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Home Newspaper of Halton Hills — Established 1866
HALTON HILLS, ONTARIO WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 2, 1987 46 PAGES, 4 SECTIONS, FREE DISTRIBUTION

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the olde Hide House
It's Worth the Drive to Acton!

Severance offered to Joe Simon

The Town of Halton Hills has offered former Administrator Clerk Joe Simon \$15,000 in severance pay and \$6,500 to help him find another job.

Council made the severance pay offer public at a special meeting Nov. 30.

There is no word yet from Mr. Simon indicating he has accepted the offer, said Mayor Russ Miller.

Mr. Simon was fired by council Nov. 23. The mayor issued a terse statement following the firing which said "council recognized that the relationship with the Administrator Clerk had broken down."

The motion passed at the special meeting Nov. 30 said "Council after full consideration of the relationship with its Administrator-Clerk, Joseph Simon, and having heard his representations as to the concerns expressed, having decided that the relationship has effectively broken down... Council therefore has no confidence in its Administrator Clerk."

The \$15,000 severance pay was offered provided Mr. Simon sign a release freeing the Town from any further financial obligations, said Mayor Miller.

A relocation counsellor will be selected by the Performance Evaluation Committee to help Mr. Simon find a new job, said the mayor. The maximum cost of that counsellor will be \$6,500.

The service is in keeping with the spirit of how Mr. Simon would have been treated by a private firm should he have met the same fate there, said the mayor.

The severance pay offer and

counselling service is more than the town's bylaw stipulates.

The bylaw says the Town had to give Mr. Simon four weeks notice or pay him four weeks salary.

Council voted to fire Mr. Simon "effective immediately" so the four weeks pay was the very least amount required by the bylaw.

The mayor said Tuesday that the reason he was appointed the lone spokesman on the issue by councilors is to avoid legal disputes.

He said he is still not in a position to say any more than information given in the original press release.

The mayor also said he would not say why Mr. Simon was fired in deference to the former Administrator Clerk.

"Mr. Simon was a nice man," he said.

The Town has begun the long process of hiring a new Administrator Clerk to replace Joe Simon, who was fired by council Nov. 23.

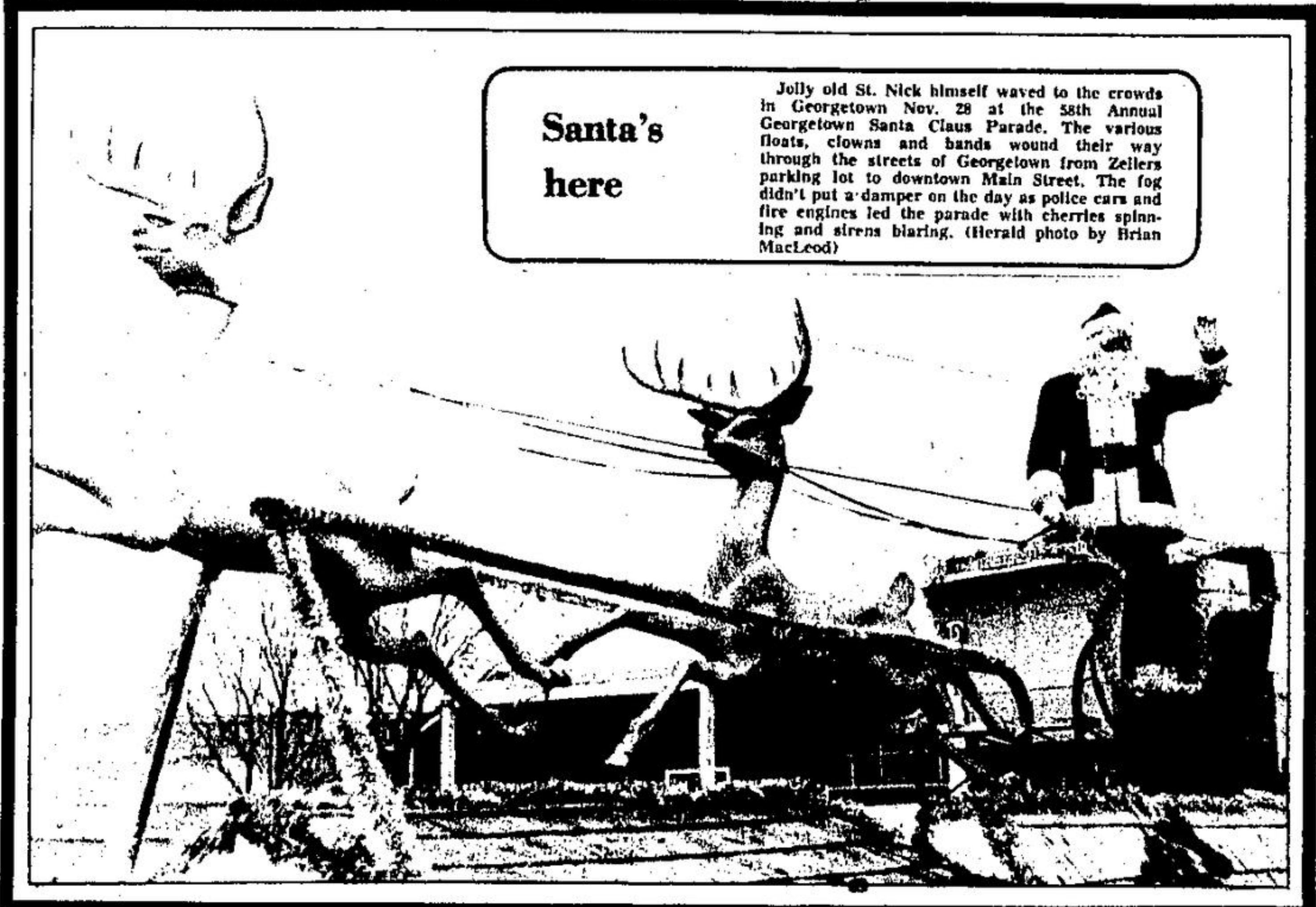
In a special meeting of council Monday Town councillors gave the mayor the power to appoint a selection committee which will interview and short list prospective applicants for the \$58,000 a year position.

