

the HERALD

Home Newspaper of Halton Hills - Established 1866

A Division of Canadian Newspapers Company Limited
45 Guelph Street, Georgetown L7G 3Z6, Ontario

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Second Class Mail - Registered Number 9843

Page 4 - SECTION A, THE HERALD, Wednesday, December 7, 1988

Mind the crosswalks

Crosswalks have become a commonplace fixture in everyday life.

But there are still some motorists and some pedestrians who need re-education.

Sometimes motorists, in their haste to make it home after a long day's work, aren't as wary as they should be when approaching crosswalk areas. At night in particular, there are motorists who don't seem to be able to distinguish between the flashing amber crosswalk lights and regular streetlights. And of course, with the Christmas decorations, it becomes even harder to distinguish the flashing lights of a crosswalk.

That means motorists have to take extra care, and familiarize themselves with the locations of crosswalks so that checking for pedestrians becomes second nature.

At the same time, pedestrians have to be aware of the proper use of crosswalks. And they also have to be aware of what determines a pedestrian crosswalk.

Adults sometimes use poor judgement when crossing roadways. And the worst error they can possibly make is to mistake a few white lines painted on the roadway for a crosswalk.

All pedestrian crosswalks are well-marked and easily identifiable.

For the most part, motorists will respect crosswalks. But when both parties get careless, tragedy looms.

Stop it now

The festive season is upon us again, and proud homeowners are decorating their residences in bright Christmas splendor.

Unfortunately though, there are those who see fit to spoil the hard work and pride of others by stealing Christmas lights from displays.

The reasons for this vandalism is beyond the comprehension of most of us. What sort of enjoyment could these people be deriving from such acts?

The time to stop this is now. If you see anything that looks suspicious at any time, call the police immediately.

Forget unique



Editor's Notebook

Mike Turner
Herald Editor

We've still got close to three weeks until Christmas so hopefully this message will get through before it's too late.

It's intended to reach all those people who are going crazy over what to buy someone for Christmas. They're the ones who are leafing through catalogues, browsing in stores, and in general - going nuts.

To them, all I can say is, stop torturing yourself.

Through personal experience, I've found that the gifts that are most anguished over, somehow miss their mark.

So give yourself a break - and for that matter, give that special someone a break, too.

The whole problem with buying gifts is that people tend to over-think. They seem to feel they have to come up with the most bizarre idea possible to make someone happy.

Well, I can tell you, this simply isn't the case.

The odds are very long that you'll

be able to come up with something in a gift that is both unique and useful. So why try?

One of the best gifts I ever got one Christmas was a boring old box of a dozen golf balls. Not many people think about golf when the ground is covered with snow, but maybe it's time more people did.

I was thrilled. For one thing, they were certainly a more expensive ball than I have been accustomed to buying. And to have someone else present me with an entire week's supply of golf balls was more than I could have asked for.

On the other hand, some of the worst gifts I've given were ones that I took the greatest amount of time to decide on.

I'd far sooner have someone open a gift from me and say, "Well, I can always use another one of these," than have them open a gift and say, "Where on earth did you ever find this?" (You know they're actually thinking WHY on earth did you ever find this.)

This time of year, a lot of people are under a lot of pressure, and why add to that pressure when it isn't necessary.

It's very rare that you actually hit the target dead-on when you're buying a gift for someone. You can keep trying but why go to such extremes.

After all, next Christmas you'll just have to outdo yourself anyway.

Market force with us



Your Business

Diane Maley
Thomson News Service

Now that the elections are over in Canada and the United States, those mysterious things known as market forces are back to their favorite pastime - forcing interest rates higher.

When they heard George Bush would be the next US president, financial markets slumped; had Michael Dukakis won, they would have plunged. As it was, the American dollar slipped on international currency markets and interest rates started creeping higher.

