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HALTON HILLS, ONTARIO

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 16, 1987

4 SECTIONS, 34 PAGES, FREE DISTRIBUTION

In the hills

Peace on earth

Over 500 signatures were inked into a special card being sent to Ronald Reagan and Mikhail Gorbachev from Georgetown.

Members of the peace group HAND (Halton Hills Action for Nuclear Disarmament) celebrated the missile treaty between the two superpowers Thursday with a thank you note.

A table for people to sign the card was placed in front of Peniesworth in downtown Georgetown, the Georgetown high school and outside Loblaws. Passersby were offered ginger ale to toast the treaty, which reduces the number of medium-range missiles between Russia and the United States.

Students who have their own peace group STAND (Students Towards Achieving Nuclear Disarmament) organized the signing at the Georgetown high school.

Toys for needy

Be a friend to a needy child and buy a new toy for someone who would otherwise have nothing Christmas Day.

The Kinette Toy Drive is underway and toys will gladly be accepted at the following drop-off stations in Georgetown: The Herald, Arthur F. Johnson and Associates, Post Office and 25 Heather Court.

If you would like to help sort the toys and get into the spirit of Christmas, call Joanne Stiles at 877-0722.

Housing committee

The Mayor is concerned about affordable housing and wants to form a committee to tackle the problem.

Dec. 7 Mayor Russ Miller asked councillors to support his motion to have a group look into "affordable housing matters."

Coun. Rick Bonnette and Marilyn Serjeantson supported his motion, which asks for one councillor per ward to sit on the committee.

The Mayor wants to look at infilling areas in the rural areas and working with the provincial government to receive funding. However, he said the committee should look at "all housing in Halton Hills."

Coun. Serjeantson said the housing committee would be a benefit to new areas that are to be developed.

Champion artists

Alison Robitaille, 4, of Garnet Drive, is a champion coloring artist in the downtown Georgetown coloring contest, announced Saturday. She won in the tiny tots division.

Brent McClung, 6, of Norton Cres., was first in the 5-8 year old division while Lee Bond, 12, of Limehouse won in the big kids category.

Each of the first place finishers wins a \$25 downtown dollar certificate.

Reunion memories

Georgetown District High School Centennial Books can make excellent Christmas gifts. It is a book filled with memories of people and events of the past and the present.

The book is a collector's item and can be purchased at Oxbow Book Store on Main Street for \$10.

Prints of the display of GDHS pictures at the cultural centre during the reunion weekend may be ordered from Peter Jones at 877-8304. Many people have enquired about getting prints of these historic pictures and Mr. Jones will be willing to assist you.

To the rescue

The province of Ontario did come to the rescue helping Halton taxpayers pay for landfill-related costs.

Dec. 9 at the Region's planning and public works committee meeting, it was revealed that Queen's Park is sending Halton between \$1.7 to \$2.25 million. The money is to be used for environmental assessment and environmental protection hearings.

The hearings are being held in Halton's search for a new garbage dump, now that the present one in Burlington is full.

The Ministry of Environment subsidies now mean that an anticipated \$59 per tonne tipping fee will be reduced to \$53.50, according to the Region's treasurer Joe Rinaldo.

Up for promotion

Shirley Scott of Centennial Public School has been short-listed for a position as vice-principal with the Halton Board of Education.

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Days until Christmas



Top window dressers

Owner Sandi O'Connor and store manager Karen Simpson of Whimsy's stand in front of the shop's prizewinning window, as judged by Ed Tooke, Betsy Cornwell and Debbie Powell. Runners-up in the annual downtown Georgetown merchants' contest were Georgetown General Store and Oxbow Books. (Herald photo)

Most councillors surveyed dislike Sunday openings

By DIAHANN NADEAU Herald Special

A survey of some area and Region councillors on the issue of Sunday store openings indicates that most councillors oppose the idea. Although all responses were basically negative, most councillors agreed that if the merchants wanted to open on Sunday then they would vote in favor of this.

