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Home Newspaper of Halton Hills - Established 1866

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11, 1985

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**GOOD YEAR**

## Spot checks in full swing

The Christmas season is a time of family reunions and giving, but it is also a time when police enforce impaired driving laws most stringently. Those laws are tougher than ever this year and the police are hoping they won't have to arrest as many drunk drivers.

"We would rather not charge anyone, but we know darn well we will have to," said Constable Bigrigg of the Halton Regional Police. "The key word is hope," he added.

Both the O.P.P. and the Halton Regional Police consider checking for drunk drivers a year round job, but there will be more checking now that the Christmas parties have begun.

The O.P.P. sets up spot checks every week as part of their anti-drinking and driving program. "That enforcement will be stepped-up as alcohol consumption increases," Corporal Martin of the Milton O.P.P. said.

How much it is "stepped-up" depends on what the schedule allows and the trends of drunk drivers, he said. The more drunk drivers discovered on the roads, the more police sent out patrols to catch them, he explained.

Chances are, if you haven't seen O.P.P. spot checks you have seen those run by the Halton Regional Police. Every night of the week there is at least one spot check in Halton. During the holiday season there will be as many as five or six in the region, said Constable Bigrigg of the Regional Traffic Bureau.

Those checks begin in the early evening and go until past 2 a.m. Even if you are not an impaired driver, you might still end up being charged after being stopped.

In two spot checks last Thursday, in Oakville and Burlington, 420 drivers were stopped. No one was arrested, two people were given alert tests and 15 people were given traffic tickets, mostly for not wearing seat belts.



It's all ours

It's a simple case of their eyes being bigger than their biceps. When Amy, 3½ (left) and Jillian McDougall, 2, went shopping for a Christmas tree

Saturday, they brought home a whopping. Luckily, they brought along Grampa George Powell and their mother Mary Lou McDougall to help with the

heavy lifting. They were at the Kinsmen's tree lot on Guelph and Nicolair Streets. (Herald photo by Dave Rowney)

## Reach deep this yuletide to fill empty baskets

By SANDY CAMPBELL  
Herald Staff

Check your pockets and see if there is anything left for three organizations who want everyone to have a good Christmas.

The Salvation Army, The Good Neighbor Service and the Kinettes are preparing food, toy and dollar drives for the poor.

The Good Neighbor Service is working with the Kinettes, who collect toys. Last year they delivered food and toys to between 80 and 85 families and expect the same this year, said Siena Van Hoekelen, Chairman of Good Neighbor Service.

The Salvation Army expect to deliver food to over 90 families this year. They are working with the I.O.D.E., the Acton Rotary Club and the St. Vincent de Paul Society.

Because of the number of needy in Halton Hills, the Salvation Army and the Good Neighbor Service must check each other's lists to make certain they don't deliver to the same home, said Capt. Wilson Perrin of the Salvation Army.

Money deposited in the Salvation Army Christmas choir kettles is spent totally on food. They buy about \$50 in

food to each home, depending on the size of the family, to "Turkey or a chicken, anything to make a Christmas meal" is bought, said Capt. Perrin.

Anyone needing food for Christmas can apply at the Salvation Army thrift stores in Georgetown and Acton. The Acton and Georgetown stores will be working together. All donations should be sent to: The Salvation Army, Box 359, Acton, Ontario, L7J 2M4.

The Good Neighbor Service, unlike the Salvation Army, will accept donations of food and not just money, and the Kinettes collect toys for them. They put together packages worth an average of \$110 per family, depending on the size of the family.

Tinned food can be dropped-off at the Miracle Food Mart on Guelph Street or at the homes of Pearce Porter at 37 McIntyre Cr., and Siena Van Hoekelen at 20 Cleaveland Drive. Phone Mrs. Van Hoekelen at 877-3235 and Mr. Porter at 877-4357 before dropping off parcels to make sure they are in. You can also send tinned food to school with your children until Dec. 19 when police pick it up.

