

Two die in Christmas Day blaze

By ROBIN BAKEWELL
Herald Staff

The lives of two people were claimed in an early Christmas morning blaze which totally destroyed a two storey residence on the north side of the 5th Sideroad just west of Highway 25.

Milton firefighters were called to the scene at 12:15 a.m. and arrived at the residence at 12:25 at which time the rear of the house was fully engulfed in flames.

Two passersby who discovered the fire were able to rescue Marjorie McKerr, 70, before calling the fire department when she was spotted at the front of the house.

The Milton Fire Department responded with three tankers, two

Acton depot. Firefighters were unable to gain access to the residence because of

suffered a compound fracture of the leg and facial injuries when he was among four fire-

injury during the blaze but later returned to the scene.

The large, old house burned till 8 a.m. and Chief Bill Cunningham of the Halton Hills Fire Department said the strong winds helped the fire have a hold on the structure. Firefighters did not leave the scene till about 2:30 p.m. Christmas day.

A spokesman from the Ontario Fire Marshall's Office in Toronto said the early Christmas morning blaze in Halton Hills may have been the result of a malfunction in an oil fired space heater.

Contacted by The Herald on Friday the office said although the

SURVIVOR'S STORY
Marjorie McKerr talked to Herald reporter Ani Pederian after the tragic fire. The 70-year-old woman is staying with neighbors.

the intense heat and smoke.

There were approximately 27 Halton Hills firefighters battling the blaze in three separate shifts. The fire wasn't fully under control until about 4 a.m.

Acton volunteer firefighter Jack Vos, 26,

fighters scrambling to avoid a collapsed wall.

A firefighter for 14 months, Mr. Vos was covered up to his head in debris and rushed to Milton District Hospital where he is reported in satisfactory condition.

Milton firefighter Al Wilke suffered an eye



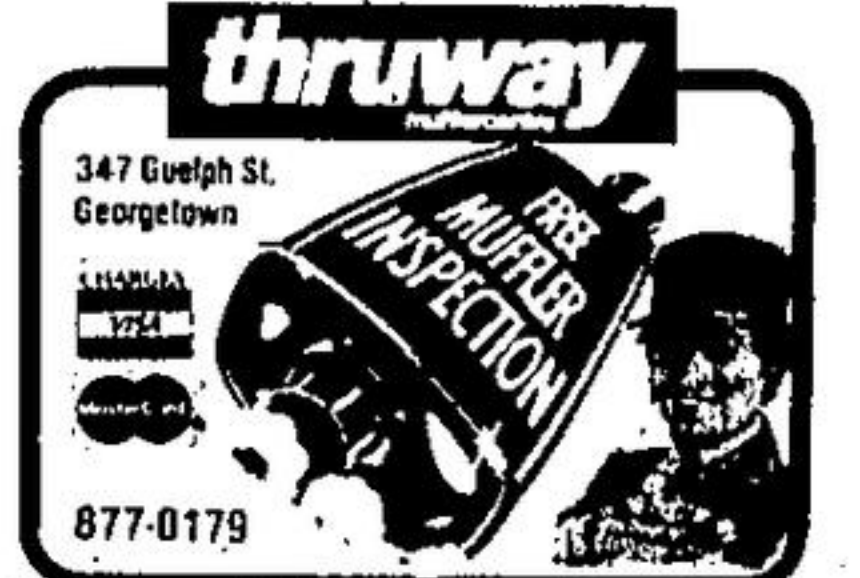
Two men died in a house fire early Christmas morning. A 70 year old woman whose bedroom was on the main floor of the Sideroad 5 home about half a mile west of Highway 25, escaped through the front door. The home was totally destroyed. (Herald photo)



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WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 2, 1985



Car crash kills Acton man, 21

Ron Wunder, 21, of RR3 Acton died Sunday after the car he was driving left Highway 25 and rolled over in the ditch.

When the car came to rest on its wheels in the water of a Credit River culvert, the driver had been thrown out. Guelph OPP said Mr. Wunder hadn't been wearing his seatbelt.

Timothy Nye, 20, of RR2 Hillsburgh is in stable condition at Dufferin-Area Hospital in Orangeville.

My Nye suffered bruising, but no broken bones, according to the nursing supervisor.

There were no other passengers in the car, and no other vehicles involved.

The accident took place at 4 a.m. in Erin Township, about one and a half miles south of Hillsburgh.

A post-mortem examination was done and blood samples have been sent away to determine if the driver was impaired at the time of the single vehicle crash. Guelph OPP say results aren't due back for a month.

Further information was unavailable as the police report was incomplete as of press time.

No Go-Transit stop at Marketplace plaza

GO-Transit buses are no longer stopping at the Delrex Restaurant and Tavern in the Georgetown Marketplace off Highway 7.

As well, the bus parcel express service which operated out of the restaurant is no longer there.

The long-time restaurant, owned by Bill Kafoldis, has gone out of business. Friday, the downtown Main Mart at 40 Main St. S. became GO's new agent.

To buy tickets for the bus or to pick up parcels sent by bus, you have to go to the Main Mart now.

"We tried to find a location with long hours where people could go to buy tickets," GO-Transit public relations officer Lily Ing said. "If the agency is closed, people can still buy tickets on the bus."

She said buses are no longer pulling into the plaza but that bus drivers are on the lookout for passengers flagging them down along Highway 7 in front of the plaza.

