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SECTION B. THE HERALD



Main Street Santa

Malnstreeting is usually what we see politicians doing during the election season. But Santa Claus wanted to get out and meet the people. He was in

downtown Georgetown greeting little children at the Union Gas Ltd. building. Escorted by two pretty elves, Jenny Barber and Tiffany Coe, St. Nick

was followed by an eager pack of children waiting to tell their friend what they wanted for Christmas. (Herald photo)

Waste disposal still key issue --Pomeroy

With most public attention negative when it comes to energy from waste incineration plants, Regional Chairman Peter Pomeroy said he was encouraged by Halton Hills' interest in such a plant.

In his speech following his inauguration as regional chairman, last Wednesday, Chairman Pomeroy said this positive approach taken by Halton Hills will help Halton region.

He said waste disposal will continue to be a primary issue for the region to deal with, one that will continue to divide the region.

"Public attention is focused on the negative, but the facts are, a great deal has been accomplished," Chairman Pomeroy said.

"In the area of waste, the region has come a long way," he said, noting Halton has curb-side source separation in its four municipalities and is looking into a regional recycling centre to handle the glass, tin and paper being collected weekly.

A citizens' advisory committee with 17 volunteers from throughout the region are working to improve the public image and knowledge of the solid waste problem, Chairman Pomeroy said, something that should raise public awareness in the highly sensitive subject.

He declared his personal commitment to energy from waste. "I still believe in it as much as I did before," the chairman said.

The birth of a Halton Hills United Way will help complete the United Way umbrella in Halton in 1986, Mr. Pomeroy said, indicating he'll be helping to make the new system work in Halton.

As for the financial workings of the region, Chairman Pomeroy proudly reminded his listeners of the triple A rating achieved by Halton this year. He said it didn't just happen but was a result of the business strength and diversity of the four Halton municipalities.

The last two years have been booming ones for business in the region and the chairman wants to keep that strength up.

In terms of regional spending, Mr. Pomeroy would like to see less debt service financing and spending limited to what's in the coffers.

That was the style of operation Mr. Pomeroy was running in Halton Hills when he was mayor of the town.

There should be more meetings with provincial officials and the local mayors, he said. Mr. Pomeroy said he'll be arranging for these meetings of the "Halton caucus", as he called them.

Acton's cloudy sky

Comet spectators shake their fists

The skies did not co-operate with the Halton Hills library board last week. All who turned out to see Halley's comet learned first-hand how clouds interfere with astronomy.

Star gazers did not see the comet. Moreover, they learned when the comet is visible, there will not be a spectacular trail of light.

Francois Van Heerden of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada was the bearer of the bad news. He gave two talks, Wednesday at the Acton Library and Thursday at the Georgetown Library about the comet.

The position of the comet's orbit is not as good for viewing as it was 75 years ago when it was an exciting light show. This time the best place to view the comet is not in the northern hemisphere but the southern.

So all those travelling south in late winter should prepare themselves with binoculars, Mr. Van Heerden advised. He intends to travel to St. Kitts in the West Indies.

All this bad news does not mean the comet will not be visible. On a clear night early in the evening you can see the comet near the horizon in the southwestern sky. It can be seen in that sky in the vicinity of Great Square until the second week in January, when it goes behind the sun.

"At the crack of dawn in late February you can see the comet again," Mr. Van Heerden said. It will be visible until April in the early hours of morning. The library board may sponsor another view of the comet next year, Mr. Elliott said.

Over 50 people attended the meeting at the Acton Library. Half of that audience consisted of children who were most disappointed by the cloudy skies. But to everyone, the comet has a magical quality. Mr. Van Heerden discussed how people have associated the coming of the comet with history, as if it affected history. Bad luck is associated with its arrival.

The comet was thought to be responsible for the Black Plague, World War I and the Norman Conquest. In 1456 a Pope even excommu-



Norm Elliott Francois Van Heerden

nicated the comet. Another suggestion was that the star of Bethlehem we associate with the birth of Christ was actually Halley's comet.

Predictions the world would end were made when the comet came last, in 1910. The tail of the comet was thought to be filled with the deadly gas, cyanogen. When the earth passed through the tail it was predicted everyone would die.

"Well, the people went crazy," Mr.

Van Heerden said. Women in Chicago were seen stuffing the cracks of their windows with cloth to prevent cyanogen gas coming inside. Comet pills were sold to save you from the gas; pills which were actually sugar. The earth passed through the tail and nothing happened other than some great sightings of it.

Halley's comet is nothing to fear. Mr. Van Heerden called it a dirty snowball about which little is known. The comet is about one kilometer in diameter, but it appears larger, about one million kilometers in diameter, because of the sun. The sun turns the frozen parts of the comet into vapor which becomes a thin atmosphere around the core.

There are four probes in space to study the comet. Two are Japanese, one Russian and one American. It is hoped that in the limited time they have to study the comet, which travels 104,000 miles per hour, its mysteries will be revealed. Mr. Van Heerden said. That information could tell us how the universe was formed, he added.



