

Snowmobilers have to use common sense

Snowmobilers must use common sense to avoid accidents. Inexperience, ignorance of the law, unfamiliarity with terrain and obstacles, recklessness and operation impaired by alcohol could turn many weekend snowmobile getaways into tragedy this winter.

Nineteen snowmobile deaths were reported in the province last winter (November 1986 to April 1987). The Ontario Provincial Police investigated 15 of those - almost double the previous year's figure - and found alcohol played a role in more than half of the fatalities.

The OPP fleet of 102 snow vehicles is used mostly in remote and northern areas of the province, where the snowmobile is the main form of winter transportation. Part of the fleet is used to patrol trails, rural routes and snow-packed highways in the resort areas where most of the more than 237,000 snow vehicles registered in Ontario are driven.

Riders risk death or serious injury in accidents on or off the road because the snowmobile offers little protection in a sudden stop or collision. Off the road, snowmobiles may strike rocks or tree stumps covered by snow. Dips in terrain and wire fences are deadly obstacles camouflaged by the white background.

Thin ice was a major hazard last winter as warm weather, early in the season, prevented the formation of a solid base on Ontario waterways. Two fatalities were reported among the dozen snowmobilers who plunged into the frigid waters of Georgian Bay and Simcoe county lakes and rivers in separate accidents last January.

Snowmobilers would be wise to check with local authorities or residents about ice and snow conditions or other area hazards. Use common sense. If you don't know, don't go.

Check local weather forecasts, let someone know where you are going, the route and when you expect to return. Use the buddy system - never travel alone. If the machine becomes stuck or breaks down in an isolated spot - don't panic. Stay put and wait for help. Avoid overexertion, which lowers the body's resistance to cold, and avoid getting wet.

Practical survival skills and first aid are taught in courses prepared by the Ontario Federation of Snowmobile Clubs, in conjunction with the Ontario Ministry of Transportation.

Bible digest

"For they themselves show of us what manner of entering in we had unto you, and how ye turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God." 1 Thessalonians 1:9

Our world needs to turn away from the idols of materialism, pleasure and success to the true and living God. No one can satisfy the human heart but Jesus.



Olympic spirit

Four Glen Williams Public School students who represented the United States at the school's Winter Olympics Thursday were bound and

determined to be winners of the mock games. From left to right were Grade five student Amy Norman, 10, Grade three student Cameron

Hunter, 8, Grade four student Shannon Shinn, 9, and Grade four student Sarah Carney, 9.

Region opposes transit agency

Links between areas outside Metro Toronto

Halton Region is opposing plans by the Ministry of Transportation to set up an Inter-Regional Transit Coordinating Agency to develop transit operation in the Greater Toronto area.

In a Dec. 8 report the Ministry of Transportation came up with many wide ranging recommendations on how to improve transit in Metro's surrounding regions but the most significant one is the establishment of the new ITCA which might make life difficult for local transit authorities, said Rash Mohammed, the Commissioner of Planning and Development for Halton.

Halton thinks the new agency "is the creation of another administrative level," said Mr. Mohammed. He is also worried about the lack of local input and participation to the agency and overlapping mandates with GO Transit and the Ministry of Transportation.

The ITCA does not include the "mandate to act or perform as a super agency," but Halton is still worried about the effects of the

agency if it's created, said Mr. Mohammed.

But the Transit Advisory Group, which prepared the report recommending the new agency, says that by the year 2011, there will be an increase of between 500,000 and 700,000 daily trips crossing the Metro boundary daily, and that means a better transportation system is needed.

"The share of these cross-boundary trips carried by transit will have to increase significantly if traffic chaos is to be avoided," the report says.

The best way to improve transit co-ordination is to create the new agency, the Advisory Group argued.

But Mr. Mohammed thinks a four-member board, such as the one recommended in the report, would leave surrounding suburban regions out in the cold.

Mr. Mohammed wants the ITCA to be created as a division of the Ministry of Transportation Transit Office, rather than as a separate entity with wide ranging powers.

Halton supports the idea of creating a "well planned, efficient

transit network in the Greater Toronto Area," said Mr. Mohammed.

He wants to make sure that "much needed improvement" such as Highway 403 and the GO Train service expansions, are not delayed in favor of the new transit agency.

Mr. Mohammed supported many other recommendations in the reports which includes increasing fare integration and service co-ordination "with particular attention to reducing the widespread annoyance of being charged a full second fare for a short additional ride."

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GUIDE-SCOUT WEEK Church service theme on Lord Baden Powell, history of movement

By JEAN LAYMAN Herald Special

Scout-Guide services were held at Hillcrest United Church Feb. 21 observing the birthday of Lord and Lady Baden-Powell.

Beavers, Brownies, Cubs, Guides, Scouts, Pathfinders and Venturers from 1st Ashgrove and Hornby were in attendance.

Greeting guests at the door were Beavers Greg Barr, Andrew Boyce, Paul Brownridge and Carl Patten of 1st Ashgrove.

Reading the lesson, Luke 8:22-25 was Venturer Andrew Midwinter of 1st Hornby Venturers. Reverend Jean Jones offered the message: How do I Find God? Lisa MacArthur of 6th Pineview Guides and Kevin Sidebottom of 1st Ashgrove Scouts led in prayer.

The ushers were Bonnie Sparling, Rachel Henry of 1st Pineview Brownies and Ryan McDonald, Michael Thibideau of 1st Hornby Cubs.

In Acton, the annual Scout Guide services was held at Trinity United Church. Following the parade, led by an impressive color party from the Scout Hall to the church, the prelude was by Dr. George Elliott and the call to worship by Rev. Ken Jackson.

