

Christmas is...

Give with your heart and give till it feels good. Many in Halton Hills won't have the type of Christmas they deserve.

The yuletide season is a time for joy, for giving and a time for celebration.

Not everyone can afford the little things that make a Christmas so special. A turkey dinner, toys for children and new woollen socks are taken for granted by so many of us.

We can help families and singles enjoy the festive season and in doing so, brighten our own outlook on the true meaning of Christmas.

There are several organizations offering their services for those in need. Good Neighbors in Georgetown, along with the Kinettes' Toy Drive and the Salvation Army, based in Acton, are the sponsors of good-will packages.

An article elsewhere in this newspaper outlines where you can phone and what type of gifts are required.

If you can help with gifts of food or money, we urge you to call these worthwhile organizations. They need your support to ensure everyone in town has a very Merry Christmas.

Missing key point

The federal government will not insult Japanese-Canadians by offering them money, says area MP and Cabinet Minister Otto Jelinek.

The multiculturalism minister says money set aside will go to some form of redress for their displacement during the Second World War.

But regardless of where the money is to go to, Mr. Jelinek has missed the point.

Many Japanese-Canadians, particularly the National Association of Japanese-Canadians, want input into how and where the money is spent.

The minister says he will not negotiate with the group, instead he intends to consult a wide range of Canadians before presenting a redress package to the cabinet early next year.

The Japanese-Canadian association wants any settlement to be the result of negotiations between the government and Japanese-Canadians.

As a story in The Herald, two weeks ago, by Ant Pederian shows, Japanese-Canadians that were interned during the Second World War were treated unfairly. But the key issue is not whether each individual family should be compensated; nor is the key issue about whether it could have been prevented.

Top priority for Mr. Jelinek should be to negotiate with those who were most affected by the events of 1942 in British Columbia when possessions were confiscated and families were taken from their homes.

Only then can Japanese-Canadians rest easy, knowing their message has been heard.

Burst of confidence

If you think it helps to know someone in high places, then we, as residents of Halton Hills, are indeed lucky.

Thursday Arlene Bruce was elected as Chairman for the Halton Board of Education. Dick Howitt was acclaimed as board Vice-Chairman.

Both these people represent Halton Hills as school trustees. In fact, they are the town's only public school trustees on a board of 20 representatives.

That's what we call clout. Their victory continues the pattern first started when Betty Fisher was elected Chairman last term with Arlene Bruce as Vice-Chairman.

Our political representatives from Halton Hills have been given a mandate to be leaders for Halton region. Georgetown resident Irene McCauley was recently voted in as the Halton Separate School Board Vice-Chairman.

At Halton Region, Peter Pomeroy was elected for a second term as Chairman.

Their victories should give Halton Hills a new burst of confidence: in ourselves and in our leaders. It shows we're capable of contributing to the regional process even if we don't have the same population base as Burlington or Oakville.

Because our representatives are well-placed in positions of influence, it almost guarantees Halton Hills will receive a fair hearing.

Inside Open Door



something from inside Open Door - and to give you an opportunity to respond or question.

The following is a poem - one of tens of poems, songs and stories - from inside Open Door.

GROWING UP

Do we ever get over the fear?
It haunts us everyday
It complicates our life
Do we go on living in fear?
There is so much to be experienced
So much we have to know
Answers bring responsibility
Is there ever any answers?
Within reason, no
Not within reach
We have to extend our arms
Join our hands and strive
To get the answers
What if they are not there?
What will become of us?
Will they ever be there?
Within reach
Within our grasp?

—By KIM DAQUANO
(written at age 15)

