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the HERALD

FAMILY

SECTION

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THE HERALD, Tuesday, December 31, 1985 - Page 11

HERALD STAFF AWARD CORRESPONDENTS



VETERAN WRITERS Winnifred Smith (front left) and Kay Wilson were honored by The Herald staff Friday for their devotion to newspaper reporting. Winnifred is the correspondent for Ballinafad and she was presented with the I. Julian Bellbuddy memorial trophy for her 20 years of writing news reports for The Herald. Kay Wilson, who writes about news in Norval, was presented with an appreciation plaque for her seven years of service to our readers. Helping the twosome celebrate their awards are Herald reporters (left to right) Dan Ralph, Anl Pedrian and Sandy Campbell. (Herald photo)

We like your news, Winnie

By SANDY CAMPBELL
Herald Staff

"I didn't see your news in the paper. Where was your news Winnie?"

"It was in there somewhere," Winnifred Smith replies. It is and has been since the early 1960's. Winnifred Smith is 83 and started writing "the news" (the Ballinafad news) when Walter Biehn owned the Herald. During her first weeks on the job her home was hit by lightning.

"It went along the clothes line and hit the stove," she said.

Mr. Biehn's response to seeing that news in her column prompted him to say something Winnifred never forgot.

"I asked you to take the news, but I didn't think you were going to make the news," he said.

But she has been making the news for over 20 years as she hustles to find what is news in Ballinafad.

"People don't call and tell me the news. I have to phone them up," she said.

Ballinafad United Church is her center of news where Mrs. Smith gets most tips. She calls herself a senior member and she has developed many connections. Who died, where there were fires, who came back from vacation are the kind of tips she seeks.

She is dedicated to her job and more so to her town.

"It's not the money I get you know. It's keeping Ballinafad in the news. I'm doing it because I like Ballinafad. I don't want it to be missed in the paper," she said.

Making sure Ballinafad is in the news and the compliments she gets for her writing are the biggest benefits of the job. A job she never expected to be doing when she was 63.

"I think I should quit. Sometimes I make mistakes you know. I said I would retire at 60," she said. Perhaps she will retire soon but her involvement in the community and in her family will never end if she has her way. She is strong and vivacious.

Mrs. Smith lives with her daughter, Ruth Burt, in a large brick farm house with 93 acres of land. Ruth's twin sister, Doris, lives about five miles away, and she is married to a Burt too. Joyce Swann is her other daughter; she is a nurse in St. Catharines. In all Mrs. Smith has 12 grandchildren and 14 great grandchildren.

"My oldest grand grand child is 19 and has a boyfriend, but I don't want her to get married yet," she said.

Her family is the most important part of her life. Family drops by the big home about once a week.

"We used to have a family gathering every Christmas. This year there will be 16 here at Christmas," she said.

Her husband Frank Smith died three years ago; he was 87. His name is still on the mail box. Mrs. Smith would never give up her house although many have suggested she move into an apartment.

"I like my family to come home here. I'd like to keep this house until I'm carried out," she said. She has lived there since 1939.

There was a long road between the time Mrs. Smith moved to Canada in 1911, when she was eight, until she finally settled in Ballinafad. Her father began farming in Downsview and brought the family over from London, England once he established himself.

"I had to go out and work. We were a comparatively poor family," she said. Because she was the second oldest child in a family of five (three born in Canada) Mrs. Smith had to help her mother at home. This meant Mrs. Smith did not get the education she wanted.

"I went to Norval School. They really taught you in those days. There weren't many in a class, but they really taught you," she said. Mrs. Smith finished junior fourth.

While working and helping her mother, Frank Smith of Ashgrove entered her life. He owned the farm beside her father's. He was one of three Smith brothers, all bachelors, on that farm and she was frequent asked if she was going to marry one of them.

"I didn't have to hunt for them, he hunted me," she said of Frank Smith.

Her own family and more farming followed. Only after she was 60 did she join the Herald as a correspondent. If she had more schooling and she was starting out today, Mrs. Smith may have sought a career in journalism, she said.

