

the HERALD PM should consider list of resolutions

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Yuletide spirit

Where is the Christmas spirit, you ask? Is it in the busy shopping malls, the crowded subway trains, on Highway 401 Christmas Day? Hardly.

Look around, because there is a Christmas spirit. It's not a television commercial, it's not a parent rushing out to buy more gifts, it's not even the beautiful Christmas lights adorning homes of Halton Hills.

Christmas spirit isn't the rush and hustle of gift-buying. A Christmas spirit is about peace, joy and celebration. It's giving to those less needy in the community. Ask the Kinettes, the Good Neighbors, the Acton Salvation Army volunteers - they'll tell you. Christmas is about sorting packages and purchasing items, knowing those less fortunate will eat extra well during the holiday season.

Christmas is in the face of little children. We don't mean the ones who ask - and get - more than their share of toys. We're thinking of those who enjoy the outings to a Santa Claus parade, or seeing their relatives. Children who get excited about Christmas stories and giving to others have Christmas spirit.

Christmas spirit is closely tied to school and church plays. Everywhere there are theatrical productions performed by youngsters who are learning more each day about the birth of Jesus through drama. Youngsters and adults work for weeks to get their parts just right so that we may be entertained while learning about the true meaning of Christmas.

Christmas spirit is a time to rejoice that Christ was born. It is spirit of gladness and a time for great tidings of joy. Celebrations with family and friends make this day special for everyone, whatever their religious beliefs may be.

Even after all the presents are opened and the turkey dinner is consumed, a true spirit of Christmas can linger on if we remember the truly important things that make us happy.

B.I.G. is back

B.I.G. is back for June 1988 and that means businesses will get another chance to strut their stuff. That's good for all because the public needs to know more about commerce in Georgetown and visa versa.

B.I.G. stands for Business in Georgetown. The event was first held in the summer of 1984 and it was a resounding success.

In 1984 the Alcott hockey arena was transformed into a showcase of what business had to offer in town. Georgetown firms met contacts face-to-face and residents learned more about companies who employ local people and pay taxes in the community.

The exhibition was a great way for people to find out about what products are manufactured and sold locally. Everyone had fun, especially the children who were treated to lots of grab bags and free gifts.

The original B.I.G. helped to celebrate Ontario's bicentennial, but also 120 years of business in Georgetown. However, the event three years ago also signified the maturing of the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce as an organized, capable and innovative spokesman for business in town. It was a public relations coup.

We suspect there will be no problem with firms signing up for a place at Alcott arena to exhibit their wares. The first event was a success for all who participated and we can expect more of the same in 1988.

Multi-year deal

Editor's notebook

By Dave Rowney

The Herald is pleased to announce the signing of Cheryl Moulder to a multi-year, open-ended contract as a broomball and baseball player.

When not active representing The Herald on the sports field, she will be representing the newspaper as a reporter-photographer.

She replaces Mary-Liz Shaw, who moved into the southern leagues, playing for the U.S.-based Haverhill Gazette, a suburban team near Boston.

Publisher Don Brander hopes to have Ms. Moulder inserted into the lineup in time for the annual broomball Feb. 6 when The Angels take on The Independent and other challengers. As a reporter she begins her new duties Dec. 28.

Outside of the sports arena Cheryl studied journalism at Conestoga College, earning along the way the best news story of the year award, presented by the Guelph Mercury.

She joined the Moose Jaw Times-Herald Wheat Kings as an infielder. In her off hours, she was their general reporter covering police, fire and feature stories.

A native of Elmira, scouting reports indicate she had a winning attitude and the ability to be a team player. Welcome to The Angels, Cheryl.

Forgive us if we haven't sent you a Christmas card, but you've been in our thoughts during this Yuletide.

The Herald depends on so many people to help us make it through a week. The list is endless of those who owe so much to each time our newspaper hits the press. For those of us in the editorial department, we have to thank, most importantly, those who work with us: the advertising department, the composing room, the press room. Each staff member here has waited patiently while we move from one crisis to another, helping each other out.