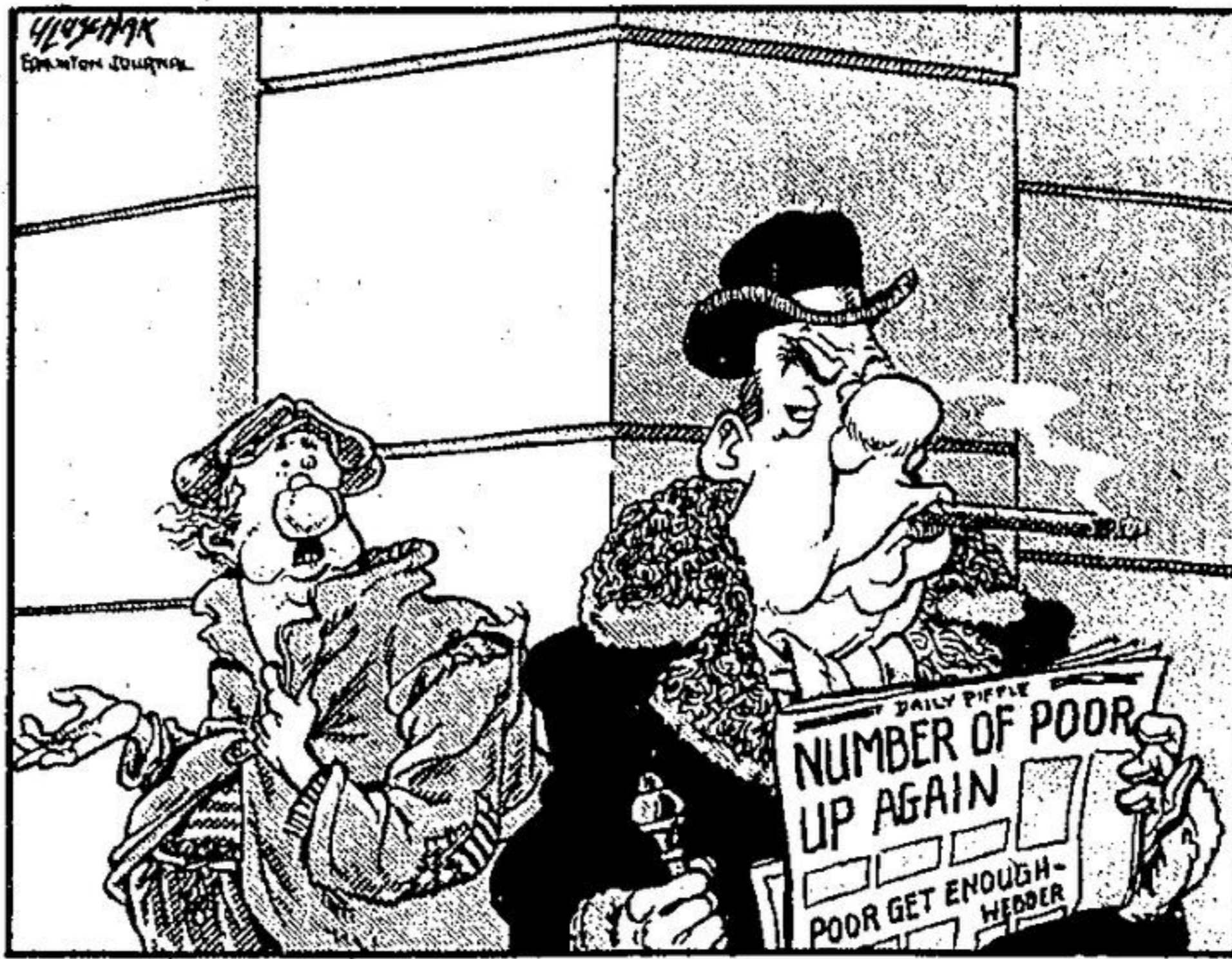
If you wish to write and express an opinion or concern - write to: "Letters to Open Door" 45 Guelph Street, Georgetown, Ontario L7G 3Z6

EDITOR'S NOTE: The following article, written by Open Door director Bob Tadman, explores one of the topics on the minds of our youth. On a regular basis, Open Door will be contributing messages about their drop-in centre and will share information about future events and topics that many youth of today are talking about.

Growing up - An odd time of life made up of an indeterminate length of days, months and years, and containing a sequence of moments and crises which turn to memories as we go on. Not an easy time for those doing the growing - nor for those who love them.

One of the goals of Open Door is to ease some of the pressure, provide some positive support and help to create memories that will bless, twenty years away from now.

Every so often we will be placing an article here to let you hear



"Of course I wouldn't know when I was well off - I never WAS!"

Mulroney never had doubts

Ottawa Report

By Stewart MacLeod

Ottawa Bureau of The Herald

Now that Marcel Masse has been cleared of any electoral wrongdoing, and in the event that a similar investigation is launched against any other MP, would it be too much to ask Prime Minister Mulroney to refrain from all comments on the case?

It might seem unfair to single out Mulroney for a dose of lip-sealing here but, after all, he is the prime minister of Canada and, consequently, a man of considerable influence. Nothing he says can, or should, be taken with a grain of salt.

So when he said on several occasions that he was confident the RCMP would clear Marcel Masse of alleged campaign spending violations, it was an opinion of some consequence. After all, it isn't every day that a prime minister offers his considered views on the outcome of an investigation being undertaken by the federal police force.

