



Santa shares a cuddle with gingerbread house winner Marie Chapman, one of 40 people attending the North Halton Recreational Committee for Special Needs Christmas party last week. Santa (Dave Markham) handed out gifts to participants at the group's third meeting in the Acton Legion Hall. (Herald photo)

## Santa visits workshop-ers

In spite of icy roads, colder weather and a blanket of snow lining the town, handicapped residents showed up at Acton Legion hall Wednesday to share the Christmas spirit.

Over 40 people attended the third meeting of the Recreational Committee for Special Needs in North Halton, including jolly Mr. Claus, himself.

At the first meeting in the hall space donated by the Legion, 12 people showed from Halton Hills and Milton, looking for recreation, and designing leather crafts under the guidance of Dave Markham.

The second meeting saw a group twice the size make snowmen for Christmas decorations and enjoy lunch together.

Wednesday's meeting had the largest turnout yet, said Jeff Bitton, Supervisor of Adult Services for Halton Hills Recreation and Parks Department.

"Our group goes up by 10 or 12 (people) each time as the word goes out," he said.

Although donations are rolling in

from people who see write-ups in the local newspapers, the committee is surviving on a "shoestring" budget. Mr. Bitton said donations of any kind, including time, craft materials and money, would be welcome.

The towns of Milton and Halton Hills will be asked, in the new year, to contribute toward funding the events for the handicapped, Mr. Bitton said. In January, the committee will apply to the Ministry of Tourism and Recreation for a grant.

Major donors to the Recreational Committee for Special Needs include the Acton Legion, donating hall space and the Milton Legion which kicked in \$500. Mr. Bitton said the Acton Golden Age Club also offered support.

The North Halton group hopes to meet on a weekly basis beginning in the spring if funding from outside sources arrives.

Anyone wishing to join the recreational group or offer their time or donations can call Jeff Bitton, 877-5185, ext. 262 or Bonnie Ward, Milton, 878-7211, ext. 181.

## Branch party a success

By YVONNE GRAHAM  
Branch 120 Auxiliary PRO

The Georgetown Royal Canadian Legion Branch 120 Auxiliary Christmas Party was a success thanks to Trudy Paul and her committee. The entertainment was by the Depends. The party was attended by Santa Claus who gave out Christmas baskets to the seniors in attendance.

President Marj Tutty presented a cheque to Branch President Hank Russell, who attended the party with 1st Vice President Bill Kirk and executive member Paul Yates.

## Damage minimal in mishap

A nasty trend is continuing as icy roads were the cause of more accidents this week, say Halton Regional Police.

A 1988 Mazda struck a parked truck Saturday afternoon at the Brewers' Retail Store in Acton. Police say the car was pulling into a vacant spot when it slid on ice and "sideswiped" the right rear panel of a 1986 Ford Ranger owned by a Limehouse woman. The vehicles received light damage. Police report no injuries and no charges in the collision.

Two Acton women escaped injury when the cars they were driving collided on Elizabeth Drive Thursday morning. Police say a westbound 1982 Mercury went out of control due to lost traction and "extremely icy conditions." The car, driven by an Acton woman, 39, crossed the centre

lane and struck a 1984 Ford driven by an Acton woman, 43. Police report no charges and no injuries.

A car driven by an Acton woman, 42, struck a pole in a single-car collision at Sideroad 10 and Fifth Line Thursday night, say police. The car was eastbound on Sideroad 10 when it struck a patch of ice, went out of control and hit the pole, say police. The car was moderately damaged. The woman was not injured and no charges were laid.



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# Literacy programs open up new worlds

EDITOR'S NOTE: The following is the first in a series of bi-weekly columns, highlighting the efforts and accomplishments of the North Halton Literacy Guild.

By GERALDINE BARNES  
In North Halton many of you have the drive and expertise to effect change, by reading, writing, lobbying and generally participating fully in our democratic society.

About 20 per cent of Canadian citizens do not enjoy that privilege. They suffer from a hidden malady called illiteracy. They can not read or write in English or French, and 70 per cent of these people were born in Canada. Approximately 45 per cent of these non-readers are under 45 years - potentially the most productive period in their lives.

In this country, we define a person as functionally illiterate, if he or she is over 16 years, and has Grade 8 schooling or less.

The reasons for illiteracy are many, and people advance many theories, from lack of reading readiness, to dislike of school, indifferent parents or teachers or maybe because a family is constantly moving.