To our contributors and readers, we wish you a very Merry Christmas indeed. Special-

ly neighborhood correspondents Kay Wilson from Norval, Marion Hunter from Ashgrove, Mrs. G. Henton in Limehouse deserve extra credit for their work.

Greetings and thank yous to our student reporters: Lesley McCrystal from Acton, Jamie Harrison, Joana McTaggart from Georgetown. To our co-op student Julie Holmes we offer you our best for the holiday season, along with greetings to Monique Tobin, who worked for us in the spring and summer as our part-time darkroom technician.

Our movie reviewer Diahann Nadeau has brightened our pages with her stories and entertained us with stories of travel and her pets. Simon Wilson provided us with much-needed photos on numerous occasions.

From the Legion we've faithfully received news of events from Mid Brunsli and Jim Haynes on a weekly basis.

In Toronto, Peter Haggert and Douglas Armour provide us with stories about Halton Hills-related events being held in the big city. We have a number of columnists who send us work regularly from our head office: Dianne Maley's business column, Stewart MacLeod in Ottawa, Derek Nelson in Toronto and Ian Weir from British Columbia.

No list would be complete without thanking our regular contacts who help us put news into your Herald each week. There's Jeanette at the fire department along with Bob Meads, Bob Hyde and Bill Cunningham. At the police station we've appreciated the co-operation of Staff Sergeant Robertson and members of the community relations staff.

There's certainly more to add to the list, but time and space is limited. Thank you one and all who have co-operated to help us publish our newspaper each week.

To our readers we owe a special debt of gratitude for being understanding when we make mistakes and for praising us when we've done something right.

Our readers have been loyal to us and have given us that input required to keep us aware of what the community wants and expects of its paper. To everyone, we wish you a joyous holiday season with family and friends.

If I were Prime Minister Brian Mulroney, pondering my list of New Year's resolutions, I would resolve never to hammer out another important agreement in the middle of the night.

Second, I would first seek a clear consensus from Canadians.

During the past year, two extremely important negotiations have concluded in the small hours of the morning; we could spend the better part of 1988 fighting among ourselves because of them. In both cases - the free-trade agreement with the Americans and the Meech Lake accord - the process seemed to be carried out under great pressure.

In the case of free trade, Mr. Mulroney himself has said about the possibility of failure: "Anyone who thinks we can go back to the status quo is just dreaming."

Which seems to mean that, once launched, the process has to succeed. Yet, the country is not only clearly divided, with two opposition parties committed to terminating the deal, but most of us don't yet understand what it really involves.

Since we've been frantically negotiating to meet the Jan. 2 deadline of U.S. President Ronald



Ottawa Report

By Stewart MacLeod

Reagan, we probably won't fully understand all the ramifications until the deal is fast-tracking its way through the American Congress.

And let's not be carried away by that cross-Canada study of free trade by a parliamentary committee. As the committee hit a different Canadian city each day, it didn't even know what would be in the final text of the agreement.

TOO FAST

It seems that, for something from which there is allegedly no retreat, the whole business was handled with too much haste, not to mention overblown rhetoric. It's too important for that.

The pressurized all-night bargaining which produced the Meech Lake accord is even more difficult to justify. Here, there was absolutely no urgency or deadline.

True, the prime minister had committed himself to getting Quebec's signature on the constitution, but there was no specific timetable for this. It's also true that the provincial premiers, with some justification, were equally anxious to achieve this goal.

But it wasn't a job for exhausted negotiators in the early hours of the morning. And it certainly didn't call for all the mutual congratulations which followed the agreement.

The accord could have far-reaching implications. What parliamentary hearings proved, beyond doubt, is that few people in the country know what those implications are. What we do know is that some of the best constitutional minds in the country are sharply divided on the merits of the historic accord.

And now we find ourselves in a position similar to free trade - there's no going back.

If we do scrap the accord, we could easily plant the seeds for another disruptive outburst of Quebec nationalism. And a long break from that would be healthy for the country.