Mayor Russ Miller feels that it is a very complicated issue. "What's good for the shopper is not always good for the store owner and employee. What's good for one area of town is not necessarily good for another area.

"I'm a church-goer and I have always believed that Sunday is a day of rest. But I think people should be able to run out and buy extra food if someone drops in. Maybe opening on Sunday will increase a store's revenue or it may just spread out the same amount of money over seven days instead of six. But if Halton Hills stays open and Milton or Acton do not, there may be dissension and resentment if a person has to work on Sunday in one municipality and not another.

"We can't make a snap decision. We may designate certain areas as tourism areas and they will benefit from Sunday openings."

Regional Councillor Pam Sheldon "can't imagine Sunday store openings. It's not necessary and it flies in the face of the standard and quality of life. However, from a tourist point of view it's different. North Halton has a high tourism potential and as we work towards it we might want to open stores in designated tourism areas.

Area Councillor Al Cook feels that this is "an emotional issue. I have to say no, I don't want stores to open on Sunday, but there are differences in certain areas. But I wouldn't like to see mass Sunday shopping."

Area Councillor Joe Hewitt believes that Sunday store openings "will probably happen, although I'd rather not see it. It will eventually happen because of lifestyle and economics. If neighboring municipalities open, we will have to remain competitive. That's only fair and people have to be fair all over.

Store owners are divided ...Pg. A3

"It won't be that tough a decision in the end. Shouldn't be that many people against it. But the council needs a presentation from the Chamber of Commerce on the issue. I think big businesses will have an easier time staying open. Small businesses will have to open also but probably won't do as well and many really can't afford it. I think it's an interesting situation and I'm anxious to hear comments from the business community."

Regional Councillor Marilyn Serjeantson says stores "shouldn't be open on Sunday. It's another excuse for people to work and the family day will be lost. I don't think people will spend more money over the week. But I think tourist areas should be open. This could mean downtown eventually, but I don't think it is a tourist area yet. Many of the stores sell essentials at this point."

Regional Councillor Richard Bonnette is undecided. "Sunday store openings shouldn't be necessary at this point. But if we're gearing up for tourism it's different. Rockwood, for example, is a tourist town with all the little stores open on Sunday. Right now we have convenience

stores open on Sunday so you can always buy the necessities. I really haven't taken a solid position on this issue yet. I need to do more research."

Regional Councillor John McDonald says that he doesn't really support it. "Sunday store opening is not going to be a big boon to merchants. It doesn't increase sales, just spreads them out. It disrupts family life. We've gotten by all this time without it - is it really necessary? However, this is a very personal opinion and I want to look at all the facts."

Area Councillor Peter Norton feels that "six days a week is enough for people to shop in. If they can't do it in six days, well, I can't see how it will benefit most stores. I think Sunday should be a day of rest."

Area Councillor Betty Fisher is in "two minds about the issue. Sunday is a day of rest. It has to be, and not necessarily from a religious point of view. Family play time is necessary. However, tourist areas can provide a Sunday family activity. My family and I like to browse and relax shopping in places like Unionville.

"But I don't think grocery stores or those type of shops should be open. A place like the olde Hide House can enhance family life by visiting their artisan villages and those sorts of things. I think we can designate areas of town to be open, but there shouldn't be wholesale opening."

Many of the councillors believe that the province has erred in allowing the municipalities to decide the issue. "It shows a lack of backbone," says Pam Sheldon. "It's really a provincial issue and they should have had the backbone to make the decision."

Marilyn Serjeantson thinks that it will "force most municipalities to open.

Baby case mishandled says lawyer

By BRIAN MacLEOD Herald Staff

Doctor Ford should have transferred a high risk case to a centre with better facilities, said the Georgetown hospital's lawyer to the Ontario Hospital Appeals Board Dec. 8.

Joshua Liswood cross-examined the gynecologist and obstetrician for most of the three-day segment of the hearings which took place in Toronto Dec. 7-9.

