

the HERALD

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O HOLY NIGHT



Give it a thought

When we're sitting down to our turkey dinners this Sunday, and all is aglow with the Christmas spirit, perhaps a few moments of reflection would be in order.

For while most of us are ever improving our standard of living, there is a world-wide problem that continues to rage.

In its annual report, UNICEF has stated that 14 million children continue to die each year from common illnesses and undernutrition.

This Christmas there doesn't seem to be as much attention being paid to the plight of Third World countries. Rock performers aren't scheduled to release any records to help aid the cause against world hunger. It wasn't so long ago the British started a chain reaction when they released Do They Know It's Christmas, a song performed by the big names of rock. That started more of us thinking about what the people of Third World countries face, and incited others to take up the cause.

But no music this Christmas.

Merely the stark reality of facts, laid down in a report by UNICEF. The entire report lays out devastating details of how each day, 40,000 children die.

It's difficult to set aside the revelry of the season to think about such depressing matters. But that doesn't mean we shouldn't.

Relief efforts continue to accomplish what they can but there are only so many ways a global problem of such magnitude can be addressed.

This Christmas take a little time to remember those who are so easily forgotten, and keep the Christmas spirit in mind by giving to help the effort.

Living on the edge



Editor's Notebook

Mike Turner
Herald Editor

Most people are caught up in their Christmas shopping right about now - except of course, for those smug individuals who "bought when it was hot."

These people are easy to recognize. Whenever someone mentions they are in a quandry as to what to get for so-and-so, the person who has already done his Christmas shopping tosses in a few suggestions, more to add to the confusion of the already confused poor soul than anything else.

And there's that smile... It's so cold and cruel, it makes Freddie Kruger's grin look like it's coming from a boy scout.

Naturally, I've never been one of these people. I happen to thrive on the uncertainty and pressure of shopping at the last minute. It's a few hours before the stores are set to close on Christmas Eve that you see the real shoppers. These are people who can obviously perform under pressure.

That's right. I like to live on the edge.

Lions say thanks

Dear Sir,
Please allow us to thank all those, who participated in, and helped us to organize, this year's Santa Claus Parade.

We will acknowledge all the many generous donations of money, goods and services through an advertisement in the Herald.

We wish to thank all those who gave of their time and talents to construct the floats, those who braved the cold to take part in the parade, and in particular, our public servants, the Fire Department, the Volunteer Ambulance Service, the Works Department, and the police department. Without the willing assistance of all these people it would be impossible to hold this parade.

Now, for the big news. We are already planning for next year's parade. It will be on Saturday, Nov. 25, and the theme will be "Santa's Toyland." Don't be afraid to get your entry in early to P.O. Box 73, Georgetown, just give the name and

telephone number of a contact person.

By the way, this year's winners were: Best Band - Acton Citizens Band; Best Overall Float - Georgetown West Girl Guides; Best Theme Float - Toy Library; and Best Service Club - Georgetown Optimists.

Representatives of these organizations will be invited to a Georgetown Lions meeting where they will be presented with a plaque and a small cash award.

The judges were Esme Ball, Vi Haines and Rev. Peter Barrow. Our thanks to them for a difficult and chilly job well done.

So to all who took part, to all who gave and to all who watched, a great big thank you from the Georgetown Lions Club.

Yours truly,
Ron Lacey,
The Georgetown Lions Club,
Santa Claus Parade Committee

Anti-smoking legislation still hazy

There is considerable skepticism here about how effective the Liberals' new anti-smoking legislation will prove to be.

Labor Minister Greg Sorbara's bill will require at least 75 per cent of most workplaces under provincial jurisdiction to be 75 per cent smoke-free.

About 90 per cent of the provincial workforce, or 3.9 million people, will theoretically be covered.

However, what worries the critics is that it will not require separate ventilation nor physical barriers between the smoking and non-smoking areas. Nor will it apply to "public service areas" such as bars.

