

## Call 'down under' to Aussie friends

Ray Denny's grade 7 social science class discovered for themselves that long distance is the next best thing to being there.

The Centennial Public School class received a call from a grade 7 class in Perth Australia last Tuesday at 5:59 p.m. The program called "Phone A Friend" is sponsored by the Georgetown chapter of the Canadian Red Cross and the Red Cross in Australia.

The call was one minute early and students talked for 25 minutes. Technical problems made some of the conversation garbled, but the Centennial students did discover what it is like to live in Australia.

"One school is similar to another. Kids in Australia have the same outlook as kids in Centennial. They have a lot in common," Mr. Zanatta, the principal of Centennial, said.

One big difference between the schools which shocked Centennial students was that Australian students begin their summer break in one week and will be off until February. The Australians had a hard time understanding what snow is. Probably because it was 30 degrees Celsius there.

For two weeks before the call, the Canadian class prepared. Questions were devised, letters were written and a package of Canadian paraphernalia was put together. Australia mania had taken over.

Trevor Smith, who said people tell him he is a very good drawer, included his best two drawings in a letter. One

was of Walt Disney's Sleeping Beauty and the other was a Saturday morning cartoon. The class package for the Australians was full of Canadian magazines, flags, money, photos of the school.

More than half the class of 30 hope to get a pen pal from their efforts, and many are interested in visiting Australia. As expected by Mr. Denny, about half of the class showed up for the call.

Students had a range of questions. Kerri wanted to ask, "Who are your favorite rock stars or groups?" Brad asked, "What kind of computers do you have down there?" and Sarah was interested in, "How many hours a day do you go to school?"

Talking to someone half way around the world is the main reason for the excitement, Mr. Denny said. When it is 7 p.m. Wednesday in Canada, it is 8 a.m. Thursday in Australia.

The Wednesday before the call was made Centennial students came together to wait for a call from Australia which never came. After an hour of waiting Mr. Denny called collect and discovered the Australians confused the dates. The Canadians had better fortune Tuesday.

The 25 minute conversation may be over but the relationship between the classes is not. Even if no more letters are written the Canadian package will arrive in Australia near Christmas. An Australian package arrived in Canada Nov. 29.



Trevor Smith and Sarah Geh, grade 7 students from Centennial Public School, had a chance to talk to a class in Australia. The class project was part of a Red Cross program called "Phone A Friend". The Georgetown Red Cross and the Australian Red Cross sponsored the event.

## Sleepless nights plague owner

Many sleepless nights and "anxiety beyond words" have plagued the owner of a Metcalfe Court home which has been experiencing severe erosion problems since 1978.

Bill Aiken of 45 Metcalfe Court told council he's being asked to pay for the town's past mistakes.

"It has been questioned whether or not a building permit should have been issued for the site," Mr. Aiken said Monday night. "Our problem is the result of erosion, a poor plan of subdivision and improperly designed drainage system. To add to this, the design, excavations, footings, foundation and placement of fill were all supposedly inspected by the town and approved."

Mr. Aiken is just one of several area homeowners finding their back-

yards slipping away. A hairline crack in the basement wall discovered in April has since opened up to a gaping one and a half inch wide crack, he said.

A report by Peto McCallum on the property discovered fill, up to 4 meters in depth, had been improperly placed and stated if remedial work isn't done before spring, the house will sustain further movement and damage. The report also said stabilization of the house is required to ensure the safety of the Aiken family.

The Ministry of Natural Resources has indicated it will be picking up 55 per cent of the remedial work costs. The Aiken's want council to pay the remaining 45 per cent.

Council voted to negotiate with Mr. Aiken and refer the matter to the 1988 budget discussions in the new year.

## Budget meets should be open -- Sheldon

Should the budget committee meetings, in which all councillors are to be members this year, be open to the public and press?

That's the question Coun. Pam Sheldon raised at Monday night's council meeting.