The reasons aren't that important - it's the toll this lack of reading and writing ability is taking in people's lives. Professor Desmond Morton, educator at Erindale College says "to be illiterate in a Third World country is to be a victim of a past oppression. To be illiterate in Canada is to be labelled - brutally - a failure."

## Legion's greetings

By J.T. HAYES  
Branch 120 PRO

Fellow members of Branch 120, as the festive season is rapidly approaching, I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of the president, Hank Russell, to wish you all the best for yourselves and your families at Christmas and in the coming year.

Just a reminder, the branch will be closing at 6 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 24 to enable us all to enjoy Christmas Eve.

FRIDAY NIGHT EUCRE: Dec. 16 Ladies: First - Ivy King; 2nd - Myrtle Zilio. Gents: First - Chuck Tutty; 2nd - Rod King.

CAR CLUB: The halftime draw held on Dec. 15 gave the following paid-up members \$150 each: 89 B. Marchand, 128 J. Cairns, 451 R. Fendley, 175 N. Porter, 142 A. Lawr and 457 B. McMenemy.

Lucky winners in this week's meat draw were: Dave Burke, Mac McLean, Bruce Collins, Buster Hale, Frank Nicholson, Bea Clark, Eric Clarke, Dave Bell, Nancy Yates, Keith Tost, Red Roshier. The roast was won by Mom Clark, the bonus draw turkey went to Ken Nash, and the Christmas cake to Mike Reed.

New Year's tickets are still available at the bar.

## Car demolished in accident

A car driving westbound on Halton Road 42 near Erin was demolished when it swerved to avoid a truck Thursday afternoon. Halton Regional Police say a 1985 Toyota Tercel driven by a Toronto woman, 61, made a half-turn to the right to avoid an oncoming truck, went out of control, drove off the roadside bank, and flipped over on its roof. The woman received minor injuries in the incident, and was treated and released from Georgetown and District Memorial Hospital. The driver has been

charged under the Highway Traffic Act.

Simon Fraser  
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT

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barriers to self advancement.

Keeping up appearances, and hiding one's lack of reading skills from co-workers, friends and even one's children is a big strain, and it's a tribute to these non-readers' creativity and ingenuity that they get by in their fashion. Many of them are intelligent, and use their initiative and strategies to survive. For example - they "lose" their glasses" when asked to read or fill out an application form, or they ask the manpower clerk for help or permission to bring the form home.

Ads in the newspaper are a real challenge and so is filling out an application for a driver's licence. They cope with travel on the bus or subway by learning the landmarks en route or counting the subway stops to their destination.

They shop by recalling the color, shape and size of the product on the shelf. These memory tricks work out well - most of the time - unless the merchandise becomes switched and a lethal item is substituted on the same spot as the familiar purchase.

On that horrific topic, many illiterate mothers run dreadful risks at home, when they can't read the label or instructions on how to deal with accidents, fire hazards or

medications for their children. Adults who have profited from literacy programs say reading is a freedom that opens up new worlds to them. They learn how to apply for a better job or a driver's licence, they understand the voting process. They can also write a cheque, read a grocery list or a menu, listen to and help their children read. Understanding the printed words allows them to catch up on sports news, or what's happening on the soaps or what the horoscopes say. Some learn to write a letter to a relative or friend on either coast. "It's cheaper mailing a letter, when the service works, than paying Ma Bell."

In North Halton, we reflect the national statistics with one in five residents being functionally illiterate, and to help alleviate this situation, the North Halton Literacy Guild was formed in 1986. We service the areas of Acton, Milton and Georgetown. Our office has two staff members who co-ordinate our many valuable volunteers. Our hours of operation are Monday to Thursday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. In Georgetown call 873-2290, in Milton call 876-4756.

We hope to establish an ongoing rapport with our community on a regular basis through this column.



## Film Clip

It wasn't your traditional ribbon cutting, when Halton Hills Mayor Russ Miller (centre) took the scissors to a reel of film to mark the opening of the Video Ranch in

Moore Park Plaza. Muriel and Ed Shames opened the unique video rental and do-it-yourself editing shop last week in Georgetown. (Herald photo)

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Back Row (L to R): Jane, Cheryl, Heather and Jennifer  
Front Row (L to R): Lynda, Elizabeth, Angie and Evelyn  
Absent from photo: Janet and Carole

Best Wishes from the staff at Elizabeth's and One Step Ahead. Thank you for your patronage during 1988. We look forward to seeing you in 1989.

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