Progressive Conservative Norm Sterling, who is the provincial politician with the highest profile in the anti-smoking battle - something acknowledged even by the other parties in the legislature - says he has "concerns about how practical it is and whether it can be enforced."

As he points out, under certain conditions, and because of the way the law is worded, a smoker in an office could end up sitting next to a nonsmoker.



Queen's Park

Derek Nelson
Thomson News Service

Interestingly, however, no one really took issue with Sorbara's announcement. Even Sterling congratulated the minister for going in the right direction.

NDP Leader Bob Rae said simply that "tobacco is a killer. There are lots of euphemisms we can use to talk about this subject, but there is no use in beating around the bush any more. We know that tobacco causes diseases which kill people, and we also know it is an addiction which affects literally millions of our citizens."

The question an observer has to ask, then, is why is the substance still legal?

The answer is fear: fear that banning its use would drive it underground and make it as attractive a forbidden substance as cocaine or marijuana is today.

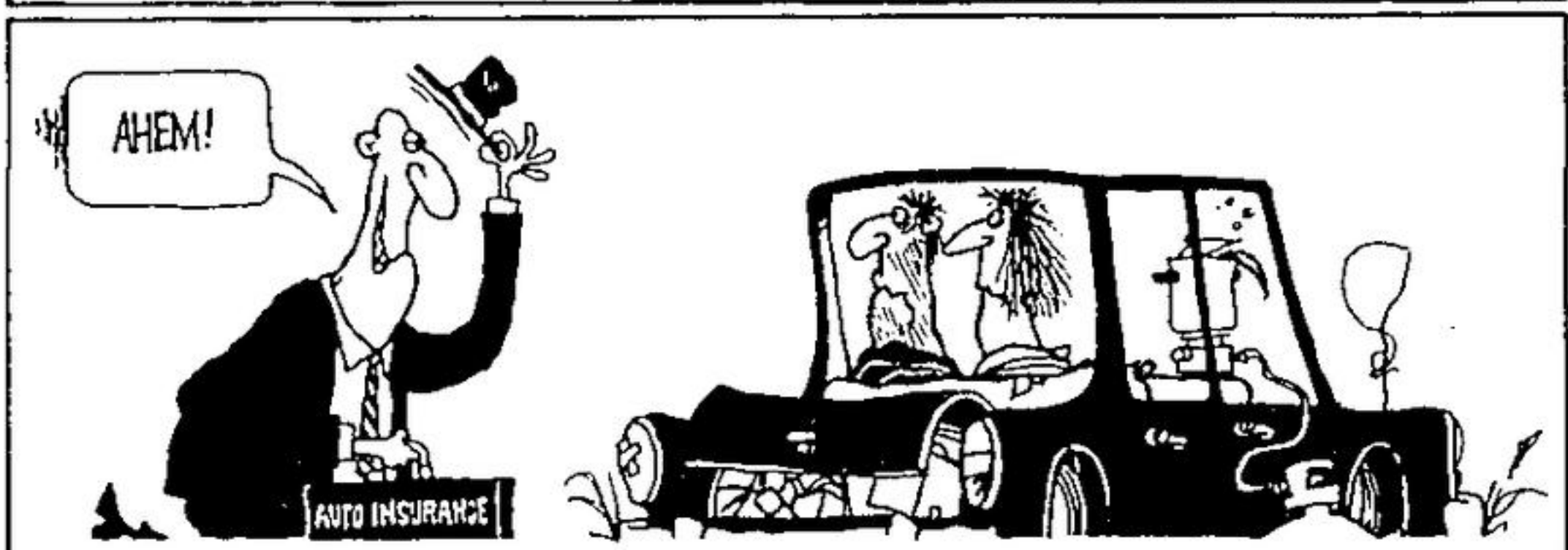
Instead, the way to deal with tobacco is to squeeze it into extinction. At least, that is what its opponents argue.

Sorbara's bill is part of that policy. So, too, are taxes.

