

Know your taxman when paying taxman



By PAT WOODE
Herald Columnist

Each year at this time I try to write down some of the things that should be considered when filling out your income tax forms. If you have

someone else fill out your T1's, you should be able to provide them with all the assistance that you can. Unless that person is an expert in your special situation, they may not know all that you, as a disabled person, may claim. The following indicates some items that should be considered. A more detailed guide that I recommend, is the CCH guide and the toll free number on your tax form for clarification.

Many people claim business expenses. Very closely related to this is the cost of hiring an attendant (not claimable as medical expense if not at home) secretary, or researcher if the disabled person's condition prevents him from performing these duties himself when they are a requirement of the job. The Nagler case I wrote about earlier established this point in favor of the taxpayer.

Everyone claiming business expenses are subject to "reasonable" limits. A disabled person may have higher than what is currently established as "reasonable" limits regarding his expenses of earning business income. This is currently pending a decision.

When the deduction for those confined to bed or wheelchair was extended, it was made retroactive to those who had applied up to 4 years earlier. The same may apply to this decision.

By now, most people are aware that you do not have to be confined to a bed or wheelchair to apply for the \$2,500 disability deduction. You must, however, require some form of mobility device that would take the place of the bed or wheelchair. This is clarified on a T2201 form which can be obtained from your tax office or contacting me.

I have heard that you can not apply for the disability deduction and medical expenses. This is not exactly true. According to the tax office you can claim both if you are not claiming a full time attendant at home or you are in a nursing home. There are many other medical expenses outside of these two that can be claimed in addition to the disability deduction.

The disability deduction is a flat \$2,500 while the medical claims are only those in excess of 3 per cent of your net income. You may find that some years the benefit of claiming the cost of an attendant may exceed the disability deduction and in other years it may not.

The tax department at the local level could not find any regulation that states that you can no switch back and forth according to your condition and expenses from year to year and advises to proceed on a year to year basis.

As taxes encompass such a large area, this topic will be pursued in several columns.



Winter isn't over at Georgetown District High School until students host their annual Snow Queen pageant, Friday at the high school (Rebecca Lovelace (middle) was crowned the winner while Kim Daquano (left) was first runner-up, Tina Laroche was second runner-up. Michelle Muller, absent from the picture, was voted Miss Congeniality. (Photo by Monique Tobin)

Snow Queens usher in spring's warmth

By MONIQUE TOBIN
Herald Special

The easiest way to forget all that melting snow and chilly winds outdoors is to remember the Georgetown District High School Snow Queen contestants for 1986.

Friday at the high school the winners were announced and Rebecca Lovelace was crowned Snow Queen.

Kim Daquano placed as first runner-up and Tina Laroche was second runner-up. Michelle Muller was voted Miss Congeniality.

Second best at darts

By MID BRUNSKI
Herald Special

Zone darts was held Saturday March 22 in Georgetown, 1st place went to Bramalea Ladies Auxiliary 2nd to the Georgetown team of Peg Lewis, Leanne Hall, Trudy Roy and Kay Proust. 3rd place team also from Georgetown of Joyce Markham, Sarah Richards, Helen Cumpsty and Helen Cloutier. Well done ladies. A nice added touch, Marjorie Tuttle won the very very large Easter egg.

I have just been informed that Barb Reyce is in hospital in Georgetown as a result of a bad fall at the bowling alley. Hope you won't be in too long Barb. An added note regarding the St. Patrick's Day dance. The missing couple who won

the dance prize was Fred Dickinson and Helen Burgess.

We as an auxiliary are fortunate indeed to have the calibre of women to back up not only our dances and socials but all of our endeavors. Marion Carney with her creative and artistic ability in decorating, Ethel Murray who is always dedicated in whatever duties she undertakes, Gretta Stoddard who is a most steadfast worker, Rita Rudiger and Ruby Bailey who never fail to come through when needed.

Our president Flo Carwell, is indeed complimented by the committees she is able to form to help her when we put on such a wonderful evening. Marjorie Tuttle and her husband Chuck and not to be forgotten, Jim Carney who unfailingly helps us out when needed, Mary Franks, Mary Russell, Marion McGugan, Ray McAusland, all the ladies who helped prepare the food, thank you all so much.

Spirit of Moses



Clergy Comment

By FATHER KEN MISKIEWICZ
Holy Cross Parish

Every so often - thanks be to God, not too often - dramatic changes come into our lives. Biblically, one of the most startling and challenging came with the death of Moses and the transfer of the mantle of leadership to Joshua.