"A lot of people say 'I like your news Winnie,'" she added.

Kay remembers

Sleigh rides to Brampton

By ANI PEDERIAN
Herald Staff

Home means a great deal to many people during the holiday season. For Herald columnist Kay Wilson, home means a great deal all year-round.

The 68 year-old Norval correspondent has been writing pieces of local news for The Herald for the past six years.

Born on Winston Churchill Boulevard just below Sideroad 5, Mrs. Wilson didn't move very far away when she got married in June, 1937. In fact, she only moved one line over, to Ninth Line, where she still lives with her husband Spencer.

"Dad", as he's affectionately called, is a former farmer, who, until he retired in 1973, used to have 30 to 40 dairy cows and mix-farm 200 acres between Ninth and Eighth Lines.

"It just about killed me to sell it," Mrs. Wilson said, looking sadly out the kitchen window towards the snow covered fields once farmed by her husband. The couple have sold all but 6.9 acres of their property.

"Oh look, the barn door's open," she said, admitting to being bothered by things like that.

The farm was Spencer's grandfather's farm, and had a Georgian style home with pine floors and a wide staircase. The home still stands, but the Wilson's sold it with the land, and built themselves a new house on their severed lot.

Their backyard is scenic with evergreens and a creek running through it. Blue jays and cardinals aren't their only visitors. They've also spotted many a wolf, fox, muskrat and deer.

Mrs. Wilson is used to the wide open spaces of farm country. She's the

daughter of a farmer herself. Her two brothers, who both retired only this past year, also farmed in the area. While they were Norval Junior Farmers, Kay belonged to the Norval Junior Institute, a younger version of the Norval Women's Institute.

When she was a girl, she used to go to the traditional red brick school house. School days, she used to walk to Whaley's Corners on the south side of Steeles, east of Winston Churchill Boulevard for her reading, writing and arithmetic lessons.

"Except when the weather was not good. Then, my dad was good. He'd come after us with the team and sleigh," the now white-haired Mrs. Wilson said.

She can remember the first old Ford car, a black Model T, that her dad had. It needed to be cranked.

"The same as the one out in the garage," smiled her husband who's fond of antique cars.

Wintertime, the car was packed up until spring, although Mrs. Wilson remembers one late fall outing to Terra Cotta. The hills were a lot steeper then and they couldn't get up one of them to their destination, although her father took several runs at it, she recalled.

Christmas time, the family used to go to church in Norval with the team and sleigh, bundled under buffalo robes and hay. Mrs. Wilson recalled.

"It's one thing I'll always remember about Christmas time, going for those Christmas concerts at church," she said, her blue eyes nostalgic behind her glasses.

Her mother came from Belfountain and there are plenty of Christmas memories of taking the train up from

Brampton for a day's visit to the Forks of the Credit.

"We used to take the team and sleigh to Brampton's CPR station after dad had done the chores, and leave the team at the livery station to be looked after. He would have to walk up to the train, and I know mom would worry it would come before he walked back from the livery station," Mrs. Wilson said smiling.

Today, there are no more trips by horse and sleigh to Brampton, and Mrs. Wilson's family gathers at her home. She's the mother of Johnny and Jeannie and the grandmother of three.

Once the warm moments of the holiday season are over, this friendly tall woman picks up her pen and paper to report on the Women's Institute news. She began writing for The Herald when she became responsible for public relations for the Norval W.I. about six years ago, taking over from Dorothy McLean, the former Herald correspondent for Norval. Mrs. McLean was stepping up to vice-president then.

"The one thing they really wanted was to get their meetings in the paper," Mrs. Wilson said. "It's really a volunteer job for the community. I like the challenge part of it and I certainly like talking to people and doing things for the community."

Along with her responsibilities as an elder at Norval United Church and membership in the Norval Community Club and Halton Flounders Association, Mrs. Wilson finds time to write up the happenings in her community.

"I guess I've gotten into the habit and people expect me to do it," she said with a laugh.