But Mulroney never appeared to have any doubts. From the beginning, so far as he was concerned, Marcel Masse would be exonerated and would then be welcomed back into cabinet as minister of communications.

And that's exactly what happened. OTHERS CRITICIZED You might recall the flap that

occurred when other cabinet representatives - admittedly of a lesser rank than prime minister - had the misfortune to comment on charges against other elected representatives. Elmer MacKay, now the minister of revenue but then the solicitor-general, raised a merry old outcry when he expressed some disbelief over allegations against his former cabinet colleague, Robert Coates. Coates was being investigated by the Canadian Human Rights Commission over charges of sexual harassment and the solicitor-general told reporters he simply didn't believe the accusations.

The popular reaction was that the solicitor-general, given the influence he wields, displayed bad judgement in commenting on a matter before the commission. Critics suggested it might appear as though the minister was trying to influence the outcome of the investigation.

And that criticism seemed fair enough.

So did the criticism levelled against Justice Minister John Crosbie after he expressed satisfaction that "my friend" Richard Hatfield, the premier of New Brunswick, had been cleared of marijuana-related charges.

The fact that, at the time, Crosbie's department was still in an official position to launch an appeal, clearly made the minister's comments inappropriate. Lay people, like you and me, could be left wondering whether such comments might somehow influence any career-minded official at a lower level.

There is no evidence whatever that it did. But wondering always comes easy.

NO REACTION

And the same feelings apply with the prime minister's expression of confidence in Marcel Masse's innocence.

Mulroney, being a concerned sort of human being, and understandably upset by Masse's resignation, probably reacted like any employer would if a valued employee found himself under police investigation. He expressed his confidence that the Mounties would eventually clear Masse of the allegations and he would then return to his desk. A nice touch by the boss.

Trouble is, Mulroney is no ordinary boss. As prime minister of Canada he could be considered the most important boss in the country, certainly the most influential figure when it comes to the massive federal payroll which, incidentally, includes the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

Would you be entirely comfortable if your mayor said he was confident a council colleague would be cleared through an investigation undertaken by his city's police force? Or, perhaps more to the point, would the police chief be comfortable?

I haven't the faintest idea how the RCMP felt about launching an investigation while the prime minister was expressing such confidence in the eventual outcome. There is nothing to indicate they had a whit of influence on the investigation.

But that doesn't make them any more acceptable. There are times when a prime minister's feelings for a colleague can be more appropriately expressed, in public, through a hearty handshake. And this, it seems to me, was one of them.

Conference of theatrics

Queen's Park

By Derek Nelson

Queen's Park Bureau of The Herald

TORONTO—Due to an unfortunate-time illness on my part, I missed the first ministers' conference in Halifax last week.

But maybe it was just as well. Judging from the media accounts of what went on, I might have been even more ill being there. These politicians can sicken you with their posturing.

This is not to take away from the conference as theatre. It was incredibly successful in those terms, particularly for Ontario Premier David Peterson.

He took on Prime Minister Brian Mulroney one-on-one and demolished him.

He left the impression Mulroney was taking money away from sick people and kids needing education. It was marvellous nonsense on Peterson's part.

And it was exactly what Peterson wanted, of course. He was seen as

defending Ontario's interests. His profile was raised. Both these are important as he builds the base for a majority Liberal sweep in the next provincial election.

Unfortunately, what is good politics for Ontario's Grits is bad reality for the country.

The real issue at the conference (leaving aside free trade) is what our 11 responsible governments are going to do about getting spending under control.

They didn't even try to address that issue, preferring instead to believe that there really is a Santa Claus called the federal treasury and that everything would be fine if only Mulroney stopped playing The Grinch.

The specific issue they clashed over was unconditional federal transfer payments to the provinces.

These had been running at a seven per cent annual rate of increase, even though inflation is only at four per cent. (And did anyone notice that all - not part, but all - of the most recent rise in the cost of living was solely the result of federal and provincial tax increases?)

Although unconditional, these grants generally are considered to be

targeted for health and education expenditures.

Thus, when the feds announced the increase next year would amount to (in the calculations of outsiders) five per cent, Peterson and the other premiers howled.

Ontario has already cut to the bone, Peterson protested, in the process redefining the word "bone". For the current fiscal year Ottawa is sending Ontario \$4.65 billion to do with as it wishes. Health alone will cost the province \$9 billion. Education runs another \$3.5 billion - and that doesn't include more than \$3 billion raised in local property taxes.