NOT KNOWN
It may well turn out that the Meech Lake accord will be the greatest achievement since Moses produced the Ten Commandments. Then again, there are those who think it will have horrible consequences.

What the accord has done, in the name of getting Quebec's signature, is to give constitutional authority to that province to promote its "distinct society".

Trouble is, no one really knows how the courts will interpret this in relation to, say, the Charter of Rights and Freedoms, or Quebec's own charter of rights. Some women's groups and minority associations have expressed grave concerns.

It is putting a great deal of pressure on New Brunswick's new Liberal premier, Frank McKenna. All provinces must approve the accord and Mr. McKenna is the only premier who was not involved in the negotiations. He has no obligation to his colleagues to push the accord through the legislature.

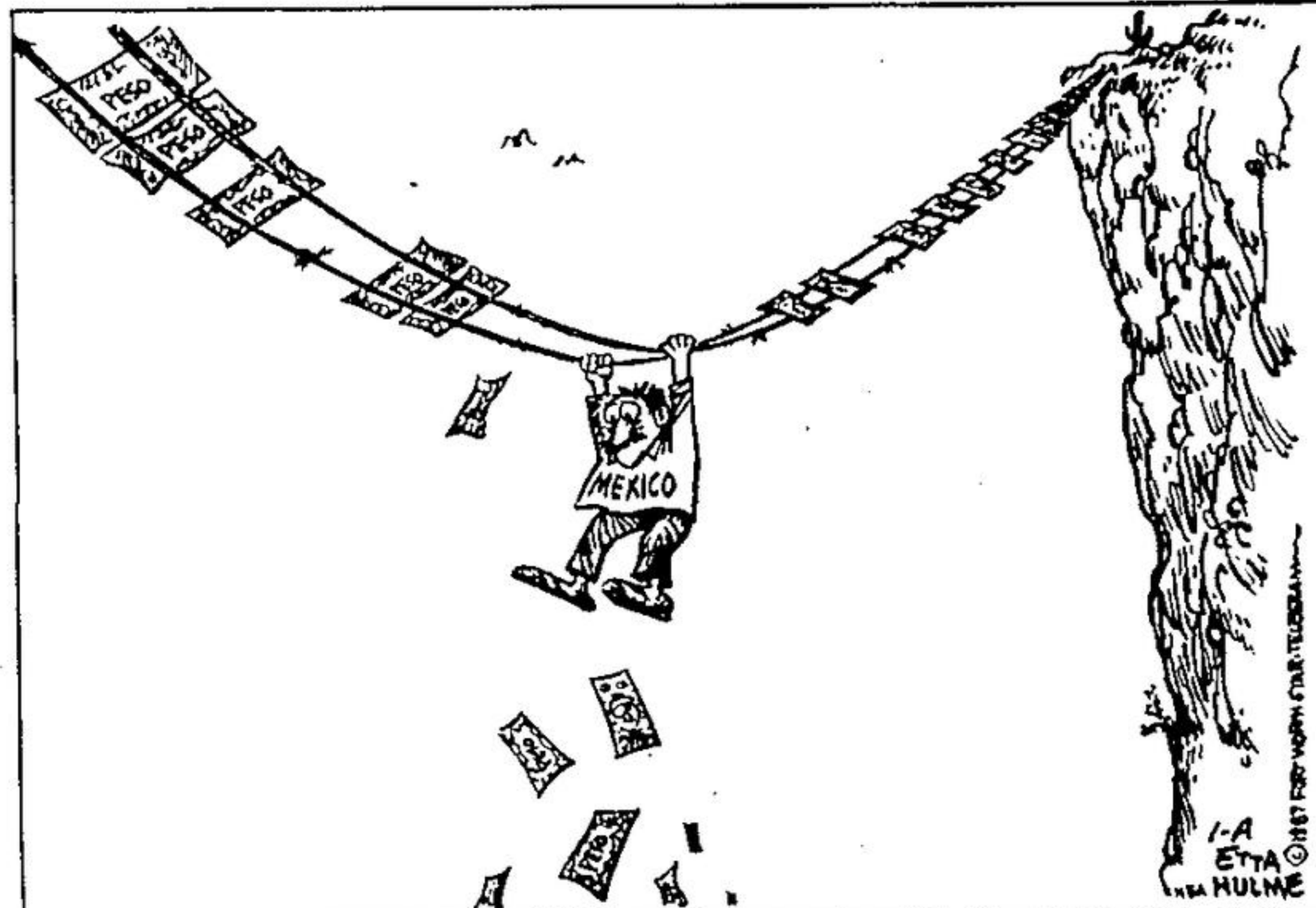
He could scuttle the whole business.