The Tobacco Tax Amendment Act, which was announced in Treasurer Bob Nixon's spring budget, is also going through the legislature right now. It retroactively bumps tobacco taxes, and will bring in an additional \$172 million to government coffers.

But, as Sterling sees it, the important point is that prior to the Liberal takeover in 1985 Ontario had the second highest tobacco taxes in the country. Today, they are second lowest.

"There is a very good argument that the level of taxation has a very direct effect on the consumption of tobacco," he said.



Citizens' forum

With hope, comes word of anguish

Dear Sir,
Wednesday, Dec. 7, 1988 will long be remembered as a day of great hope but also of deep anguish.

This was the day the world heard, with great joy, the announcement of Soviet President, Mikhail Gorbachev in his address to the United Nations General Assembly that he would reduce his country's military forces by 500,000, tanks by 10,000, artillery systems by 8,500; and combat aircraft by 850 - a major reduction of conventional weapons and a generous expression of the will to demilitarize "Fortress" Europe.

We see this as a beginning in the process of lessening tensions and conflicts, a beginning in untying our

economies to military objectives and priorities. The trillion dollars spent yearly, throughout the world, on the build-up of military arms, nuclear weapons and militarized systems would go a long way towards creating a climate where we might all flourish as a global family of brothers and sisters. Another "giant step for mankind" has been taken.

Wednesday, Dec. 7, was also a day of anguish, suffering and despair as the first news of devastation by the earthquake that hit Armenia leaked the immensity of the disaster not yet fully comprehended. Figures given us an estimated 100,000 killed and 400,000 homeless are really only the tip of the iceberg. The deep suffering

and psychological stress will remain with the survivors for generations.

As Canadians, we can show our gratitude in escaping a very similar scenario, had the epicentre of the earthquake which hit Northern Quebec less than a month ago, struck in a high density city or town, a little farther south. We can celebrate the Birth of Him who has been so generous and gracious to us individually, and as a nation by donating, in the words of Mother Theresa, "not of our excess, but until it hurts," to the Armenian Earthquake Relief Fund - at any chartered bank.

Peace to all.

Margaret McDyre,
Member of H.A.N.D.

Optimists delight the kids again

Dear Sir,
The Optimist Club of Georgetown has done it again. This club of extremely enthusiastic individuals assisted Santa in making his annual calls to children in Kindergarten and Grade One.

Each year more children are requesting a call from Santa, and this year he spoke to over 635 households - 60 per cent of the children in Kindergarten and Grade One.

This program, which is offered through our Department, was supported by all schools in the Halton Public School Board and the Halton Separate School Board. Children who returned an information sheet to their school received a personal call from Santa.

This year many parents called in to tell us how delighted their children were to hear Santa's Ho! Ho! Ho!

We wish to thank the Optimist Club for providing the necessary enthusiasm, and as always, they were

a pleasure to work with.

Thank you Optimists. Ho! Ho! Ho!
Yours truly,
Debbie Mlethig.

Supervisor of Youth Services,
Halton Hills Recreation
and Parks Department

Dolly packed 'em in

Dear Sir,

On behalf of Georgetown Globe Productions we would like to thank you for the excellent coverage your newspaper provided for "Hello Dolly!"

