crops galore

-ALBERT BROOKS

It is not that there is anything wrong with "Season's Greetings" or that anyone should feel bad about having used it. But there is something much more meaning ful to say at this time of year. Let's wish one another "Merry Christmas".

More and more these days we see zed! But every year it is true. It seems

niceness, a generic greeting. It is all the glitter and glitsch, with all the pressure, how can Christmas be

These words should not be an

one another "Merry Christmas".

ans should want everyone to have faith in forgiveness for Jesus' sake, for that is what the joy of Christmas is all about. Christians should want everyone to hear the Word about Christ, for that is how the Holy Spirit gives people faith and joy. Let's wish everyone "Merry Christmas".

Christmas".

"Santa! His name should be BILL."