The tumult on financial markets finally thrust itself into the open earlier this week when American bankers raised the prime business lending rate by half a percentage point to 10.5 per cent. That's the highest the American prime has been in 3 1/2 years.

The Canadian prime, by comparison, stood at 11.75 per cent on Tuesday, although market watchers feared the pressure on US rates soon would spread to Canada.

Of all the many interest rates, the prime is among the last to move. It is a benchmark rate, the one bankers quote for loans to their most creditworthy customers, although some big corporate borrowers pay less.

WATCHING NUMBERS

How much further interest rates will rise depends on US employment numbers for November, which are scheduled to be released Friday. If the number of jobs grows and the unemployment rate shrinks, interest

rates will leap higher as central bankers struggle to quell inflation.

As well, the US dollar has been under pressure on world financial markets and some market watchers believe the rate increase was designed to keep it from going into a tailspin. Whatever the case, it seems likely that high rates will slow economic growth before long.

The difference between Canadian and American rates is greater than normal, and our dollar is stronger than it has been for years. Even so, those mysterious market forces may force our rates higher still.

If markets are surprised by weak US economic numbers on Friday, we will be spared for the time being. More likely, interest rates will climb another one-half to one percentage point, worrying borrowers and eventually slowing the economy.

HARD TO PLAN

It's not unusual in an election year for interest rates to leap soon after the elections are over. This is because politicians have been leaning on central bankers to restrain themselves.

Once the government has been elected, the politicians relax and let market forces prevail. Rather than trying to stave off recession, politicians would rather it come early in the term so the economy can be on the mend again by the time the next election rolls around.

The unusual length of the current boom makes financial planning difficult. Logically, growth should begin to slow soon, yet the good economic numbers just keep rolling in. The current prosperity could endure for years to come, with interruptions being mild and relatively short-lived.

It all depends on interest rates: the higher they rise, the deeper the slowdown will be. Our fate is in the invisible hands of those mysterious entities known as market forces. It's enough to make you nervous.

Peterson takes on role of Pontius Pilate

Let's be clear about what Premier David Peterson is arguing when he speaks of adjustments to free trade. He suggests, first, that because the free-trade agreement with the US is a federal government policy, anything connected with it is entirely Ottawa's responsibility.

That means if a company requires help to restructure itself to meet the demands of free trade, the Ontario government won't help. Or, if employees are to be laid off because a company can't compete under free trade, this, too, is none of Ontario's business.

No money and no intervention from us is the Liberal line in the legislature.

But, what about the reverse? If a company expands its investment and ups its sales because of easier access to the US market, has Ontario decided to forfeit the additional corporate taxes that will be generated?

If more employees are hired and jobs created because of free trade, has Ontario decided to allow people who fill these new positions to opt out of provincial income tax?

The short answer to both questions is no.



Queen's Park Derek Nelson Thomson News Service

ABSURD

In fact, the sheer absurdity of Peterson's position is such that it has many observers at Queen's Park wondering why he is indulging in it. Companies and plants open and close all the time, often for more than one reason.

For some people, for example, the closing of the Gillette razor manufacturing facility in Montreal makes that company the first victim of free trade.

For others, Gillette is obviously much more a victim of a tax system that favors corporate financing through debt rather than equity.

(The blame, in that case, should rest with governments rather than business, who simply react to the tax rules laid down by government.)

Quebec Premier Robert Bourassa told reporters here during his kiss-and-make-up visit with Peterson that the Gillette closing had nothing to do with free trade.

Peterson, playing his usual game of walking both sides of the street, didn't say it was or wasn't - but did aim for the scary headline with the comment that "if it was," it was the "beginning of the de-industrialization of Canada."

But Peterson knows better than that.

His own Premier's Council, a blue-ribbon collection of academics, business and labor leaders, has already documented the decline in many traditional Ontario industries.

The council suggested that what free trade would likely do is accelerate that trend.

CHANGE OR DIE
In short, Ontario's economy is going to have to change and adapt - or die - regardless of free trade.