When council went through the process 1 1/2 years ago, 54 people applied for the job.

The Mayor is expected to appoint a committee consisting of one councillor from each ward. That committee will conduct preliminary interviews and recommend a short list to councilors.

The final decision on who to hire will be in the hands of the entire council.

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Christmas meal not denied to needy

By JULIE HOLMES
Herald Special

While some families are shopping for gifts, others are worried about such basics as putting food on the table. That's why the Salvation Army and other groups in Acton try to help these families by providing gift baskets.

able to sit down to a special Christmas dinner, the same as everyone else does."

Schools and churches contribute to the cause, and all other donations are welcome. "We're looking forward to your support," said Captain Perrin, "you've always contributed before, and we enjoy working with the community."

"People are very appreciative," said Captain Perrin, "we've received letters of thanks afterwards. That's worth more than anything."

pounds of beef, a plum pudding, and one ounce of tea.

Approximately 100 was sent in, and 300 dinners were distributed to the destitute, as a number of families were helped over the worst part of the winter.

Others have carried on this tradition. Captain Perrin has been with the Salvation Army for 14 years. "I joined when I became aware that I wanted to help people, and fill their physical and spiritual needs," he explained.

If you want to donate canned goods, money, clothing, or toys drop your donations at 114 Mill Street, Acton, Monday to Friday, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The gift baskets consist of everything that one would find around the table at an average Christmas dinner. This includes vegetables, potatoes, bread, a turkey or a chicken and dressing. A member of the Salvation Army, Captain Wilson Perrin, explained why the baskets are given out each year. "We figure that the needy should be

Volunteers from the Independent Order Daughters of the Empire, St. Vincent de Paul, the Acton Rotary Club, and the Salvation Army work together on a "Christmas committee." This committee will sort all of the donations Dec. 22, and on Dec. 23, they will distribute over 100 baskets.

The idea of the Salvation Army gift basket originated in England over 100 years ago. In 1865, a wealthy general, named William Booth, returned from preaching in the slums of England to his own warm and gaily decorated home. His thoughts of the poor troubled him greatly, and he vowed that the poor would never go hungry again.

The following year, William Booth sent out an appeal for Christmas help for the needy. He planned to provide each family with four

from two in every district to approximately four or five.

Constable Vintinner explained what the police will be looking for once they pull a vehicle over for a spot check:

- a valid license
- license stickers
- ownership
- insurance
- overall general condition of the vehicle; headlights, tail-lights, brake lights and seat belts.
- intoxicants, such as alcohol.