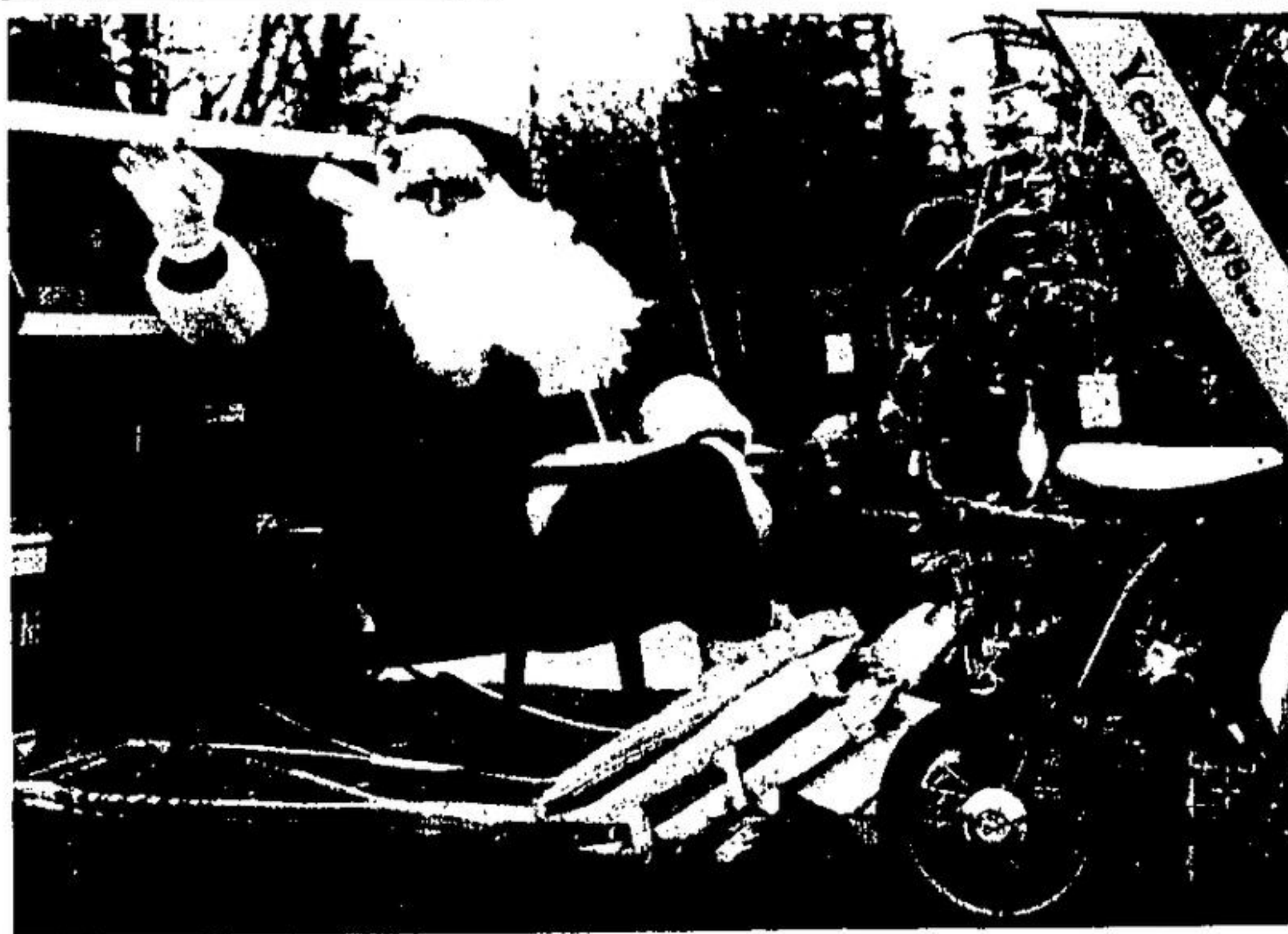
Through the Herald we were successful in encouraging the Georgetown public to attend another of Globe's terrific shows. In fact, Hello Dolly performed to many "full-house" audiences and the feedback was wonderful! The Herald's concern and interest in Globe makes you a true asset to us and the entire

community. Your continued support of Globe's endeavors are truly appreciated and we look forward to working with you in the future.

Georgetown Globe Productions would like to wish you and the Herald staff a very Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year!

Best Wishes,
Debbie Tilson,
Nanci McNeil,
GGP Publicity

(P.S. Our next show will be "Some Enchanted Evening" a dinner theatre theme, staged in May, 1989.)



A previous visit from St. Nick

In particular, he suggested research showed "it is young people who will quit faster than anybody else" because they have less disposable income and are the most greatly affected by price hikes.

Logically, the next step in the anti-smoking saga is not to ban smoking in just 75 per cent of the workplace, but in every workplace.