With no tariffs and somewhat more secure access than before to the richest market in the world, Ontario should be able to benefit greatly from free trade.

But to hear Peterson tell it, none of this has anything to do with his

government. Even when the province has announced adjustment assistance, as to the grape growers, it hides its intent by saying it is reacting to a GATT ruling rather than free trade, even though the effects of GATT will be identical to whatever pain free trade brings to the grape and wine industry.

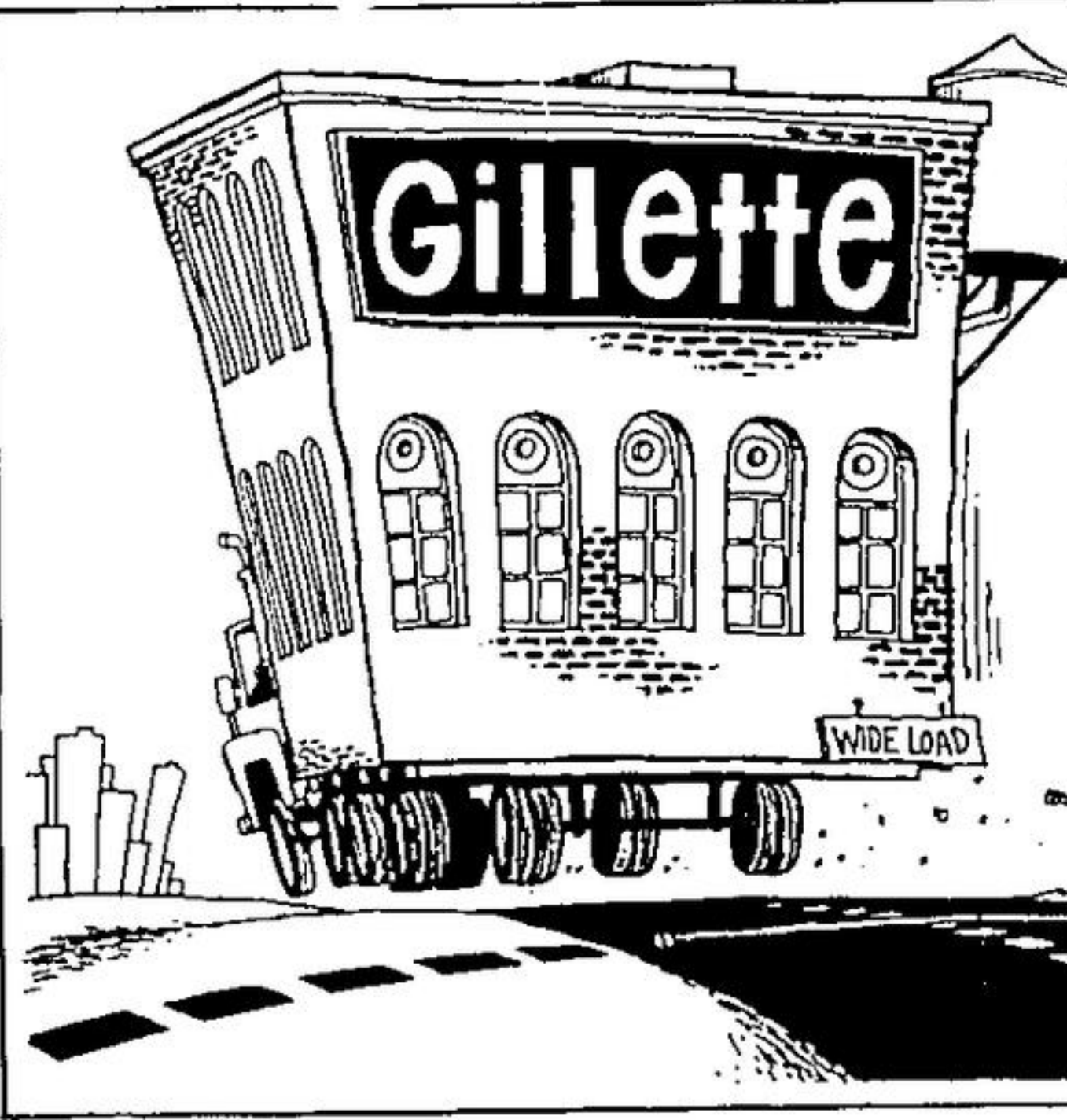
It is hard to see the political plus of sticking one's head in the sand and saying that because the rules of the sandbox have been changed, he isn't going to play.