But, in all likelihood, he won't. The aftermath would be just too great.

Because the accord was so warmly embraced by Quebec, it was immediately apparent that any rejection would be perceived as a rejection of that province's aspirations. It's not politically easy to denounce an agreement unanimously approved by all premiers and the leaders of all federal parties.

Meech Lake is considered a fait accompli in Quebec, where it breezed through the National Assembly - as it did in the Saskatchewan and Alberta legislatures. Rejection at this stage, says Quebec Premier Robert Bourassa, would be a "heavy blow for national unity."

He's undoubtedly right. All the more reason why these agreements should be examined in minute detail, behind closed doors for weeks, if necessary, before we are asked to celebrate the dawning of a new era.



Retail stores slashing prices

All across the country, stores are slashing prices as consumers hold back on spending. Pre-Christmas sales have started early this year. Markdowns are the deepest since 1981 in some stores.

The longer you wait, it seems, the better the price will be. "I think there is going to be super sales in January," said John Winter, retail analyst with Clayton Research in Toronto.

not be surprising, given the things that are happening on world financial markets. Each day brings more bad news.

Still, Canadians are in good shape financially. Our savings rate is high compared to the Americans. Our debt load is much smaller. We have been fast to pay off our mortgages and slow to play the stock market.

There is no reason to cast prudence to the wind now. Quite the opposite. The outlook for interest rates and inflation is uncertain at

best. This week, rates started creeping higher. If they fall again, it could be for all the wrong reasons. The economy will be in recession.

In the meantime, the retailers' pain is the consumers' gain. Hold out for big bargains as we get nearer and nearer to Christmas. If you can, hold out for even bigger bargains in January.

For people who love to shop, gift certificates would be the ideal gift this year.

Your Business

By DIANNE MALEY
Business Analyst

Before the stock market crashed, sales were booming. So stores stocked up on goods in anticipation of a banner season. But their hopes have since been dashed.

The goods are not moving and store managers are getting jittery. "If they're left with stuff after Christmas, they'll have to really cut back in January," Mr. Winter says.

NO SNOW

In Toronto, retailers are praying for snow. The weather has been warm lately and the ground is bare. This does not encourage the Christmas spirit.

Will Postluns, president of the big Dylex chain, says people have lost confidence. "I think you'll see pretty heavy markdowns right through Christmas," Mr. Postluns said.

Dylex owns Thrifty's, Fairweather, Big Steel, Braemar, Tip Top, Ruby Shoes and Bi-Way stores.

The Bay led the way with price cuts, analysts say. Once one store slashes prices, the others have to keep up. In Toronto's Eaton Centre, half-price sales abound.

"At Sears, markdowns are probably a little heavier than last year," said Walter Pridham, vice president. "We see consumers spending," he said. "So far, so good."

PRUDENCE ABOUNDS
Retailers hate it when people don't buy. Consumers' reluctance should

Citizens' forum

Toy library has helpers

Dear Sir,

On behalf of the Executive of the Halton Hills Toy Lending Library Georgetown, I would like to extend a big thank you to everyone for their support during our Christmas Raffle.

We had tremendous support from our members who sold and bought many tickets. Without their help the raffle would not have been as big a success.

A very special thank you goes to the merchants of our community

who donated all our prizes: Loblaws, Aegis Furniture, Home Hardware, Rainbow Copper and Brass and Reader's Digest.

