



It's a trap

Nobody is above suspicion in Agatha Christie's *The Mousetrap*. The Georgetown Little Theatre will be performing the play at the John Elliott Theatre Feb. 21, 22, 26, 27, 28 and March 1. Here we see the unexpected

and volatile guest, Mr. Paravacini, played by Frank McKie, confronting Miss Caswell, a visitor from the continent, played by Stacy Arcuri. (Herald photo)



Come visit

Check it out, next time you're out for a ski trek. The Terra Nova Conservation Area now has a visitor services centre. Thursday afternoon, Halton Regional Chairman Peter Pomeroy (left) and Peel Regional Chairman

Frank Bean turned out for an official opening ceremony hosted by the Credit Valley Conservation Authority. (Herald photo by Brian MacLeod)

## Don't totally blame African drought for hunger crisis

By BRIAN MACLEOD  
Herald Special  
Canadians can turn on their television sets nightly and watch World Vision worker Gary Collins talk about the efforts of Canada's aid program. Now Africa is trying to tell us that a different aid is needed - but are we listening?

Theresa Chimombe, a lecturer at the University of Zimbabwe and a native of that country, shared her insight on hunger in Africa with students and interested citizens at the youth drop-in centre at St. George's Anglican Church Thursday.

Her suggestions on how to alleviate hunger surprised almost everyone. Miss Chimombe said the persistent hunger problem is not due to periods of drought but to poverty. "It is poverty that leads people to have large families," she said. She explained that there is no national security system in Zimbabwe.

That means no unemployment or retirement benefits. "A father's only source of security when he is old is his children," she said. The average family in Zimbabwe has eight children. Zimbabwe has a population growth of 3.5 per cent per year, she said.

The Land Acts of 1913 and 1945 authored by colonial Great Britain gave 50 per cent of the arable land to 6,000 white families. In 1976, 280,000 blacks were pushed off that land onto land that is far less cultivable.

Those who were re-settled did not own the land they lived on so they had nothing to put up as collateral for credit. The result was, they had to sell their labor to white-owned businesses at a deflated price. The poor became poorer.

Miss Chimombe explained that drought is not new to Africa. "There has been drought for centuries, but people survived. The difference this time is that people are starving so much that they cannot work the land," she said.

The government took no steps to prevent the erosion of the land from drought, she said. During periods of long drought the good soil can be blown away by heavy winds. Apart from food aid, both the United States and Canada give financial aid to Africa annually. In 1981 Canada gave \$44.5 million in "tied-aid" to Zimbabwe. Tied-aid means that in return for money, Zimbabwe must purchase Canadian products that could be bought cheaper elsewhere. "The result is that Canada's private sector benefits from the aid," she added.

"The international community should go beyond the food aid mentality. They should give the type of aid that encourages production of our own

food," Miss Chimombe said. She explained that foreign aid in the form of vast amounts of food decreases the incentive of African governments to grow their own food.

Miss Chimombe realizes that it is difficult for Western governments to break away from traditional export patterns so it is up to African governments to "only accept aid which will help us to implant our own

development criteria. I want to emphasize that it is not the responsibility of the international community to get us out of the crises," she said. Miss Chimombe said that aid in the form of machinery means that spare parts and knowledge necessary to repair them means that "we will never reach the point of self reliance."

Illiteracy is also a major problem in Africa. Zimbabwe has a 60 per cent illiteracy rate in the rural areas. The result is that farming techniques are inferior. Unable to read the instructions, farmers cannot properly learn to use fertilizer and it is too costly to educate each farmer in various parts of the continent.

Even if farmers manage to learn the proper techniques they cannot afford the price of imported fertilizer. Even with a big harvest farmers are usually still in debt because profits are never enough to cover the credit that has been extended by the government.

Miss Chimombe said that smaller scale projects like water wells and clinics would be greater help to Africans than the \$14 million irrigation project in Senegal. Africans do not have the equipment or the knowledge on how to service such projects she said.

One other step Miss Chimombe feels could help Third World African nations is increased control of transnational corporations. "The benefits are marginal and they repatriate 50 per cent of the profits. A lot of potential surplus goes back through transnational corporations," she said.

Miss Chimombe said that she did not want to eliminate multi-national companies because they do bring advanced technology into the country.



Theresa Chimombe

## New yearbook Back For '87 is 'on track'

We are happy to report that "Back for '87" is on track.

Yearbooks - The following yearbooks were forwarded to us - 1932 (Nan Hurst), 1962, 1965 (Judy Williams-Maxwell), 1957, 1958, 1959, 1960, 1961 (Jessie Glynn).

Some of these yearbooks are on loan. We are starting a permanent collection of yearbooks. All former students and friends who would like to donate their yearbooks will have their names acknowledged in the Centennial Yearbook.