After all, Peterson's prime objection to the free-trade agreement wasn't even economic. Instead, he saw it as an unacceptable dilution of Canadian sovereignty.

And even then, he saw the changes as in the long-term rather than immediately.

Yet, he's already posturing over plants being closed while simultaneously washing his hands of the consequences.

One has to wonder if it really is in the best interests of Ontario to have its premier play Pontius Pilate in a gloom and doom scenario of the future.



Halton's History from our files

30 years ago

With Council's "big three" heading the polls for a second year, Monday's municipal election saw only one change in the 1959 council when Councillor Alfred Sykes lost his seat to newcomer Mrs. Al Currie. In her second bid for office, Mrs. Currie tallied 599 votes and fifth place in the standing to become the first lady ever elected to a governmental seat in Georgetown's history. Coun. John Gunn registered the highest number of votes for the second year in a row. Coun. Garfield McGillivray beat Coun. Ern Hyde by 13 votes to take second place.

The Georgetown Herald takes a major step in its development on Jan. 2 when Thomson Newspapers Limited becomes its publishers. Sale of the 92-year old newspaper will be announced today by Walter Biehn, publisher and editor since he purchased the Herald from the J.M. Moore Estate in March, 1940. Prior to Mr. Moore, the late R.D. Warren had owned the business for many years.

Rev. Alex Calder opened the Knox Church Christmas Fair on Friday afternoon which was sponsored by the Women's association Knox Ladies Auxiliary, the choir and the CGIT. The choir was in charge of the afternoon tea and the Women's Association looked after the hot supper. The church rooms were decorated for Christmas and the tea tables were very gay with their pastel green cloths and red candle centerpieces.

15 years ago

Georgetown police chief Floyd Schwantz has been named staff inspector for the administration of the new Halton Police force. His appointment became effective Monday, Dec. 3, but the new regional force does not begin its operation until Jan. 1 with headquarters in Oakville, and detachments in Georgetown, Milton, Oakville and Burlington.

Six winners of the Halton Fire Prevention Bureau's 1973 fire prevention poster competition were honored at an awards night in Milton last week. Desk pen sets and certificates of achievement were presented to Patty Jo Cutrara of Georgetown and Richard Norris of Speyside, top boy and girl in the Bureau's 16th annual county-wide contest for grade five students.

Dr. C.B. Hoddinott was guest speaker at the annual dinner of the directors of the Georgetown Agricultural Society which sponsors the fall fair. Speaking on hypnotism as related to the medical profession, Dr. Hoddinott gave a very informative and amusing presentation on the subject. He was introduced by Robert McMaster and the thanks for the gathering was given by Sam Penrice.

10 years ago

The Georgetown Raiders defeated the Port Colborne Sailors 8-4 Friday night at Alcott Arena without needing to hit full stride. Both teams appeared to be going through the motions as neither played anything close to what could be called good, all-round hockey.

Kris Barber and Kelly Johnson took first place in the junior dance pairs competition at the Central Ontario Sectional Figure Skating Championships held at Thornhill Community Centre on the weekend. Barber, of Glen Williams, and Johnson, of Toronto, led on every judge's card for each of the three competitions.