The money we made will be used to purchase new, educational and fun toys for the children.

Thank you once again. Merry Christmas to all and a Happy New Year.

Caren E. Walker,
Chairperson,
Halton Hills Toy Lending Library,
Georgetown

Police thank merchants

Dear Sir,

On behalf of the 1 Dist. Social Club, Halton Police and the North Halton Association for the Developmentally Handicapped, we would like to thank the following merchants for their contributions. Through their generosity the club exceeded its goal for 1987:

The Italian Canadian Club, The Plumbing Store, Oxbow Books, Northern Telecom, Georgetown Photo, Goodlets, North Halton Sports, Canadian Tire, Beckers, Food Stuffs, Georgetown Rent All, Delrex Smoke Shop, Neilsens, Bill Smith Auto Parts, Fendley Florists, The

Herald, Vanderburgh Florists, Zellers, Youngs Pharmacy, Whimsy's, Loblaws, Tolton's Towing, Royal Pizza, Dominion Seed House, Home Hardware, Georgetown Cinemas, Sooters, Hair Crafters Salon, Cachet, J.V. Clothing, Flora Wedgewood, Christiane Hair Styling, GS Television, Belamys, Hide House, Conisseurs Court, Petro Canada, St. Clair.

Please have a safe and happy holiday season!

Yours truly,
Dianne Chisholm,
President,
1 District Social Club

ELMORE, THE TOO TALL ELF by Kevin Fagan

30 years ago

Council will have to figure out a new way to assess the cost of a proposed sewage plant. The province will not approve a flat rate sewer charge on an individual's water bill. The plant is expected to cost \$800,000.

Santa visited over one hundred Lions Club children at the arena's Rose Room Sunday during the club's second annual Christmas party. The party was organized by Stan Wade and Bob Hamilton.

Georgetown's newest industry, Sykes Tool Corp., had its first Christmas party at the North Halton Golf and Country Club on the weekend. Reg Ryall and his orchestra provided the music.

Members of the Norval Junior Farmers Institute are making toys for needy children for Christmas. The toys will be distributed by the Children's Aid Society.

15 years ago

Ken Milne of Lyons Court and John Sommer of Charles Street have been appointed to the Georgetown Library Board by the Board of Education. Mr. Milne replaces Alan Bassett, who resigned in the middle of his term to move to Ottawa. This is John Sommer's second appointment to the Board.

What is expected to be the last Warden for Halton will be appointed in January. Georgetown Reeve Ric Morrow and Nassagaweya Reeve A. MacArthur have both expressed an interest in the \$10,000 per year job. Officials suspect regional government will make the position of Warden unnecessary.

A boys club of Halton, started by Mrs. Stan North, has offered to clear the driveways of snow at many homes belonging to seniors in Georgetown. They are asking council to help by using snowplows to clear the bottom of the driveways.

10 years ago

Several churches in Halton are planning a variety of services for Christmas. Some churches, such as St. George's, will be holding two candlelight services, a popular form of worship during the Holiday season. Rev. L. Ewing of St. Alban's Church said the earlier candlelight service will be more family-oriented; many children will be attending such a service for the first time.

Councillors are worried over the announcement of its official plan. The regional official plan will also be made public in March and the town is expecting a lot of confusion among local residents. Citizens may comment on the town's plan in March.

Arthur Meunier, who is planning to build a boys town, similar to one in the United States, told town councillors he is having trouble raising money for the project. The boys town is expected to cost \$250 million.

5 years ago

Town council has agreed to sell the Acton Town Hall to the Acton community for \$1. The building will be used by non-profit community groups. This will preserve the building's historical status, town council said.

Students of the Park School entertained their parents with a special Christmas "toyland" concert. Those who participated included Jennifer Murray, Karen Ford, Sara Middleton and Allison MacFarlane.

The Halton Separate School Board has agreed to share its schools to allow non-profit community groups to use the space. This is the first such agreement between the town and the Separate School Board.