Next year federal transfers will creep close to \$5 billion.

Unfortunately for Ontario, it can't keep either its health care or education costs down to the overall inflation level - which, in the case of education with declining student enrolment, is especially amazing.

And that is why it is more fun to go to a first ministers' conference and berate an already bankrupt Ottawa government for not giving you enough money rather than have to face up to the reality that your own health and education spending is out of control.

That's also why anyone there should have felt a mite ill at the games being played.

Hoping to purchase peace

Clergy Comment

By DR. JOHN M. DRICKAMER

Immanuel Lutheran Church
Vanity Fair is an enduring image from The Pilgrim's Progress by John Bunyan. A fair was a market, like a modern shopping centre. In Bunyan's classic, it was a place of temptation to materialism, the improper love of things and possessions, the worship of the false gods of this world.

Those things are vain, useless, worthless. So "vanity" is the right word to describe what Bunyan was talking about. But the word "fair" no longer seems fitting, for we are used to the adjective "fair", meaning "beautiful" or "lovely". Materialism is ugly.

December is the time of year when materialism is at its peak. Its promises are persuasively pushed and pressed by the modern media. Shopping centres are gaudier and busier than at any other time. But the outward appeal is inwardly ugly if these things are approached with a sinful attitude.

I know that I must be careful. I am one of those people who just hates to go shopping and finds browsing a bore and a chore (except in a bookstore - everyone has weaknesses). So it is too easy for me to criticize shopping itself. What must be condemned is the false faith in things, the false hope for things, and the false love of things, to which we are all tempted.

There are Christian shoppers and Christian merchants. But only by God's gracious power could any of us go shopping without adoring the false gods of materialism or run a store without worshipping financial profits. The strong temptations of money and things will always be present in this world.

We are all tempted to have faith in things to bring us joy, peace, happiness, contentment. But what is only material cannot produce what is purely spiritual.

Even worldly experience should teach us that things can bring only fleeting pleasure, not lasting joy. Anything we can buy in a store will only disappoint us in the end. Yet people still shop desperately, expecting one more new toy to produce satisfaction at last.

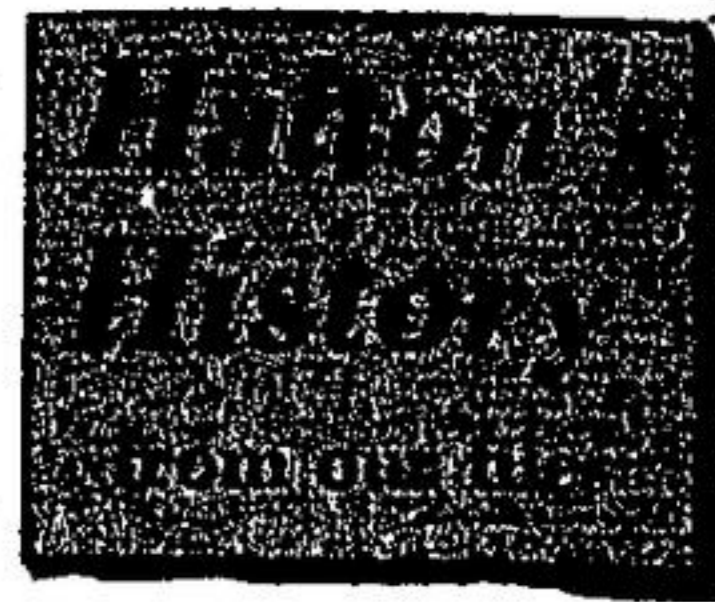
We have all heard the complaint, "The church just wants my money"

People should admit instead, "The store just wants my money." If a Christian congregation only wants money, there is something seriously wrong.

But there is also something seriously wrong in the attitude of people who spend all kinds of money hoping to purchase peace in a shopping centre but neither hear nor support the preaching of God's Word. For in His Word God gives a gift greater than any treasure on earth.

Jesus said, "A man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth" (Luke 12:15). Possessions and things and wealth are not what life is all about. More important than any object we can possess is the spiritual joy and satisfaction of peace with God for eternity.

Joy and peace with God are what Christmas is all about. For Jesus Christ came to pay for our sins, to purchase the great treasure of peace with God for all people by His life and death for us. The promise of Christmas is the forgiveness of sins, eternal life, and salvation for Jesus' sake. How God wishes that people cared more about these things than about the things that money can buy!