5 years ago

After five years of holding the post as mayor, Pete Pomeroy will not be going out of office as an unknown, or a mayor with little to his credit. Seven years spent with the Halton Hills council have accomplished certain goals in the town which will be synonymous with his name. "He'll always be remembered for the Cultural Centre and the Stevens property," Coun. Pam Sheldon said. "And should be remembered as the mayor with a strong commitment to the rural areas."

Dale Wood was beaming Saturday night. He was proud, very proud, and justifiably so. The Georgetown Choral Society and the Cantante Singers were doing him proud. Conductor for the two choirs, it was Dale's night to shine, as he showed off the musical talents of the two choral groups.

Citizens' forum

Disapproves of election practices

Dear Sir,

Now that the elections are behind us, I feel compelled to point out two situations that irritated me during our recent municipal election. I believe that councillors, particularly those who are acclaimed, should not represent a candidate in their official capacity as town councillors. This should apply to federal, provincial and local elections. Naturally, councillors are entitled to their opinions (there were some on both sides), but there is plenty of work

that can be done on elections behind the scenes to render support to the candidate of their choice. In my opinion, councillors were wrong to use their official status to influence the voters.

I also disapprove of the press printing letters to the editor in support of a given candidate (again, there were some from both sides). While a discussion of issues i.e. road conditions, taxes, development etc. is welcome, "I like John because..." letters could simply be viewed as cheap advertising or a contest to see

who can entice the most friends to write letters. Where exactly do freedom of the press, obligation to print letters written to the editor and good taste fit in this process? Since letters are often unsolicited by candidates, the mus must be on the paper to carefully review all letters.

I am not trying to pass judgement on what well-intentioned individuals did, but I am questioning the "fair play" aspect of both these issues and their effect on future elections.

Sincerely,
Lois Fraser

Red Cross received great support

Dear Sir,

The Christmas parade unites our community in officially celebrating the advent of Christmas. Many groups and organizations which provide essential community services throughout the year may on this occasion participate in an event which brings delight to our children and pleasure to all who participate. The Georgetown and District Red Cross Gingerbread House float was made possible by the support of many people and businesses in town. We would like to especially thank

Mike Hamilton (Montego Construction Co.) for use of his truck and flatbed; Lena Johnston, Freida Zander, Marion Richardson and Jovve Tilson for making gingerbread cookie costumes; Georgetown Fabrics, Wigo Appliances, Provincial Paper, Gerrie Electric, CO-OP, Beaver Lumber, Canadian Tire, Childscope Educational Materials, The Cellar, Fendley Florists, St. Claire Paint and Wallpaper, Georgetown Decorating Center and Color Your World for materials used

and the A and P, Zellers, Miracle Mart, Shoppers Drug Mart, Valdi and Delrex Smoke Shop for providing candy for children along the parade route.

With the help and generosity of these donors and Red Cross volunteers we were able to participate in this very successful and enjoyable event.

Sincerely,
Leslie Arnison,
Chairman Public Relations,
Georgetown and District Red Cross

A great first-time effort

Dear Sir,

The Halton Hills Toy Lending Library entered its very first float in the Lions Santa Claus Parade this year, and the Executive Board would like to say congratulations and thank you to the float committee who worked so hard and did such a wonderful job on our entry. Thank you ladies!
The float committee would like to