Pictures - We have received pictures from Ralph Ursel. These pictures were taken in the 1970s and 1980s.

Mrs. Islay E. McClure of King Street submitted this 1935 football picture. See if you can identify Bob Goldham, Reg. Broomhead, Bill McNally, Bob McMenemy, Paul Barber, J.L. Lambert and the others.

Anyone with pictures of past events is asked to submit these to Tom Ramautarsingh at the High School. Remember to identify the picture or event and add your phone number.

Excerpts from 1932 Challenge  
The Supervising Editor was H.J. Heldmann, the Editor was Gordon Alcott and the Assistant Editor was Arthur Dayfoot.

First Excerpt - Our Magazine - "We take great pride in submitting to our readers the first printed magazine of Georgetown High School. We take pride in telling of our school, our staff of teachers, and our school activities. When we first undertook the editing of this magazine, we were faced with many difficulties and discouragements, due mostly, I suppose, to inexperience in this kind of work, but the indomitable perseverance of the staff and helpers and their greatly appreciated cooperation and interest overcame all these obstacles, so that now we are happy to show you our work."

The forerunners of The Challenge were lively sheets called L'Echo and The Blast. These sheets were circulated to the homes. Does anyone have a copy?

## No breaks for school reunion

The town has no objections to an Action Continuation School Reunion in June having a special occasion permit for alcohol, but it isn't ready to waive a \$440 rental rate for the Acton Community Centre.

Max Sprowl, secretary on the reunion committee had to settle for a deferral of his second request to the town's budget committee Monday night.

About 40 former students of the Acton Continuation School during the years 1907 to 1954 are organizing a reunion June 7 at the Acton Arena. They were hoping to get the arena rent cancelled by councillors as they are a non-profit group.

The committee expects to attract up to a maximum 1,800 former teachers and students of the school to Acton from locations as far away as England and California, Mr. Sprowl said.

It's taken about 40 volunteers 18 months of research to track down addresses for 900 people, he said.

Coun. Pam Sheldon said she felt like a grinch, but wondered why the rental cost couldn't be incorporated into the ticket price for the reunion.

Recreation Director Tom Shepard said that the \$440 rent is a discounted fee which the town is subsidizing. Coun. Sheldon said she wants the town to stick to the rate structures it sets for user groups or else at least develop criteria by which council determines who doesn't pay.

Mr. Sprowl said he'd helped with a Rotarian reunion last year that had serious financial difficulties and was concerned this reunion would also operate at a deficit. If all goes well, the Knights of Columbus, who are handling the bar will profit from liquor sales, he said.

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1977 TOYOTA CELICA, good condition, \$1,200.00 or B.O. certified - 877-4300 after 6 1/2

1978 ZEPHYR, 4 cyl, standard, as is - 877-1932 after 6.

1976 FORD PICKUP, 6 cyl, P/S, automatic, used daily, \$1,300.00 or B.O. - 843-1176 evenings

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There will be free skating in Acton and Georgetown, Friday, Jan. 31, 1986. The Acton Public Skate will be from 2:30 The Georgetown skate is from 1 to 2:20 p.m. at the Memorial Arena



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## Handicapped children wait for Shared - Care workers

There's a dire need for foster parents to care for handicapped children in Halton Region.

"We need at least six families in the Burlington and Georgetown areas just to meet our immediate needs," says Sharon Hatter, co-ordinator of the Halton Home Care and Halton Shared Care programs.

Halton Home Care is a supplemental foster care program of the Ministry of Community and Social Services that strives to provide a family setting for children who have special needs which cannot be met in their own homes. The program provides community-based placement of mentally handicapped children where their parents reside in Halton Region.

Shared Care serves the needs of parents who need more than occasional relief from the demands of caring for their child.

"Parents of handicapped children usually opted for full-time foster care or institutionalization because there was nothing else available," explains Ms. Hatter. "The new Shared Care program helps parents cope by provid-

ing consistent relief up to a maximum of 14 days a month."

Ms. Hatter notes that foster parents will be provided with training, parent relief, financial compensation, and support from the program co-ordinator.

The children presently in need of foster families include:

- a six-year-old profoundly handicapped North Halton girl, requiring total care and supervision in a foster home two weeks a month, preferably in the Georgetown area.

- two mobile, non-speaking Burlington boys (aged 10 and 11), who each require a foster home two weeks a month in their community.

- a semi-mobile, partially toilet-trained 14-year-old North Halton boy, whose parents require relief for two weeks per month in a foster home in his community.

- a profoundly physically and mentally handicapped 11-year-old Burlington girl who requires full-time, total care in a foster home, preferably in her own community.

For more information call Ms. Hatter at 844-8211, 335-5757 or 878-2375.