In Halton

Re-cycling is catching on ---but more can be done

By ALAN CASSMAN
Herald Special

In the early '70's the provincial government responded to a growing public concern with environmental pollution from disposable wastes by initiating a series of 'divide and conquer' recycling projects.

To encourage the separation-at-source of glass bottles, ferrous metals (tin cans), and newsprint from household garbage, municipal governments were provided with seed funding to help finance extra curb-side pickups, storage facilities, and market studies.

Since 1974, Georgetown has been involved with the projects. "The Ministry of the Environment issued a grant to get us started," explained Mayor Russ Miller. "When the grant ran out we just continued on. We felt it was good for the community, good for the country."

Mayor Miller estimates that only 10 per cent of the city's householders presently participate in the recycling program. But he is confident a promotional campaign soon to be implemented throughout the entire region will successfully increase that figure.

Halton's regional government has been working to centralize the recycling activities of its municipalities. To this end the privately-owned Halton Recycling Company has been contracted to market all paper, tin, and glass collected in the region.

"It makes a lot of sense to have a single processing warehouse that handles all the municipalities" said Neal Ahlberg of the municipal waste branch at the Ministry of the Environment.

"The Halton program is probably one of the largest single vendors of recyclable items in the province right now. This gives them some guarantee that they will never have difficulty selling those items simply because it is one of the biggest sources."

Recycling programs are expensive. "We are selling the material that has the lowest value on the market place but has the highest volume in the waste-stream," said Gwen Discepolo, co-owner of Halton Recycling. "It is not a profit making process." She calculates that since its inception in 1979 the company has lost about \$60,000 and relies heavily on provincial funding to stay afloat.

But in the opinion of Paul Taylor, executive director of the Ontario Recycling Information Service, the notion that recycling programs should be profitable is "twisted". In any discussion of waste disposal costs, he believes, environmental pollution should be a primary consideration.

"Neither form of disposal, incineration or land-fill, is a safe form of disposal," he asserted. "Essentially, it's a choice between a lot of air

pollution or a lot of ground water pollution."

The Federal Government has been researching the recyclable properties of plastics. However, Taylor does not believe the results of the study will be positive. "There is no problem with post-industrial plastic scrap. That market is well served", he explained.

"But plastic gathered from household waste-streams is not recoverable unless it is 5 or 10 ton piles, all exactly the same chemical type and colour, and quite clean."

Because the technology and the economics of current shredding processes inhibits the potential for recycling plastic Taylor looks to more restrictive packaging legislation to reduce the volume of plastic in the waste-stream. "If we can't design the stuff to be recycled then we shouldn't allow it in the market place," he said.

Taylor suggests more research time and money should be spent examining the possibilities of large-scale organic composting. "In Europe it is not uncommon for half of the waste-stream to end up being composted."

"Provided that it is done well and that the material that is going into the compost process is not hazardous, the resulting end product would be good for application on farmlands," he said.

Under the Environmental Assessment Act the Province effectively controls the location, maintenance standards, and operational requirements for disposal-treatment sites. So many municipalities have been frustrated in their efforts to have proposed site selections approved by the Ministry of the Environment, and in Taylor's view this shortage of sites necessarily creates a need for major recycling projects.

"When you separate the re-usables and organics from the waste-streams," he said, "there is not much garbage left for land-fill or to be incinerated."

"Recycling is growing rapidly," he added. "More municipalities are getting involved with a consequential increase in total tonnage collected each year. The whole suggestion that people are not going to participate is a myth. If you put into place a recycling system that is convenient enough to use and well enough promoted almost everyone will use it."

Halton re-cycling helps to preserve our forests

Herald Special

Newspaper recycling efforts in Halton are playing a vital role in a province-wide program which is helping preserve forests, natural resources, save energy and reduce the need for landfill sites.

Newspapers from Halton are recycled at the Thorold newsprint mill of Ontario Paper Company which processes 90,000 tonnes of old newspapers a year, and employs 1,500 people in the province.