Top-floaters

If you watched the Georgetown Santa Claus parade, chances are you'll remember the names of these organizations. The four groups represented here won prizes for their performance in the parade. Seen here are (front row, left to right) Craig Hall representing the Emerald Cadets Drum and

Bugle Corps from Mississauga - best float, Carmie Gilkes from Standard Products Ltd. - best theme float, (back row) Norm Guthrie, best service club float - Optimists, and Stan Callaghan accepting the best overall float won by the Lionesses of Georgetown. (Herald photo)

War toys free zone

There's one group in town that's fed up with all the death and destruction built into plastic, battery-operated war toys being sold for youngsters.

Georgetown and Acton are being blitzed by posters from the anti-nuclear group called HAND (Halton Hills Action for Nuclear Disarmament).

The peace group want residents to know they feel war toys are not suitable playthings for children.

During the Christmas season, when parents buy most of their toys for their children, HAND are displaying coloring posters which say: "this is a war toys free zone."

Some teachers and children's supervisors are displaying the posters and churches have also been approached for their support of the project.

Colleen Hansson of Halton Hills Kinder School has accepted the posters along with Donna Apple of Georgetown

Nursery School. Both schools do not have any war toys for the children to play with. Ms. Hansson said she does not permit her students to make weapons out of Lego or any other material at the school.

Linda Bobor of HAND is a special education teacher who works half-days at Sam Sherratt Public School in Milton. She says children role-play and use toys they play with as models. Parents are more selective of the toys they buy for their children, because of the rising costs, Mrs. Bobor said. This should help the anti-war toys movement, because parents will be buying more educational and memory-type games, she said.

Miss Apple, who is an early childhood education teacher, tells her students that guns hurt people and they should make other types of toys. "Why encourage it. It encourages aggressive behavior," Miss Apple said. For poster information call 877-5320.

Holly Days

Holly Days can signify the spirit of holiday giving.

During the Halton Lung Association's Christmas campaign, fresh sprigs of holly will be brought to Ontario from British Columbia.

Dec. 13 and 14 you can purchase holly offered in sprigs, arrangements and bags at area shopping malls and hospitals in Halton.

For more information call 652-8499.

Bremen music

The Crankee Consort will be performing "The Musicians of Bremen" at the Halton Hills Public Library Dec. 19, 7:30 p.m. Combining puppetry and live music, these entertainers will recreate the well-known tale of a donkey, a cat and a rooster who are unfairly cast out into the dangerous world.

Tickets will be available at the Georgetown or Acton Library, beginning Nov. 27, at a cost of \$2 each. This show is recommended for grades 2-8, and family audiences.

This performance is hosted by the Ontario Ministry of Citizenship and Culture, Outreach Ontario. For more information, call 853-0301, 877-2681.

Bus to Milton

Once a month, Tyler Transport are going to run a bus to Milton, on a trial basis. The bus schedule is available at the library, laundromat, the YMCA or the Acton Social Services and Information Centre. For more information call 853-3310.

Swim registration

Registration for Winter Swimming Lessons begins Dec. 16, at the Acton and Georgetown pools during regular office hours. For a description of programs being offered, please refer to our fall and winter brochure.

Help puppets

You are invited to inquire about the January training session for volunteer puppeteers to work puppets which depict a variety of disabilities. Special puppets shows will eventually work their way into our children's classrooms to help them understand why all of us are not the same. No prior experience is required. For more information call Jo-Anne at 877-2398, a Kids On The Block member.

News for senior

A flyer called Special News for all Seniors has recently been put together outlining services and assistance available to seniors. It has been circulated throughout Acton. If you didn't get one and would like one, please call the Acton Social Services and Information Centre at 853-3310.

Career drop-in

A Sheridan college information centre will be staffed at 7 James Street, Georgetown weekdays in December to provide career education for adults in the community.

Staff at the drop-in centre will provide information and registration for skills development and apprenticeship division programs. The office is open weekdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., from Dec. 2 - 20. No appointment is necessary.

3 groups can use your help

If you have lots of patience and some time, three local groups need you.

The Social Planning Council, the United Way, and the Drug Abuse Committee all need more members to represent Halton Hills.

The Social Planning Council acts as an umbrella organization providing initial research planning and start-up expertise. A regional group, it needs more north Halton members to improve the quality of life for Halton Hills residents.

The United Way is a new organization breaking into the Halton Hills community. Local people are working to set up a Halton Hills United Way for 1986, to improve the community resources and services currently in town.

The Drug Abuse Committee opened an office at 164 Guelph St. in Georgetown just this year. With a part-time secretary and counsellor, the group dispenses information and counsels both young people and their parents on the problems arising from drug abuse.

Monthly meetings are held and more Acton representatives are needed to air Acton needs on this subject.

For more information on these three groups, contact the Acton Social Services and Information Centre at 853-3310.

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