

# HAPPY



# HOLIDAYS

## the HERALD

Home Newspaper of Halton Hills - Established 1866

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24, 1985

AND THAT'S A PROMISE

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### IN THE HILLS

#### Loyalty rewarded

If you stick it out for over 25 years with the town, you'll earn yourself money or a gift to the value of \$175. That's the employee retirement policy approved last week by town councillors.

For town staff who've worked for Halton Hills 20 to 24 years, retirement earns them a gift or cash to the value of \$150. The payment of \$125 cash or a gift worth that much comes after 15 to 19 years of dedicated service, and \$100 after 10 to 14 years service.

For those with the town only five to nine years, they get payment or a gift worth \$75 with their retirement goodbye.

#### Christmas Capers

There are still tickets available for Dec. 28's performance of The Great Canadian Christmas Caper. Show time is at 1:30 p.m. Tickets are \$2 and are available at either Recreation Office or the Cultural Centre. Call 877-5185 ext. 260, 219 for more information.

#### Munch to movies

Boys and girls of all ages are invited to bring their lunch and "Munch to the Movies" at Halton Hills Public Libraries, Georgetown and Acton Jan. 3, 12 - 1 p.m. Admission is free, and no registration is required. For further information call the Georgetown Library at 877-2681 or the Acton Library at 853-0301.

#### Our mistake

In The Herald's Dec. 11 edition, there was an error in a story about food hampers at Christmas. The page one article incorrectly reported the Salvation Army do not accept food or toys at Christmas, only money.

The Salvation Army do accept food and toys at Christmas and throughout the year. The Herald regrets the error.

#### Firefighter captain

On the recommendation of the Halton Hills fire chief, Larry Brassard, a long-time volunteer firefighter has been appointed captain.

#### Costly to clean

The most expensive town building in terms of cleaning costs is the Halton Hills Library and Cultural Centre.

According to the janitorial contract signed by council Monday night, cleaning the Centre costs \$18,180 annually.

Next most expensive is cleaning the clerk's building on Trafalgar Road, which costs \$6,288 to clean a year.

The treasury building on Main Street costs \$5,880 to clean and the Acton Public Library costs \$4,488. Cleaning the Acton office and the engineering building costs \$2,688 each and the cheapest town building for cleaning is the recreation building. It costs \$2,088 annually.

## Subdivision 'okay' say Halton reps

To the delight of the five Halton Hills regional councillors, the proposed plan of subdivision for Georgetown South got draft plan approval last Wednesday from the region.

"This is really no different from other developments," Halton Hills Mayor Russ Miller said urging Oakville, Milton and Burlington councillors to support approval of the residential subdivision.

He stressed the importance of such development for the town, noting it's the first big development the town has had in the past 15 years.

"It has taken a long time and many meetings and negotiations for Halton Hills to get this far," Halton Hills Coun. Marilyn Serjeantson said. "Our population has virtually remained the same for the past 15-20 years, but we'll now be able to provide serviced industrial land."

The councillor said most people in town are looking forward to the new subdivision and want to know what kind of houses are going to be built because they're interested in moving there.

Halton Hills Coun. Pam Sheldon said this development will be the catalyst needed by the town's economic environment.

She noted that without going through the draft approval process, answers to public concerns wouldn't be available. The councillor said this process is no different from that of other subdivisions in other parts of the region.

Final approval of the development is conditional upon Enterac satisfying 51 concerns specified by the town and approved by Halton region.

Despite the lengthy list of condi-

tions that must be met by the developer, Burlington Coun. Walter Mulkeiwich said he wouldn't be voting draft plan approval of the subdivision.

He said the subdivision issue will be back before regional council during the three year term of the council and the staff report is very clear in indicating its implications for the region.

Coun. Mulkeiwich said there are a great many unanswered questions in the areas of financing and water supply.

Preliminary water studies show no certain water supply to support the development, the councillor said. He said he was concerned about approving the draft plan then facing the developer two years down the road after a great deal of money had been spent on looking for water.

"I was pleased to hear references by councillors that even if one condition of that great big long list (can't be met), the whole thing goes down the tube," Coun. Mulkeiwich said.

Burlington Coun. Pat McLaughlin saw nothing different in the financing of this subdivision from the financing of other subdivisions in the region.

He said the water supply for the first phase of the residential development is sufficient now, but come to the second and third stage of development it may be a different situation.

"It's very important to Halton Hills to have this development go ahead," the councillor said.

Burlington Coun. Joan Little wasn't satisfied with the cost to the region of developing a sewage treatment plant to handle the additional homes and the finding of water sources.



No one's forgotten

Items of food were quickly packed with quiet efficiency by members of the Lakeside Chapter of the IODE and Salvation Army helpers on Friday. They were at the Salvation Army headquarters in Acton preparing gifts of food and toys for area families at Christmas. Seen here are Betty Oakes and Dot Norton. (Herald photo)

## Pomeroy defends staff

The regional chairman was on the defensive last Wednesday when it came to the hours worked by his staff.

"I'm satisfied regional employees work just as hard and just as long as any other municipal employees," Chairman Peter Pomeroy said during the council meeting.

He said the six and a half hour work days of Halton's employees are no different from the hours worked by staff with the City of Burlington, and municipal employees across Ontario.

Just because a staff report showed employees work from 8:30 to 4:30 with an hour off for lunch and two 15-minute coffee breaks doesn't mean those are the only hours they work, Chairman Pomeroy said defensively.