The Ride Program began in 1984. Constable Vintinner said, "the public's response is excellent - 99.9 per cent of the public is cooperative."

Sergeant Bogue asked the public to "look at the natural consequences of the act." Use your common sense and avoid accidents that are bound to happen if you drink and drive, and if you drink please use public transportation, a "designated driver" program, or spend the night at the function you are attending."

The RIDE Program is run on a province-wide basis, and last year, officers checked over 357,167 drivers across Canada, and charged 1,183 people with alcohol-related Criminal Code of Canada driving offences.

Holly days

Dec. 11 and 12 has been declared Holly Days in Halton Hills. The Halton Region Lung Association will be on hand at shopping malls and hospitals throughout the Region offering fresh holly in exchange for contributions to the Halton Lung Association.

Last year the two day event raised over \$3,500.

Precious freedom

Students should start putting their thinking caps on in preparation for the Optimist Club's essay contest due Dec. 17.

The topic is Freedom. Our Most Precious Heritage, and the 500 word essay is open to Grade 12 and 13 students.

Winners receive gold, silver or bronze medallions, a certificate and a dinner held in their honor. The top students are eligible to go on to district and international levels of competition.

For more information contact Mr. Ramutsasingh at 877-4968.

Santa's Mailbag

Santa loves to write. You know, he may not look like a writer, but the jolly old fellow told representatives at The Herald he loves to write young children's letters.

Just to prove it, he's again agreed to send replies to children of Halton Hills who write him, c/o The Herald, 45 Guelph St., Georgetown, L7G 3Z6. Letters to Santa's Mailbag can be dropped at the newspaper or sent by mail. To ensure a reply, letters must be received by Dec. 15.

The first letters from Santa Claus appear in today's Herald, Page A5. All letters will be published in the order they are received in the coming weeks.

Science fair

Biology and chemistry whiz kids will be proudly standing in front of their displays Dec. 9 at the Acton District High School.

The school will be hosting its annual science fair upstairs in the science department, 2:30-5 p.m. and 7-9 p.m.

The projects were chosen by the students and represent a wide variety of topics. The public is welcome to attend and admission is free.

Adolescent talk

The public is invited to attend the Georgetown and District Christian School P.T.A. meeting starting at 8 p.m. Dec. 7 at the school.

Ron Fenwick, a social worker for the Milton family of schools will speak on adolescent behaviour.

Meetings are held in the library at the school, located on Trafalgar Road in Georgetown. For more information call 877-1008.

Ford case resumes

The Hospital Appeals Board hearing into the revocation of Dr. Jack Ford's privileges from Georgetown Hospital will reconvene December 7.

The hearing will take place in the Carmichael Jackson Room of the Hilton International on University Avenue in Toronto.

Anne of Gables

Cardinal Leger School in Brampton is presenting "Anne of Green Gables" at 7:30 p.m. December 4 and 5.

Tickets cost \$5 for adults, \$4 for students, \$2 for seniors and elementary students and preschoolers will be admitted free.

Region tax bite could be minimal

Despite skyrocketing garbage costs, Halton Hills taxpayers may only pay a 4.1 per cent increase in their Regional tax bill in 1988.

The Region's solid waste operating costs are jumping to \$12.8 million in 1988. That represents a 79 per cent increase over last year's budget but a \$715,000 infusion of reserve funds from this year's budget surplus will bring those operating costs down to a 62 per cent increase.

The Region forecasts a 1.5 per cent increase in the water and sewer rate budget and a six per cent increase in the 1988 rate-supported budget last week.

When the three rate increases are put together, Halton Hills will likely incur a 4.1 per cent increase. But here in Halton Hills, taxpayers are getting a break in 1988.

Burlington taxpayers will likely receive a 6.2 per cent increase in the Region's 1988 tax bill, said Halton's Director of Budget and Finance, Dave Birkett.

The reason Halton Hills will get a break in 1988 is because Halton is picking up the operating fees of Georgetown's waste transfer station and the haulage costs to Burlington.

Halton Hills Regional councillors have been pushing for that for years. The Region decided to pay Halton Hills' operating and haulage costs when they voted to build a new

transfer station in Burlington in October.

Last year the Town of Halton Hills paid \$162,000 for operating and haulage costs and that is expected to jump to \$182,000 this year, Mr. Birkett said.