All donations of money is used to buy "turkey, potatoes and anything special they can't afford," Mrs. Van

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## Bruce beats board vet for chairman

Halton Hills has done it again. The new chairman and vice-chairman of the Halton Board of Education are from Halton Hills.

Acton's Arlene Bruce won the chairman's seat while fellow trustee Dick Howitt of Georgetown won the vice-chairmanship Thursday night.

Mrs. Bruce takes over from former chairman Betty Fisher, a Georgetown resident. She was vice-chairman previously.

"It's quite something when your cohorts have the confidence in you to put you into the chairman's seat," a thrilled Mrs. Bruce said. "I'm really most happy. In fact, I'm delighted!"

Mrs. Bruce won the seat over opponent Bill Priestner of Burlington, a separate school representative on the board. She's a former teacher who was first elected to the board five years ago. She was acclaimed to her seat in the Nov. 12 municipal elections.

Trustee Howitt was also acclaimed to his trustee's seat for a second term in November. Thursday night, he had no competition for the vice-chairmanship and was acclaimed to the leadership position on the board.

"I think I could get used to these acclamations," Mr. Howitt said with a smile, after Mrs. Bruce ran over and gave him a congratulations hug and kiss.

Mr. Howitt is a lawyer with a downtown Georgetown practice. He has served as a local and regional councillor for the town.

"I think the board has been blessed with fine leadership during the three year term I've been here - with Len Auger, Betty Fisher and Arlene Bruce," Trustee Howitt said. He noted there has been a good

relationship between the board and the administration and said he hopes to contribute to it and make for an equally smooth term of office for fellow trustees.

Both positions are for a one year term, expiring next December.



The gavel sits in new hands for the next 12 months. Halton Hills residents Arlene Bruce and Dick Howitt won the top two board seats Thursday night at the inaugural meeting of the Halton board of education. Mrs. Bruce won the chairmanship while Mr. Howitt was acclaimed to the vice-chairmanship. (Herald photo)

## Trustee critical of board policy

Some thought-provoking criticism was levelled at the Halton Board of Education Thursday night by a long-time trustee of the board.

In his campaign speech for board chairman, Burlington separate school representative Bill Priestner said the board has a tendency to deal with issues in committee of the whole rather than air them in the public forum of the bimonthly board meetings.

"Witness the longer committee of the whole meetings and shorter board meetings which result in many unanimous votes on obviously controversial issues," Mr. Priestner said. He's been a trustee with the board for 22 years.

He said he wasn't pleased at how the board handles some of its lengthy and substantial reports, offering them up for questions of clarification at one meeting, then dealing with it at the next meeting with no time for reconsideration by staff.

Mr. Priestner said he wants to allow trustees the opportunity to refer such reports back to the administration for further work.

Selling off school buildings now, when they're not in demand by the board may turn out to be a bad move in future, said the former finance committee chairman.

"We need a long range plan for accommodation. I feel today we're selling off school buildings we'll sorely need 20 years down the road. Really, we need to think that over before going down that path," Mr. Priestner said.

### IN THE NEWS

#### Train hits car

Harold McEachern, 43, of Rockwood is in stable condition after his car was hit by a VIA train and exploded Sunday at 11:40 a.m. The train was going 70 mph through Crewson's Corners, at the Erin-Halton boundary, police said.

The railway crossing was an unprotected crossing with no lights. He was eastbound on the Erin boundary when the train hit the 1978 Buick on the back end. Mr. McEachern was thrown from or crawled from the car, which ended up in a ditch. It exploded shortly after, a fire department official said. Firefighters put out the fire, which gutted the car. Damage was estimated at \$900.

Mr. McEachern was taken to the Guelph Hospital where he was listed in serious condition Sunday. His condition is now stable. No charges were laid.

#### New Year's party

The Mayor's New Year's Day Levee is taking place in the Halton Hills Library and Cultural Centre gallery from 2 to 6 p.m. and everyone's welcome.

Monday night, Mayor Russ Miller made the invitation at the conclusion of the council meeting. Councillors approved \$500 from the 1986 public relations account to cover the party.