## Parade thanks

Dear Sir,  
On behalf of the Acton Community Residents Group, we would like to express our thanks to the Acton Firefighters Association for their organization of our Santa Claus Parade and to your paper for its coverage of the event. As a new group recently formed in Acton it was a great way for us to demonstrate our commitment to boosting community spirit.

We wish to extend a sincere thank you to Tyler Transport for provision of the flatbed trailer, Ms. Gooding of Georgetown High School drama department for costumes, and Tullman's Garden Centre for use of shrubbery bushes. Without their generous support our contribution to Acton's parade would not have been possible.

Sincerely,  
David Steckley, Mary Crane,  
Dick Crane, Cheryl Corson,  
(for the Acton Residents Group)

## Seniors input

What kinds of needs do seniors have in Halton Hills? That's what the new Seniors Advisory Committee is trying to find out. They had their first meeting in October and are welcoming input from seniors and anyone involved in their well-being to join their meetings. For more information, call the Acton Social Services and Information Centre at 853-3310.

As with all the town's committee meetings, except for the general committee meetings, budget committee meetings have always taken place behind closed doors.

Coun. Sheldon thinks it's time councillors opened the doors, and made the recommendation to this year's budget committee chairman John McDonald.

"Certainly, it's an item we'll address at the first budget committee meeting," Coun. McDonald replied.

In the past, the public had no idea of where tax dollars were going until a week before the budget is approved in late March.

Coun. Sheldon also wants to see the committee of adjustment opening its doors to allow the public to hear its discussions in coming to a decision.

"It bothers me the committee goes into camera to finalize its decisions," Coun. Sheldon said.

She asked that the interviewing committee, which will be recommending appointments to the committee of adjustment shortly ask interested citizens if they'll be discussing their reasons for their decisions in public.

Coun. Sheldon reminded councillors they are the appointing body for the committee of adjustment and the only time to make this change in the committee's style of operation is at the interviewing stage.

"Those were all discussed and we're looking into it," interviewing committee member Peter Norton told her.

"What kind of answer is that?" demanded Coun. Sheldon. "There are going to be guidelines drawn up about your question and they'll come at a further date," Coun. Norton said.

"I'll try once again," Coun. Sheldon persisted. "They'll be dealing with

making their decisions in public?"

"Yes," Coun. Norton replied.

**HOLY CROSS  
ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
224 Maple Avenue  
PASTOR ASST. PASTOR  
Fr. Dave Cote Fr. Ken Miskiewicz  
MASSES  
Saturday 7:00 p.m.  
Sunday 8 a.m., 10 a.m., 12 noon  
For information call: 877-3983

**FREEZER  
FRENZY**  
5 MILL ST.  
ACTON

**TREASURE ISLE**  
Broken Jumbo  
Shrimp  
\$26.99  
3 Lbs.

**OPEN 7 DAYS**

**KING  
SUBMARINE & PIZZA**  
10 Mountainview Rd. S.  
Georgetown  
877-5177

<b>BBQ SPARE RIBS</b> \$5.45	<b>VEAL PARMESAN</b> \$4.45
INC. FRENCH FRIES & DINNER ROLL	INC. FRENCH FRIES OR SPAGHETTI

HOURS  
Mon. Wed. 11 am - 1 am  
Thurs. 11 am - 2 am  
Fri.-Sat. 11 am - 3 am  
Sun. 4 pm - 11 pm

**\$1.00 OFF**  
WITH COUPON  
PICK UP OR DELIVERY

FRI. & SAT. DELIVERY  
1 pm - 3 am

## "OPEN HOUSE"

SAT., DEC. 14th SUN., DEC. 15th  
8:00 A.M. - 12:30 P.M. 1:00 P.M. - 5:00 P.M.  
5:30 P.M. - 8:00 P.M.