Although no new stops has yet been designated in that area, GO officials are hopeful they will have them soon.

Miss Ing said GO is looking for approval from the town to have a GO stop at the traffic lights leading into the Georgetown Marketplace on Guelph Street for travellers heading to Toronto.

As well, for travellers westbound to Acton and Guelph, GO hopes to have a stop across the street, at the entrance to the Halton Hills Plaza.

"Our people have suggested that location and are waiting for word from the townspeople," Miss Ing said. "And they're hoping to put up bus shelters there too."

Right now, GO expects a lot of bus travellers will go downtown Georgetown instead to catch the

GO bus. Although commuter bulletins were handed out to travellers recently, there are occasional travellers who may not be aware of the change, Miss Ing said.

Christmas shopping up

A quick survey of local stores in the Halton Hills area reveal that most of the merchants enjoyed the same amount, or slightly better, number of shoppers during the Christmas season.

While last year's hot item seemed to be the Cabbage Patch Doll, this year's was clothing for the dolls and transformers.

Eric Sellors, manager of the Canadian Tire in Acton, said that although the store did about the same volume of business as last year, it was more evenly spread out.

There seemed to be more excitement last year but he said there was an exceptionally busy Christmas Eve this

year. Mr. Sellors, who said about 15 per cent of his sales are attributed to the Christmas season, maintained that Cabbage Patch Dolls, transformers, GI Joe figures, cross-country skis and a lot of music-related products were the popular items from his store.

Gail Dodokin, of John Boughton Jewellers said the store enjoyed a very, very busy season although she said people tended to wait until the last minute. Carat gold and diamonds topped the list of best sellers at the store.

Trio Mart was said to have been definitely busier than last year with many game sales, GI Joes and stuffed toys



New Years Eve in Acton and Georgetown was celebrated by many residents on the streets as citizens of the year Dr. David van der Bent (left) of Acton and Ralph Ursel of Georgetown rang in the new year. (Herald photo)

Happy New Year



How '84 started off in town

THE YEAR IN REVIEW

In the second of a two part series, editor Dave Rowney reviews the year 1984 in Halton Hills. The first part was published last week with stories and year-end photos.

HOW IT STARTED:
New Year's Eve was special as residents in Acton and Georgetown celebrated the beginning of the province's bicentennial by having Citizens of the Year Esme Ball and Ted Tyler unleash balloons and ring in the new year.

The new year baby was Michael Douglas Wilson, the son of proud parents Doug and Cindy Wilson. Originally from Georgetown, the couple were Guelph residents staying in Acton when the child was born.

With lots of snow for December, it was reported that a sizable chunk of the '83 snow removal budget was spent from what remained.

The yet unnamed nursing home complex adjacent to the Georgetown District Memorial Hospital is taking shape as the outer shell is visible to

the school teachers participate in a weigh-off in aid of Cystic Fibrosis.

Steve Roach wins the spring King contest, a wild and zany night where the boys get to dress up and be judged.

The month of April is busy with actors from the high school. GDHS puts on the play Merchant of Venice and the same week AHS puts on Grease.

Athletes of the Year from Georgetown were

Sue Masson and Louis DePaoli. Acton High School student Linda Thomson is crowned the new Miss Acton. Fall Fair.

The Georgetown Life Project is completed, thanks to hard work from high school students and staff, the Optimists and a board of education grant of \$55,000.

SOME VISITORS OF NOTE:
In February Maude Barlow spoke to a group on the topic of "The New Pornography". She is an information officer for Pierre Trudeau. Former Holy Cross pastor Otger Devent comes from Holland for a mortgage burning in February.

Two weeks later the retired priest dies from health ailments. Mr. Saxophone Paul Brodie comes calling for a concert and training session with GDHS students.

Bill Davis dazzles a large crowd at Holy Cross Auditorium in for the BIG (Business in Georgetown) Celebration birthday dinner.

Jean Chretien comes to Brampton-Georgetown for a press conference during the '84 election campaign. In August Big Bird is a welcomed guest for hundreds of kids that show up on Main Street for filming of a movie.

Trail riders from the Journey Into Yesterday group end their 200 mile trek with a celebration in Ballinlad at Scotdale Farm. Toronto lawyer Al Bickerton comes to Acton to talk with youths over their problems with police and loitering.

NEW FACES:
Phyllis McMaster replaces former ag representative for the provincial ministry of agricultural and food's district office in Milton, Henry Stanley. Bob and Lorraine Tadman host a new youth open house program at St. George's Anglican Church called "Open Door".

TOP CITIZENS:
In Georgetown, Ralph Ursel is chosen top citizen of the year by the Lions Club. He is a well liked high school teacher who has been very active in helping the arts in town. He helped launch the Georgetown Choral

Shoes and a car seat from the Juncettes.

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NEW YEAR'S BABY



"It was the best New Years Eve gift I could have got," grinned mother Kathy Wallis, 21. She gave birth to Lyndsey Hole at 3:48 p.m. New Years Day at Georgetown District Memorial Hospital. The father is Doug Hole. The baby weighed 8 lbs. 2 ozs. at birth and measured 18 1/2 inches long. Baby Lyndsey will receive a \$50 gift certificate from Fletcher's Family Shoes and a car seat from the Juncettes.