Regional council is expected to vote on the sewer and water budget and the solid waste budget Dec. 9 because the rates will be implemented effective Jan. 1, said Mr. Birkett.

The rate supported budget won't be finalized until the spring, he said.

The break in Halton Hills taxpayers' bill will not be repeated in 1989, said Mr. Birkett.

Tipping fees, the price per tonne the municipality and private industry pays to dispose of their waste, will likely jump from \$59 a tonne in 1988 to \$73 a tonne in 1989.

That's a jump of 23 per cent. The increase is attributed to the costs of exporting 100 per cent of Halton's waste to either Walker Brothers landfill site in Niagara Falls or Occidental Chemical Corporation incineration unit in Niagara Falls, New York.

Halton police units step up spot checks

By JULIE HOLMES
Herald Special

Along with the festive season comes the increased risk of partygoers who insist on drinking and driving. But to assure that everyone's Christmas is a merry one, Halton Region Police have stepped up their year round RIDE (Reduce Impaired Driving Everywhere) program beginning Dec. 1.

Sergeant Gary Bogue, from Halton's Traffic Control Division said that 45,448 vehicles were pulled over for spot checks and for regular investigation. Out of that number, approximately 810 motorists were charged with impaired driving, according to 1986 statistics. The sergeant said 5,000 other motorists were charged with other traffic offences, such as failing to wear a seat belt.

The program "eliminates impaired drivers from the roads," and "educates the public and affects a change in their attitudes about drinking and driving," Sgt. Bogue said.

Constable Blair Vintinner, also from the Traffic Control Division, said the number of police cars carrying out spot checks will be increased

from two in every district to approximately four or five.

Constable Vintinner explained what the police will be looking for once they pull a vehicle over for a spot check:

- a valid license
- license stickers
- ownership
- insurance
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Limehouse road stays at 80 kph

By BRIAN MACLEOD
Herald Staff

Halton Region has decided not to reduce the speed limit on Sideroad 22 despite a 41-name petition from Limehouse residents asking for the reduced speed limit.

The Region's Planning and Public Works Committee Nov. 23 decided the 80 kilometres per hour speed limit on Sideroad 22 between the Sixth Line and Highway 7 was not unreasonable.

Instead of reducing the speed limit the Region will make minor improvements to signs and remove foliage in the area of the curve on the 1.4 kilometre stretch of road.

The petition was presented to Halton Hills town council in June asking for the reduction of speed limit.

But Sideroad 22 is a regional road (R.R. # 43) so Halton has to look into the proposal.

"We strongly believe a reduction in the speed limit is simply not war-

ranted," a report by the Region's Commissioner of Public Works, R.J. Moore said.

While the petition did not specify problems with the road, past complaints indicate the problem centres around speeding trucks and cars and the number of heavy vehicles, the report says.

Region staff conducted radar studies, volume counts, accident counts and a physical analysis of the road.

The 1.4 kilometre stretch of road has eight homes on the south side of the road. Only a light volume of traffic averaging about 1,400 vehicles a day use the road, Mr. Moore said.

Unmarked cars taking radar studies found most drivers feel comfortable with the current speed limit and a reduction of the speed limit may cause undue problems, the report says.

The existing 80 kilometres per hour speed limit is not unrealistic and is readily accepted as

reasonable by the majority of motorists presently using this section of roadway," the report said.

Only five accidents have occurred on the road since 1983.

Halton Regional Police say speeding is not a problem on the road but they think the speed limit near the curve could be lowered to 60 kilometres, said Mr. Moore.

Halton Hills councillor Pam Sheldon appealed to other members of the committee for answers to the speeding traffic problem in Halton Hills.

"I no longer know how to deal with the whole issue of speeding. We hear about it daily," said Coun. Sheldon.

"People are finding it very difficult to get around our municipality without fear," she said.

The rural population in Halton Hills is equivalent to the urban population yet the speed limit in the rural area is 20 miles an hour (32 kilometres) higher, Coun. Sheldon said.



Town council members and other local dignitaries gathered for the official sod turning of the \$6.1 million Civic Centre across from the North Halton Golf and Country Club on Maple Avenue. The new administration

building was approved by council in October. Despite the muddy trails all the dignitaries made the trek to the spot for the sod turning on Monday morning. (Herald photo)