This moment signalled the death of the author and supreme legislator of Judaism, Moses, a person canonized already in his lifetime as "by far the meekest person on the face of the earth" (Num. 12:3), as greater than any prophet "who has arisen in Israel" (Deut. 34:10). Israel, in crossing the River Jordan, ended its semi-nomadic period of wandering in the wilderness and settled down as farmers in their own plot of land.

Everything about Israel had to be adapted or learned from the local Canaanites: architecture for homes and sanctuaries; methods of farming and harvesting; contacts for trade and commerce; even the new dialect spoken by the Canaanites.

Yet the spirit of Moses must continue, and the God who revealed such compassionate and faithful love to Moses in the incident of the burning bush and in another revelation on the top of Mount Sinai, must continue to be the inspiration, strength and hope of Israel in the land of Canaan. The key to the important transition is found in God's compassionate forgiveness towards Israel.

Reconciliation is so much second nature to a true disciple of Jesus, that it can be exemplified by the most everyday, visible signs of life for an Israelite: the shepherd, the woman in the home, the parent dealing with children.

Each stops everything and becomes totally engrossed in the worry over the "lost sheep", the "lost silver piece", and the "lost child". As we read each of the parables, we realize at once that

each could act in no other way. And how could the angels not rejoice?

To explain the parable of the prodigal son in Luke's Gospel, is to profane it. We simply draw certain aspects to our attention: (1) the memory of the father's goodness finally reclaims the son to his right sense of faith; (2) the father is already awaiting the son even before the son catches sight of the father; (3) the father does not argue and discuss, nor even lecture the son, but simply, naturally, ecstatically rejoices; (4) while the father thinks only of the loss of the son, the jealous other brother details the sin of "having gone through your property with loose women".

The parable emphasizes the love of God tracking down the sinful person before the latter even thinks about it and almost explaining away the sin over the joy of the child's return.

Each of us has a lost part of ourselves which God is tracking down. It is to that lost part, which we may be repressing, that we are called to be reconciled. Forgiveness of our neighbour may be the means of resurrecting the best within ourselves. It will lead us across a continental divide into a new promised land. It will make us a new creation in the risen Christ. And the angels of God will rejoice!

United Way given staff

Although the Region wasn't willing to fork out \$16,500 for the Halton Hills United Way, it is offering an employee to help out in the clarity's first fund-raising campaign this fall.

Last week, regional councillors agreed to take a staff person from the income maintenance division of their social services department to assist in organizing and running the Halton Hills United Way campaign.

Councillors are spending \$7,000 from their social services grants budget to hire someone on a contract basis to fill in for the missing staff person at the income maintenance division.

IN THE HILLS

First time right

Getting it right the first time around will save the town a lot of grief down the road, two councillors said of the municipal centre to be built on the Stevens property in Georgetown.

"I just hope we as a council are going to give a lot of thought to ensure our building is adequate to meet the needs of the future," Coun. Pam Johnston said Monday night. She pointed out a newspaper article about overcrowding at the Scarborough City Hall, where the 12-year old building now needs to be expanded at a cost of \$12 million.

Lights studied

Town engineering staff will be taking a close look at Acton's Main and Mill Streets intersection, following a request by Ward 1 Coun. Norman Elliott.

The Councillor said he'd been alerted to a safety problem at that corner by a businessman who works nearby and has seen several personal injury accidents there.

Coun. Elliott said pedestrians crossing at the juncture of Highways 7 and 25 feel they have the right of way and it causes problems with drivers making right hand turns on red lights.

No VIA brochure

The VIA Rail trains schedule is already printed for the summer, so even if councillors jumped at the one daily train into and out of Acton, nobody would know about the extra stop, except through word of mouth.

Roads' short list

Nine streets have been referred to the town's 1986 capital budget for possible improvements. They are: McGivray Crescent, Langstone Crescent, Sims Gale, Stevens Crescent, Hale Drive, MacKenzie Drive, Moultriey Crescent, Garry Drive, and Gower Road in Georgetown.

The roads will also be on the roads tour to be taken next month by town councillors.

Acton ambulance?

Acton wants its own volunteer ambulance service, Ward 1 Coun. Rick Bonnette said Monday night.

The Councillor asked Mayor Russ Miller to write the Minister of Health Murray Elston for a volunteer ambulance service in Acton. Currently, Acton residents are serviced by the Georgetown Volunteer Ambulance on Guelph Street in Georgetown.

Previous requests for such a service in Acton were turned down by the Progressive Conservative government, Coun. Bonnette said. "You feel, because it's a Liberal government, they'll be liberal with their ambulance service?" Mayor Miller joked.

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