Speaking to the Burlington Lakeshore Rotary Club (recently), Bryan Allen, Director of Newspaper Recycling for Ontario Paper Company, described the efforts of Halton Recycling as "excellent". He predicted that household participation in newspaper recycling would grow in 1986.

"My objective in 1984 was to buy 50 per cent of the newspapers we need from Ontario sources. We came very close. My objective for 1985 is to increase our buying from within Ontario to 60 per cent."

Mr. Allen said that his firm's program, launched four years ago, brought stability to an uncertain market.

"We took an unusual approach which will sound very basic to you. We guaranteed we would buy every sheet of newspaper made available to us in Ontario and that we would maintain this promise, year in and year out."

He said the lack of a stable market had, in the past, "left collectors with many barns and warehouses filled to the rafters with old newspapers that organizers had been stuck with, once their particular market disappeared."

Ontario Paper invested \$260 million in replacing its original mill, at Thorold. The new mill opened in 1983, and needed 40 per cent greater production capacity to succeed. Recycled newspapers are supplying the additional fibre needed in manufacture.

"Our motivation was hard economic reality and this factor will remain for as long as our mill stays in production." Mr. Allen also cited the cost of landfill sites as a factory which makes newspaper recycling attractive.

"I believe that the forces of economics will encourage most town and city councils to explore every possible means for keeping to the barest possible minimum the volume of wastes for their disposal sites. These sites are extremely expensive to set up, to operate and then maintain in perpetuity once they have reached the end of their life cycle."

IN THE HILLS

YBA begins

Youth Basketball League with the YMCA begins Jan. 7, at 7 p.m. at Holy Cross School, Georgetown.

Registrations will be taken on that evening. So if your child is looking for a sport alternative, basketball may be the answer. Juniors, ages 8-10 years, (co-ed) practise on Tuesday evenings at Holy Cross School and have their games on Friday evenings at St. Francis of Assisi.

Seniors, ages 11-13 years, practise on Tuesday evenings at Holy Cross School and have their games on Thursday evenings also at Holy Cross School. The cost for Y.B.A. is \$40 and includes a T shirt, a manual, and loads of fun and expert coaching. Call 877-6163 for more information.

Y brochure

The new winter-spring YMCA brochures are available at the Georgetown and Acton Y's.

In the brochure you will find programs on fitness, karate, judo, gymnastics, babysitter training pre-school and much more.

For more information call 877-6163 or (Acton) 853-1070.

Legion reserve spot to help our disabled

Legion Lines

By RUBY BAILEY
Herald Columnist

The President of Branch 120 Norm Ward and your executive would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

For the convenience of the handicapped there is now a parking spot for the disabled at the back door of the legion.

The bar will be closed at 6 p.m. on Dec. 31.

CAR CLUB WINNERS
Dec. 19, 488 Ron Breen, 349 Jim

France, 351 Tom Moriarity, 460 Art Hall, 494 Glad Caldwell, 283 Murray Ezeard.

EUCHRE WINNERS
Dec. 20, Ladies 1st Lois Richardson, 2nd Mary Lou Ireland booby Merry Crawford. Gents 1st Doug Imker 2nd Oliver Scragg booby Bill Richards.

SICK LIST
Les Sadler, F.W. Cowan, G. Hayes in Georgetown Hospital. Lloyd Hounsell in St. Michael's Hospital, Stan Swann in St. Johns, P. King in Sunnybrook Hospital, B. Postlethwaite in Acton, Wm. Bryden, Bill Gibbs, Fanny Weaver in the Bennett Centre and P. Norton and Barb Burns at home.

Entertainment Saturday by "Bools".



Cheque it out

The Christmas season is a time for gift-giving and students at Georgetown District High School have been doing their part to help various community causes. Here, student council treasurer Charlie Gibbs (middle) hands over a \$100 cheque to both Harry Brown (left), chairman of the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 120 poppy campaign, and Captain Wilson Perrin of the Salvation Army, based in Acton.