Dr. Jack Ford's hospital privileges were revoked by the Hospital Board April 7.

On Dec. 8 Mr. Liswood focused on a malpractice suit filed against Dr. Ford involving a stillborn baby in 1983.

The suit was eventually dropped in favor of a \$10,000 settlement out of court.

The case involved a woman who was referred to Dr. Ford by her family doctor on Aug. 25, 1983, because she hadn't felt any movement from the fetus in two or three days.

The woman, a heavy smoker who continued to smoke during her pregnancy, conceived while she was taking birth control pills, said Dr. Ford.

There was some question as to how far along the pregnancy was, but several tests indicated a strong fetal heartbeat, said Dr. Ford.

The dates involved indicated the pregnancy was at 33 weeks but the size of the fetus showed it was only at 24 weeks, said Dr. Ford.

A term is usually anywhere from 38 to 40 weeks, he said.

An initial ultrasound test showed no cause for alarm, Dr. Ford said.

The woman was admitted to the hospital and Dr. Ford diagnosed a case of inter-uterine growth retardation.

The results of the ultrasound performed at the Georgetown hospital showed the small size of the baby on Aug. 29, said Dr. Ford.

Mr. Liswood asked the doctor if Georgetown hospital was the appropriate place for delivery of such a small baby.

"Why did you keep the woman

from an environment where this fetus could have been managed? You had the facts on the 29th (of August)," said Mr. Liswood.

Dr. Ford said there was a discrepancy in the dates. The woman could well have been four to eight weeks off in the dates, he said.

Further ultrasound tests indicated the baby had no kidneys and Dr. Ford told the parents their child was dead, he said.

The woman gave birth Sept. 4 while Dr. Ford was in Toronto. Upon finding out the woman was in active labor, he phoned Dr. Valerie Kumar in Georgetown and asked her to deliver the baby because he felt he could not return in time. The woman delivered the baby in her hospital room before Dr. Kumar could get to the hospital, said Dr. Ford.

"It would appear, doctor, that Dr. Kumar got called for all your difficult cases," said Mr. Liswood.

"That is not fair, sir," replied Dr. Ford.

Mr. Liswood said the autopsy report indicated the baby was born with kidneys.

He asked if he thought it was appropriate to go to Toronto the day the woman delivered the baby when he suspected in the morning that she might be in the early stages of labour. Dr. Ford said she was only having abdominal cramps.

"We don't all live in the hospital," said Dr. Ford.

Along with the malpractice suit two cases of premature ruptured membranes were the subject of intense cross-examination by Mr. Liswood during the three days of Dr. Ford's testimony.

In one case in 1985, Dr. Ford discharged a woman with a case of premature ruptured membranes three times from the hospital before she gave birth, the hearing was told.

Dr. Ford said the woman asked to be discharged because she had a small child at home. He released her because she lived only ten minutes from the hospital and he felt she could come into the hospital in case of any emergency.

Continued on page A2



New Halton Board of Education Chairman Pat Hillhouse (right) presents Arlene Bruce of Acton with a gift after Mrs. Bruce completed two one-year terms as chairman.

Without help hinges may rust shut at Open Door

By DIAHANN NADEAU Herald Special

Open Door, the drop-in centre for teenagers operating in the basement of St. George's Church, is having financial problems. In its fourth year of operation the center finds itself with the grim possibility of being unable to continue past February, due to lack of funds.

"Our financial future is perilous," says counsellor Bev Scruton. "We applied to Comsoc (Community and Social Service) but not soon enough. We applied in August and discovered we should have sent in the form about 18 months ago."

Board of director's chairman John Carter says funds currently in the bank will only last until mid-February. "Our budget to stay open on a two-day a week basis (the current schedule) is \$36,000. Nine thousand of that is the space donated by St. George's Church. We need to raise \$27,000 to keep operating in 1988."