The color party entered and presented the Gags during the hymn, All Things Bright and Beautiful. Allison Ginn, Brown Owl of 3rd Acton Brownies offered a prayer.

The first reading was offered by Caroline Montgomery and the second reading by Kathleen Montgomery. The history of Guiding was given by Alison Ginn.

District Commissioner Wendy Van Vliet of Acton led in all hymns and songs and led in all sections to repeat their promises.

Reverend Arthur Tribe presented the coveted Religion in Life Award to Tracy Gibson of 1st Acton Pathfinders.

The 23rd Psalm was read by Tara Gibson. The offering was taken up by two Scouts and two Pathfinders with the proceeds going to the World Friendship Fund and the World Brotherhood Fund.

Reverend Jackson gave the closing prayer followed by the singing of O Canada.

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EDITORIAL

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If your non-profit organization is planning an event, a notice of the event can be published in our "About The Hills" column. There is no charge. However, we cannot ensure in which edition the notice will run nor promise a certain page where the story will appear. We suggest you place your news event notice also in our classified section under "Coming Events". For a special non-profit rate, you can ensure the date and placement of your notice.

Drop a brief description of the event in writing to The Halton Hills Herald at 45 Guelph Street, Georgetown L7G 3Z8 or call 877-2201. Items should be submitted by Friday at 5:00 p.m. to appear in the Wednesday edition.

HOW DOES THE HALTON HILLS HERALD HANDLE LETTERS TO THE EDITOR?

The Halton Hills Herald welcomes all comments in the form of letters to the editor. Please send submissions to The Editor, 45 Guelph Street, Georgetown L7G 3Z8. The editors reserve the right to edit letters for length, grammar and libel. Letters must be signed and bear the address and telephone number of the author for verification purposes. Letters will not be published under a pen name except in extraordinary circumstances. Anonymous letters are never accepted for publication.

WHAT IF I DON'T LIKE SOMETHING THE HERALD HAS PUBLISHED?



If you have a complaint about our news coverage, call Dave Rowney, the managing editor, or Don Brander, the publisher at 877-2201.

WHERE SHOULD I SEND MY NEWS RELEASES?

News releases can cover a wide variety of topics, including sports, civic activities, business developments and governmental events. The Herald welcomes these releases and will adapt them to our use. Many will be re-written by our staff members. Some will be shortened; in other cases we may seek additional information. That is why it is important that the news releases contain the name and telephone number of a contact person. News releases may be directed to the editor who will see that they are distributed to the appropriate staff member for handling. A final tip for those who prepare news releases: Be so timely as possible. If your announcing a future event, do so far enough in advance to ensure timely publication and any staff planning necessary. If you are reporting on a past event, do so as promptly as possible.

SHOULD I CALL THE HERALD IF I SEE SOMETHING I THINK IS NEWSWORTHY?

Absolutely! Halton Hills is a big area and we just can't be everywhere at once, or know everything that's going on. We have a good team of dedicated professional reporters who do a good job covering Halton; but some days we could use your help. If you see something you think is newsworthy dial 877-2201 and ask for the newsroom. Obviously some news tips may not develop into stories but we'll be happy you called to take an interest in your community newspaper.

HOW CAN MY TEAM GET GAME SCORES INTO THE HERALD?



With the hundreds of teams in the area we must depend on the coaches or league to provide the results. We have game sheets available for any team that needs them. Simply fill them out and deliver to our office and we will get the results into the newspaper. Call 877-2201 and ask for the Sports Editor, Mike Turner.

CIRCULATION



WHAT DO I DO IF MY NEWSPAPER IS NOT DELIVERED?

Your newspaper should be delivered to you each Wednesday. If your paper is missing, please call our office at 877-2201, Monday to Friday between 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. If our service fails please let us know!

HOW CAN I OBTAIN A PAST ISSUE OF THE HALTON HILLS HERALD?

Back issues of the Herald are generally available for one year. Copies may be picked up at our office, 45 Guelph Street, from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday to Friday.

HOW CAN I ORDER A PRINT OF A HERALD NEWS PHOTO?

The Herald provides permanent prints of staff-taken photographs. The cost is \$7.49 (tax included) for a 5" x 7" print and \$9.59 for an 8" x 10" print. Reprints may be ordered at the front desk of The Herald during regular office hours. Prepayment is required. Bring a clipping of the picture you want along with the date of publication and the page number. The newspaper tries to fill the order within two weeks.

ADVERTISING

HOW CAN I PLACE AN ADVERTISEMENT IN THE HERALD?

Herald classified advertisements will help you sell a home, car, furniture, pet or other personal items. To place a classified ad call 877-8822. Several rates are available to suit the needs of the sellers.

To place a larger space advertisement in other sections of the newspaper call the display advertising department at 877-2201. When you place a display ad in the Herald an advertising representative will assist you in the writing and designing of your ad.

Additional advertising coverage is available in the Halton Hills Outlook. Ask about this coverage when you place both classified and display advertising.

HOW CAN I PLACE A SOCIAL ANNOUNCEMENT IN THE HERALD?

Some Social Announcements are considered to be newsworthy and will appear on the Herald's community page at no charge. These include 50th and 60th wedding anniversaries, weddings or graduations. Black and white photos are preferred, but color photos with good contrast are acceptable. The Herald has forms for obituaries and weddings which readers may pick up at the front desk. Filled out in point form and returned to the Herald, they will appear in a future edition of the newspaper after being re-written by a staff member.