Then add on any "public service area" where there is food.

And so on.

But one doubts we'll ever get to the stage symbolized by the following resolution entered in the House of Commons in Ottawa.

"That the smoking of cigarettes has been proved by overwhelming testimony to be productive of serious physical and moral injury to young people; impairing health, arresting development, weakening intellectual power and thus constituting a social and national evil.

"That this House is of the opinion... that the right and most effective remedy for these evils is to be found in the enactment and enforcement of a law prohibiting the importation, manufacture and sale of cigarettes."

It passed 103 to 48. The date was April 1, 1963. An election intervened before a law could be drafted.

Halton's History from our files

30 years ago

If Georgetown wants large quantities of water above its present supply of two million gallons daily, the town will have to seek this out of town limits in the north according to an engineering expert engaged by the town to make a study of present and future supplies. Addressing council at the final meeting of the year Dec. 15, Jack Kirk of International Water Supply, said his firm has found no new source in town after a series of explorations.

Rev. Morgan McFarlane conducted the installation service for the new officers of the Evening Auxiliary of St. John's United Church when they met on Monday night at the home of Mrs. O.M. Brewster of Shelley Street. The president, Mrs. Helen Brown presented and chose the carol "Hark the Herald Angels Sing" to open the meeting. The record of the "Messiah" was a delight to all present. The treasurer reported that the allocation had been met which was most encouraging and each member brought a donation to be used for the Bible Fund for Cedarvale School.

15 years ago

The Georgetown Figure Skating Club held its first annual club competition on Sunday afternoon at Georgetown Memorial Arena. In the national level badge division, Eddie Howard placed first with Lynn Blackstock second. The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 120 donated a trophy for this division which was presented to the winner by Tony Corbett. In the mixed dance competition, the competing pair of David Watson and Karen Blackstock won the trophy presented by Terry Peers on behalf of the Georgetown Lions Club.

Sunny Acre Farms major midgets upset Chinguacousy in their second meeting of the season with a 4-3 win. This was a big win as Chinguacousy had won the first session 3-2. The midgets are really starting to put it together and outlasted Chinguacousy throughout the game. Georgetown started off the scoring with an unassisted goal by Ted Kewley, who also played a good defensive game. The second goal was scored by defenceman Doug Barnes and assisted by Rob Fatheringham.

10 years ago

The need for a hostel in Halton to temporarily shelter abused wives and their children has been proven and the search is under way to find a location for the shelter after it was revealed last week at a meeting of the board of directors of Halton Women's Place. Board chairman Terry Grubbe said, "the facts show a definite need in the area for abused wives to have a place to go with their dependent children in times of distress."

The town planning board has reaffirmed its decision to reject plans for the construction of an 8.7 acre shopping centre on Acton's eastern boundary. Despite a request by Jerry Sprackman, head of Landawn Shopping Centres Ltd., to have the decision deferred until he could be present to hear the board's discussion, the board voted last Tuesday night to accept planning director Mario Venditti's advice and deem the proposal premature.

5 years ago

Hopes dimmed Monday night that town council would ever contribute public funds to the restoration of the 100-year-old former Acton Town Hall. Although the restoration project is under way, Ted Tyler urged councillors to turn over \$24,000 remaining in a reserve account (once slated for the building's restoration) to Heritage Acton. Since February, Heritage Acton has been using federal job creation funds and cultural grants to repair the old town hall which has been abandoned since the mid 1970s.

The Christmas meeting of the Women's Institute was held Dec. 13 in Hillcrest Church with Mrs. Jas McPhail as hostess. At 12:30 p.m., 25 ladies sat down to beautifully-decorated tables thanksto Mrs. B. McClure, Mrs. F. Wickson and Mrs. E. Shore. After the luncheon, president Mrs. John Bird opened the meeting. Mrs. Hector Bird gave a Christmas reading. Secretary Mrs. John Ruddell read 1st month's minutes and called the Roll which was answered with a touch of humor.