THIRTY YEARS AGO—Frank Ptashink scored five goals as the Georgetown Raiders defeated Milton 10-3. Bill Chard had five assists in the game of revenge. Milton defeated the Raiders 9-8 the week before.

J.B. MacKenzie and Son have the contract for constructing a new hydro building on Water Street, on property purchased from the Lions Club. Their tender of \$59,170 was one of seven.

Two new teachers will be hired to meet the needs of increasing enrollments in Georgetown public schools: Mrs. V.F. Bull of Weston and Mrs. James Carson of Georgetown will begin in January.

District real estate broker Mrs. Bertha E. Brown died in a Milton private hospital Nov. 25. She was sick for four months.

FIFTEEN YEARS AGO—Over 200 former pupils of teacher Mrs. June Evans returned to school to wish her a happy retirement. She taught at Chapel Street Public School for 28 years.

Georgetown's Tiger Joe Fovort is one of eight Canadian amateur wrestlers going to Moscow Dec. 21 to meet Russian junior wrestlers. He was selected by the Canadian Wrestling Association after winning a gold medal in the Canadian Championships.

Four Georgetown men became members of the Association of Professional Engineers of Ontario and will now put the initials P. Eng. after their name. They are Ronald Patey of 43 Marilyn Cr., J.R. Robertson of 32 Marilyn Cr., August Apou of 52 Jocelyn Cr. and G.L. Elliott of 62 Pennington Cr.

Over 800 Georgetown residents are back to work as the 4th week strike at Northern Electric's Bramalea plant ended.

TEN YEARS AGO—President of the Georgetown Fall Fair Board, Charles Fogal, and board members Doris Lindsay and Jean Ruddell were honored with certificate of merit awards. Mr. Fogal presented the awards to the women.

Halton has given Halton Hills \$300,000 for building an addition to the municipal building on the Seventh Line. Some of the money will be used to buy land.

Peter Pomeroy has the approval of council to operate a hockey school at the Gordon Alcott Arena. Of the three tenders submitted Mr. Pomeroy's was chosen.

After a year skating for the Whitey Senior 'A's, Doug Tate is returning to the Georgetown Raiders. He is noted for his hustling style on the left wing.

FIVE YEARS AGO—Rob Masson placed fourth in the 1500 meter freestyle event in a competition against the top swimmers from England and the United States. He also placed sixth in the 400 individual medley at the competition in Elobicoko.

Karen Greenham of Georgetown adopted 8-year-old Emelita Bautista of Mindoro in the Philippines through the Foster Parents Plan of Canada.

The Georgetown Volunteer Firefighters' Association raised \$4,004 towards buying a \$10,000 piece of rescue equipment. Don Maveal, fundraising committee chairman, said local businesses and industry have been very responsive.



By PAT WOOD, Herald Columnist

In October, Bill 38 was passed to amend the Municipal Elections Act. Now, psychiatric patients who are incompetent to handle their financial affairs have the right to vote in municipal elections. This change was brought about by extensive lobbying by interested groups.

As a result of this success, A.R.C.H. produced a video tape outlining the voting issues in local elections for people living in institutions. Enquiries regarding the tape and accompanying booklet can be directed to Linda Layer, A.R.C.H. 483-8256.

The Halton Housing Authority is now accepting applications from ex-psychiatric patients. The demand for low rental housing is high, however, enquiries can be made by calling Zenith 44120.

Under the revised postal regulations soon to be introduced, blind persons will be able to mail "talking books", tapes and other recorded items to virtually all other countries free of charge. This includes tapes and discs containing personal messages.

Included in the literature which can be sent free of charge are braille books, periodicals, letters and printing plates sent by surface mail. Air mail must be paid at regular rates but registration and special delivery may be added free of charge. In the past only recognized institutions for the blind were permitted to send recording tapes or discs.

A variety of aids can be imported by individuals, doctors, hospitals etc. free of customs and/or federal sales tax. Included among these devices are canes, wheelchair ramps, lifts, shoes, etc. A booklet titled "Importing goods for the Disabled" can be obtained from the regional excise office (973-8561).

Likewise tax exemptions are granted to equipment designed solely for the use of the disabled when purchased or rented. The comprehensive list includes such items as walkers, crutches, toilet aids, lifting devices etc. The sales tax office (487-1361) can provide you with more details.

A support group for post-psychiatric patients has been formed in Toronto. If you would like to join or form a local support group please call Jeannette Shannon at 279-8404 who can provide you with further information and assistance.