Coun. John McDonald reminded his fellow councillors that once again there will be New Year's Eve celebrations in both downtown Acton and Georgetown, and all are welcome. Further details will be forthcoming in The Herald.

#### Gift of life

Come one, and all and give a gift of life. Come to the Acton Red Cross blood donor clinic Dec. 19 at the Legion Hall between 5 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Bring your children to have their photo taken with Santa. For more information call 853-2799.

## By 1990, Toronto calls might not be long distance

By DAVE ROWNEY  
Herald Staff

Imagine being able to phone Aunt Bertha in Toronto and talking for hours without father complaining about his long distance bills.

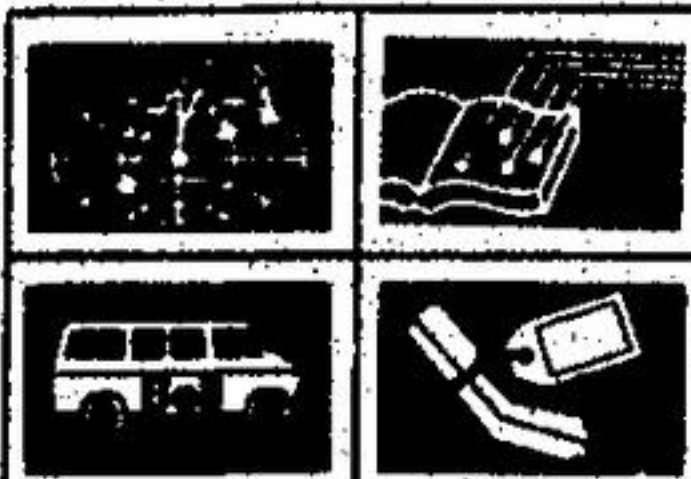
That type of scenario might be a possibility for Georgetown residents by the year 1990.

Bell Canada has applied to the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) to relax their criteria for long distance charges.

The CRTC is expected to make their decision by February, which would affect 150 communities in Ontario and 40 communities in Quebec.

Called Extended Area Service (EAS), Ma Bell would add more phone lines, enabling communities to avoid long distance calls to certain areas with a 30-mile radius.

Under the old criteria, to benefit



from a once per month, pre-established rate, communities had to be linked geographically with one another. That's why Georgetown isn't charged for calls to Milton or Brampton - our borders are side-by-side.

Because Bell Canada has been receiving pressure from customers to extend their service, they've applied to the CRTC to relax their guidelines, said Denise Gray, a section manager

for Bell.

With the new criteria, Georgetown meets all the requirements. The town has to be within 30 miles of the exchange they are calling and more than 50 per cent of the people must call the exchange at least once per month. Communities no longer have to be located next to the phone exchange they want extended service for.

Studies have shown that 66 per cent of Georgetown residents phone a Toronto number at least once per month.

The CRTC application would not affect Acton, said Mrs. Gray, because it is not within the 30 mile radius to Toronto.

This chart indicates the cost of living in a community without a direct link-up with Toronto. Georgetown residents pay \$8.75 for the use of their phone, plus long-distance charges. If extended area calling was added, we would be able to call Toronto for a set fee each month of about \$19.25.

Extended Area Service will not be cheap for customers. Residents now pay an average \$4.90 per month for long distance phone calls. With EAS, a regular phone bill of \$8.75 could jump to \$19.25.

She said the company is working with preliminary estimates and costs can't be accurately totalled. To implement EAS in the 190 communities that fit the new criteria could cost \$19 million, she said.

"We don't anticipate losing money on it," said Mrs. Gray, adding that the costs will be paid by people who elect to have their phone exchanges adapted to EAS.

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Type of Service	Georgetown Residents	Georgetown Business
Regular line	8.75 per month	\$29.10 per month
Foreign exchange (ie. a Brampton no. to avoid calling long distance)	\$146.28	\$176.30
WATS out-line (19 hours per month) anywhere in 416	\$210 - month	\$210 per month
WATS out-line (if over 10 hours per month)	\$17 per additional hour (over 10 hrs.)	\$17 per additional hour (over 10 hrs.)
EAS	\$19.25	\$39.60