The agency has applied to the Region and to the Town of Halton Hills for grants. The Comsoc application is "dragging on; the money might come through," says Mr. Carter. "Timing is of the essence. We need February funds. We have gotten support from several of the

service clubs in town, such as the Kiwanis Club, the Lions and the Lionesses. Perhaps more service clubs will come through."

A lot of the churches in town have helped out. St. George's contribution of free space has been estimated as being worth \$9,000. Donations from other churches include the Mountview Baptist Church, St. John's United, Georgetown Christian Alliance, Norval Presbyterian and Holy Cross Roman Catholic Church. "While no one expects church donations to equal the amount we get from St. George's it would be nice to receive donations in the four figures," Mr. Carter says.

Current fund-raising projects include a letter-writing campaign to all the town business, large and small, canvassing funds. Cheques are coming in from such companies as Varian and Neilson. The parents and grandparents of many of the teenagers have also donated funds.

Some companies have donated gifts rather than cash and because of this Open Door will be holding a series of lotteries. The first one will take place Jan. 1, when Mayor Russ Miller will draw a ticket at the New Year's Eve at the cultural centre.

The first prize is a signed, limited edition print by artist Shirley

Deville, titled "Home before Dark". The print is a gift from Al-Marah Studio at 128 Guelph St. The second prize is a Swatch watch, donated by John Boughton Jewellers on Main St. Third prize is a \$20 gift certificate from North Halton Sports. Tickets are one for \$1 or three for \$2.

Tickets are available at Open Door on Thursdays and Fridays and at some local merchants. The agency is hoping to raise over a \$1,000 from this lottery alone. (There are 2,000 tickets).

Bev Scruton admits that for a while she was "doubtful of the future of Open Door. But now I'm feeling optimistic because of the community response to our canvassing for funds."

The teenagers themselves have been enthusiastic fund raisers, John Carter is quick to point out. "They have held car washes, slave auctions and dances. They provided the Sunday luncheon for the Georgetown High School reunion this summer. I think this is great; it makes them feel like Open Door is theirs. It shows responsibility and commitment on their part."

"If only the government would show the same kind of commitment Open Door would flourish and we

could expand our hours. Financial restriction is the only reason we are not open more hours and days."

Board member Mary Lou Olah believes that "Open Door should survive or the town will be in trouble. It's the best thing that can happen to the kids in this town." Ms. Olah, who is doing a Ph.D. in sociology at the University of Toronto, says that Open Door is playing a "crucial role in the community. The majority of families have two parents working. Kids need caring adults, adults who are there for them because they are interested in them."

"This is an age segregated society and Open Door breaks down the age barrier. There is always a need for kids to have a place to meet. This is especially true for rural and semi-rural areas. It is vital that teens have a place that is legitimately theirs, but they need structure. Open Door is the best of both worlds."

Ms. Olah's daughters have been very involved in Open Door. One daughter discovered an interest in music and learned to play the guitar because of her association with the kids there. "She has travelled to other provinces with her music and this all started through her involvement with Open Door," George Olah, Mary Lou's husband,

chaperones many of the Open Door dances, where the kids see him as an "awesome presence." "He loves it. He has a good time at the dances and he thinks it's great when he's walking in town and some of the teenagers see him and say 'Hi, Mr. Olah'."

John Carter also points out the benefit Open Door can provide to the community and to the government. "If Open Door can save one kid in one year from making the wrong turn, from doing the wrong thing (and it has done this), then we are saving the government a lot of money in the long run."

If Open Door can raise enough money to survive through February it hopes to eventually increase its funding level to \$65,000 in order to stay open five days a week and after school hours, when the kids really need a place to hang out.

This Friday evening Open Door will have its annual pot luck dinner and dance for teenagers and their families. It will also be a goodbye dinner for staff member Ross Stirling, who is leaving the centre this month to pursue other interests. Open Door also needs a few new board members. Anyone interested may contact Bev Scruton at St. George's Church.

Turn on your Yule lights tonight for seniors' tour