

Santa calling



The Optimist Club of Georgetown saw to it that Santa paid a visit to the children of the Saturday Centre on the weekend. The program is co-ordinated by members of St. John's United Church and the North Halton

Association for the Developmentally Handicapped. Here, Santa presents Stephanie Schmeier, 11, with an early Christmas present, during the Optimists' Christmas party for the group. (Herald photo)



Lee Irwin, 9, filled Santa Claus in on what he's hoping to receive this Christmas Saturday in Glen Williams. Santa made a visit to a

party in the village's town hall, much to the delight of the many children who attended. (Herald photo)

# Town decides to sit on fence

Residents surrounding the Georgetown Fairgrounds have brought town plans to put a fence around the park to an abrupt halt.

Bryan Shynal, the town's superintendent of parks, said he has been instructed to stop the \$12,000 fencing project, which was to be done in two phases, following complaints by local residents.

Councillor Anne Currie said last week she had received five phone calls from area residents who were "adamantly opposed" to what they thought was a seven-ft. chain link fence.

The town wants to fence the park to avoid liability problems with abutting residents and the Optimists, who hold Bang-O-Rama in the park and the Georgetown Agricultural Society had actually committed funds to help the project get under way, said Mr. Shynal.

The black vinyl chain link fence was to be erected half this year and half at a future time, he said. And it would stand only six feet high, he added.

The first phase, from Gardiner Drive to the southeast corner of the park was to be started this week. The second phase called for the fence to go from that corner to the park entrance off Charles Street.

Three of four adjacent residents were opposed to the fencing and now residents in the surrounding area say they don't want to look at a chain link fence around the park, said Mr. Shynal.

The town will now seek legal advice to find out its liability position should it decide not to fence the park, he said.

But no fencing will be erected until next year, he said.



The Action Social Services and Information Centre gave its volunteers a Christmas party last week. Volunteers for Meals on Wheels and visitors to the elderly and infirm were treated to a lunch buffet and friendly conversation at the Old

Town Hall. Left to right are five-year volunteer Bob MacArthur, Co-ordinator of Meals on Wheels, Transportation Pool and Reception June Lewis, and volunteer Mary McKenzie. (Herald photo)

## Extra Go buses set to run

Starting in January Georgetown commuters won't have to leave the office right at 5 p.m. to catch the rush hour trains.

GO Transit is introducing a bus service from Union Station in Toronto to Georgetown Jan. 9, said GO spokesman Edmund Shea.

The bus will leave Union Station at 7:30 p.m. and service the GO stations in Brampton, Brantford and Georgetown.

The new bus, as well as two new trains during rush hours in Milton, are being introduced in response to growing population and a perceived need for a late hour service, said Mr. Shea.

The bus from Toronto to Georgetown will allow people to stay in Toronto longer during the day to wrap up business or go shopping, he said.

"A lot of people can't leave the office punctually," said Mr. Shea. GO is re-examining the train and bus service along all its lines but there is no definite changes in the works, said Mr. Shea.

## Fire report

Fire officials report two fireplace-related fires on Thursday morning, the day of last week's power blackout.

At 9:12 a.m. officials were called to Lot 17, Con. 6 where a box of hot ashes stored in the garage caused \$1,000 damage. No one was home when officials responded to the blaze.

Shortly after noon at Eden Place, Georgetown, a chimney fire caused \$2,000 damage. Officials say the flames were the result of an improperly installed airtight stove.

The smell of smoke in an Edith Street house brought officials to the home to investigate. The cause, say officials, was a lampshade rubbing against a light bulb. There was no damage.

## Decorations arrive late

Main Street Georgetown should be a bit brighter tonight. That's because Halton Hills Hydro is expected to replace about 300 clear bulbs in the trees in downtown Georgetown today (Wednesday), but the annual Christmas decorations which usually adorn the streets of town, will remain in the closet.

The Business Improvement Area (BIA), an association comprised of downtown businesses, ordered new Christmas decorations this year but they didn't arrive until Dec. 16, said BIA co-ordinator Margaret Vint.

Each year the BIA asks Halton Hills Hydro to set aside time to replace the lightbulbs and put up the Christmas decorations, said Ms. Vint.

This year, because the decorations arrived much later than expected, the lightbulb maintenance was held off so Hydro could do both at the same time, she said.

Hydro was prepared to put up the decorations on Thursday, said Halton Hills Hydro manager Gerry Trudell. But the massive blackout caused by a transmission tower falling over on Highway 403 early Thursday morning delayed the installation of the decorations, he said.

Because they were kept busy with the blackout, Hydro will only have time to replace the bulbs and not put up the decorations, said Ms. Vint.

And because it is so close to Christmas, the decorations would only be up for a short time even if they were put up now, she said. "They'd hardly be up till they're down again."

Meanwhile the BIA has put up its speaker system once again to serenade shoppers. Christmas carols play from loudspeakers during shopping hours in the downtown area.

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