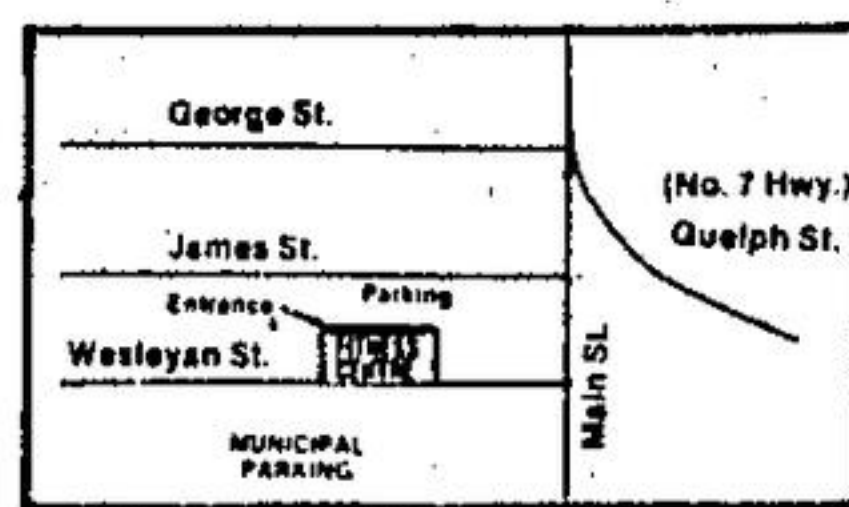
## WHAT BETTER GIFT FOR THE ONE YOU LOVE

## A CHRISTMAS GIFT CERTIFICATE FOR GEORGETOWN SPA & FITNESS CENTRE

CONVENIENT HOURS FOR BOTH MEN & WOMEN

Call Now & Take Advantage Of Our 1st Anniversary Special

**25% OFF**  
ALL MEMBERSHIPS



ENTRANCE OFF JAMES ST.

**877-1924**



## HELLO GEORGETOWN. WE'RE READY TO HELP YOU TIDY UP.



- |   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| <b>PENETROL</b><br>Economical rust protection for your vehicle.<br>STARTING AT <b>\$79</b>                      | <b>NEW MATTEZ YOUR INTERIOR</b><br>Our complete interior dry cleaning and protection package.<br>STARTING AT <b>\$148</b>          | <b>RUST-REBEL 2</b><br>Our two step total rust protection process with an insured Full Repair Warranty.<br>STARTING AT <b>\$229</b> |
| <b>FRESHV-A-SHINE</b><br>The intelligent way to protect your car's finish for life.<br>STARTING AT <b>\$159</b> | <b>SUNROOF</b><br>The sun will shine all year long with a Tidy Car sun roof. Installed while you wait.<br>STARTING AT <b>\$239</b> | <b>NEW AND USED CAR TOTAL PROTECTION PACKAGES</b><br>Year 'round protection.<br>STARTING AT <b>\$367</b>                            |

WARRANTED COVERS CAR COVERS WINDOW BLINDS WINDOW TREATMENT

Give a Happy Holiday with a **GIFT CERTIFICATE** TIDY CAR

What an easy way to solve your holiday shopping problems. Simply give a TIDY CAR Gift Certificate for any one of our top quality, highly professional car appearance services. It's a gift that will last and last!



KEEPING CARS IN SHAPE WORLDWIDE

CALL OR STOP IN TODAY

71 Mountainview Rd. N.

Georgetown

**877-6136**



## DENTURE THERAPY CLINIC

18 CHURCH STREET. GEORGETOWN ACROSS FROM LIBRARY AND CULTURAL CENTRE

A.W. TRENTON

877-2359

**AFTER FIVE**

THINGS TO DO PLACES TO GO

**Jack TANNER'S**

49 Eastern Ave. ACTON (519) 853-3440

**The McGibbon Hotel**

LISTENING & DANCING PLEASURE

79 MAIN ST. S. 877-3388

**CANADIAN ODEON THEATRES**

Showing Movies As They Were Meant To Be Seen

877-6232