He said he felt badly remarks had been made in a committee meeting by

other councillors criticizing regional staff hours.

The chairman said about 100 middle management staff at the region were upset about reports in the press which said regional staff only work 32 1/2 hours a week.

"It doesn't mean those are the only hours they work," Chairman Pomeroy said. "If we had to pay wages for all the extra hours (middle management puts in), it would be about \$600,000, and that doesn't even include the department heads."

## Donor organ is Carol's yule gift

A 12-year old Acton girl waiting for a liver transplant received her Christmas wish early.

Carol Bridge received a new liver Friday at London, Ontario's University Hospital.

Carol is recovering from the eight hour transplant operation and is in "critical but stable" condition. "Her recovery is going as expected," hospital spokesman Leigh-Anne Stradeski told The Herald. She said the condition of anyone after such an operation is critical for the first 72 hours.



Who's the fairest?

Georgetown District High School actors invaded Pineview Public School last week to perform two plays written and acted by the Grade 11 drama class. After the show was over there was some exchanging of costumes. Lisa Nell (right) shared her crown with a would-be actress from Pineview Public School. (Herald photo)

# Soldiers don't get Christmas day off

By SANDY CAMPBELL  
Herald Staff

What is Christmas like for a soldier? Bill Collier and Art Hall spent every Christmas between 1941 and 1944 at war.

The Christmas they discovered in Europe was not filled with presents, mistletoe and carolling. Nor did the true meaning of Christmas, that a savior had come to save the world, give them much comfort.

Bill Collier now lives on Normandy Boulevard in Georgetown and Art Hall on Byron Street. They are members of the Royal Canadian Legion and still talk about the war if they are asked. There are a lot of stories and some of them are about Christmas.

Bill Collier was 30 when he joined the Lorne Scots. Art Hall ended up with the Saskatoon Light Infantry at 19, even though he was from rural Ontario. Their first Christmas away from home, in 1941, was spent in England. Each man remembers that Christmas as a lonely one filled with homesickness. They were in holding units waiting to be sent into action.

Bill Collier was fortunate enough to have friends from Georgetown in the same regiment. Art Hall was among new faces in the Saskatoon regiment. Long term familiarity was not import-

ant; the army soon became your family, they said.

It was not the kind of family that gave presents. Neither one can remember any exchanging of gifts. "The odd time you might get a pair of socks from the Red Cross and another year you might get a scarf," Mr. Collier recalled.

Art Hall said he never saw a pair of Red Cross socks; everyone did not get them. What you did get usually came from home and there was no guarantee it would come at Christmas. "Walter Biehn (the former owner of the Herald) used to send over the Herald once a week. The Acton Free Press used to come too," Mr. Collier said.

And only one time does one of them remember sending anything home. Bill Collier weaved some belts while he was in the hospital in 1943. Those he sent to his sister for Christmas that year.

As presents were rare, so too were calls home. Art Hall was a wire operator and he recalls how one year a soldier called home at Christmas. "Only guy I can remember who called was Crosbie. He phoned home at Christmas when we were near Brighton. He had the dough," he said. Crosbie, also called 'Bing', was Newfoundland M.P. John Crosbie's broth-

er.

The only decorations in the army were those you earned. There were no Christmas trees in England because the English "were so strict about the woods and cutting it down," Mr. Collier said.

One thing the soldiers did get while in England was a good meal and a church service. But, by 1943 they were spending Christmas in fascist Italy and there was no more of that.

Art Hall spent his first Italian Christmas in the battlefield of the city of Ortona. "The only gifts you got were from the muzzle of a gun. In Italy we never had church. There was no use in it. Why stand out and get shot?" he said.

One of Art Hall's best friends did get killed Christmas in Ortona. Bill Collier also lost two friends between Christmas and New Years. In 1944 Georgetown men Reg Blair and George Latimer were killed.

Art Hall doesn't remember the 1944 Christmas he spent in Florence. War defeats the meaning of Christmas. "Soldiers didn't get Christmas day off," Mr. Hall said.

"They made sure we got our meal at noon. Outside of that there was no let-up in the fighting. There were always the odd mortars to keep you on

your toes," he said.

Bill Collier remembers one special Christmas the men made for themselves in Ravenna, Italy. Mr. Collier and his comrades were not at the front. They were a defense company designed to protect the commanders. In case the enemy broke through the lines it was this company's job to "hold them up while the general got out", he said.

Since late October, before the Christmas of 1944, the men had been trading old clothing to the Italians for fowl, mostly chickens and geese. Everywhere they moved they loaded the birds onto a truck. When Christmas came the birds were killed and plucked. "We should have hired the locals to do it. The Italians plucked them alive. We ended up using pliers on a lot of them. The novelty of the birds soon wore off," he said. After all the plucking and cooking, 150 men sat down and filled themselves.

That was an unusual Christmas for Mr. Collier. Most of the time, like Art Hall, he was "just interested in whether or not you would survive." The Christmas message came at the end of the day when you knew you did.

God was never completely gone from their minds though. "There is an old saying, 'There is no atheist in a

shell hole,'" Mr. Collier said. "I am married now with grandchildren. Christmas means more now," Mr.

Collier said. Art Hall agreed -- a Christmas with peace is much more meaningful.



They remember Christmas at war. Veterans of World War II Bill Collier (left) and Art Hall shared some stories, happy and sad, about Christmas in Europe.