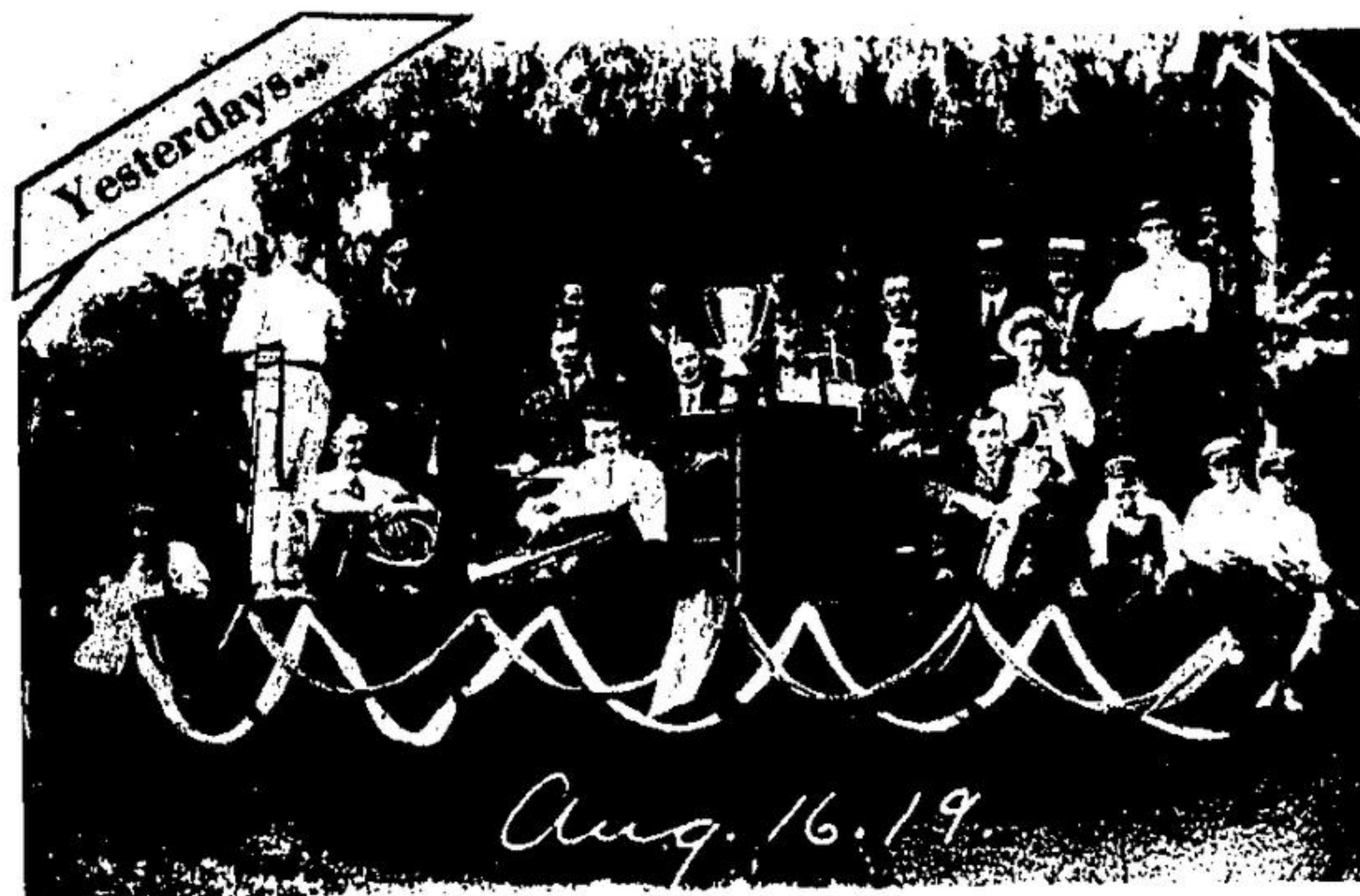
thank the following companies for their contributions: Up, Up and Away Balloons; Georgetown Decorating Centre; Mal Dodge - ReMax Suburban Realty; St. Clair Paint and Wallpaper; Wigo; Pizza Hut; and Chrysler Plant (Jeep Eagle Division, Brampton).

Special thanks are in order for Leslie Arnison who got the float started, Rita and Manfred Spiegler,

and Kay and Al Roth for the use of the trailer, and Ray Batchelor for the trailer hitch.

Thank you again to all the float members and their families who, for such a small group, did such a wonderful job on our float. Thank you!

Sincerely,
Halton Hills Toy Lending Library (Georgetown)
Board of Executive



And the band played on