

SPORTA SALES LTD.
853-2030

Check out our free Lifetime Service Guarantee

Lifetime Service Guarantee

the HERALD

Home Newspaper of Halton Hills — Established 1866

HALTON HILLS, ONTARIO

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 28, 1988

4 Sections, 34 Pages

FREE DISTRIBUTION

OPEN 10-10. 7 DAYS A WEEK



49 EASTERN AVE., ACTON (513) 852-1821
It's Worth the Drive to Acton!

THE HILLS

No new arrival for Christmas

Halton Hills is without an official Christmas Baby this year. An official at Georgetown and District Memorial Hospital reported all was quiet "on the maternity front" over Christmas. Last year, Nicholas Herbert Hulme arrived at 2:59 p.m. on Christmas Day, quite a present for parents Lynn and Herb. The watch now begins to see who Halton Hills' New Year's Baby will be.

Fees upped

Beginning January 1989, the Credit Valley Conservation Authority will increase its solicitor/agent inquiry fees to \$30 per inquiry, an increase of \$5. The Authority implemented the solicitor/agent fee in 1987 and since that time inquiries have increased 27... Approximately 900 inquiries were processed in 1988. Solicitors/agents request from the Authority written responses to inquiries regarding Authority land use policies and regulations that may affect a specific property. The charging of this fee has enabled the Authority to defer associated staff costs.

Man injured

Fire officials were called to free a Georgetown man, 24, from a demolished 1987 Ford Mustang, Saturday afternoon, after the car hit a pole and a fence. Halton Regional Police say the vehicle was southbound on Ninth Line near Sideroad 10 when it went out of control in the slushy conditions, left the road, hit a pole and went through a farmer's fence. The man was admitted to Peel Memorial Hospital where he is in satisfactory condition. Police say careless driving charges are pending.

Police find wide misuse of 911 service

With the high-tech introduction of the 911 emergency number in Halton Region, area police are finding the number is abused by 45 to 50 per cent of callers. The 911 exchange was introduced in Halton in 1985. Since then, people have stopped dialling 878-5511 for lesser emergencies, says Halton Regional Police Communications Officer, Bill Patterson. "Everybody has a different definition of what an emergency is," he said. "We get many excuses as to why the proper number is not used." Excuses range from people losing phonebooks, to imagining that a broken fridge is an emergency, said Sgt. Patterson. The sergeant gave a clear example of the difference between an emergency and a non-emergency. If someone witnesses a hit-and-run accident and wants to report it, it is an emergency. If someone's car is struck by an unknown driver, the regular police number should be called. "The trail's a little cool, right at that time," said Sgt. Patterson, referring to a suspect who has left the scene of the hit-and-run. But aside from the regular demands on the police time, the 911 number is inundated with calls during town emergencies, such as blackouts, he said. "If you get a power failure, the boards light up like a Christmas tree." The massive power failure that hit Mississauga, Georgetown, Brampton and parts of Acton two weeks ago was a good example. While police have no more information on the hydro black out than the general public, they must answer calls from concerned residents. At the police station in Georgetown's 11 Division, officers tuned to the radio to learn the status of Halton Hills hydro power, said a

station employee. But the public has improved since 911 was first introduced, says Sgt. Patterson. Once people got "educated" about what constitutes an emergency, things improved, he said. The reasons 911 is so often used are its accessibility (it's written in bold letters across police cruisers) and the public's "laziness" said Sgt. Patterson. But with education, and time, the system improves, he said. "Our system's a little more mature (than Peel) but it goes up and down." Peel Regional Police say they are receiving 25 per cent valid emergency calls versus 75 per cent non-emergency calls on their 911 line, new to the Region in 1988. When 911 is dialed, the call comes into the answering bureau at the Halton Regional Police Department. The area of the call is determined and police and ambulance are contacted. "We get the call through, and let the fire department worry about the jurisdictions of the 911 officer," said Sgt. Patterson. The 911 number in Halton receives 7,000 to 10,000 calls per week, for the police, fire department and ambulance crew. Then calls are transferred to an outside agency. Of the 302,400 calls received on the line in 1987, a total of 9,800 went to the fire department and ambulance service, said Sgt. Patterson. Although the 911 number is useful, and is plainly displayed on police cruisers and in the front of the local telephone book in large numbers, police cruisers will sport the 878-5511 numbers once again to persuade people to call. "You pick up the phonebook and the first thing you see is 911 - police, fire, ambulance," said Sgt. Patterson. "I don't know how people found us before we went to 911."



True Christmas Spirit

A choir festival at the Knox Presbyterian Church raised just over \$200 Dec. 19. The Georgetown Choral Society gathered with choirs from many of the other churches in Georgetown for the Christmas carol festival. Here, Ian Oldaker, president of the Choral Society, presents a

Businesses adhere to holiday laws

Halton Regional Police weren't as busy Monday as their Toronto counterparts were, cracking down on store owners who opened illegally. Businesses in Halton Hills observed the Boxing Day holiday, and enjoyed the day at home. But at the Old Hide House in Acton, it was somewhat of a different story. The Old Hide House is licensed under a tourist exemption to open Sundays and holidays. They sold "coats, coats and more coats," said General Manager Steve Dawkins. The Old Hide House was "up over 50 per cent (in sales) over last year." The 33,000-square foot facility, which includes a restaurant and a mezzanine, attracted shoppers from far away, including south of the Canadian border. "There were Pennsylvania plates, New York plates and I saw a couple of Quebec plates," said Mr. Dawkins. But he added that many of those American shoppers were visiting relatives in Canada. Mr. Dawkins said that up to 50 per cent of the marked price of leatherwear, including boots, gloves and accessories attracted a near-capacity crowd. When lineups became long and the store looked full around 2:30 p.m., the staff was considering "limited access," stationing a police officer at the door to control entry, and to meet fire requirements. While Metro Toronto Police spent Boxing Day issuing fines to merchants contravening the Retail Business Act, Halton Regional Police did not hand out fines in Halton Hills, say Halton Police. Other stores open the holiday Monday in Halton Hills included convenience and variety stores.

Condo owners upset by proposal

Future residents of the Sands Condominium Complex on Hall Road in Georgetown are worried about a neighboring industry's plans for an open storage area. Fred Harrison, who said he represents the 158 residents who will live in the building, says residents are objecting to a rezoning proposal which would allow Monarch Resources Recovery and Transfer Ltd. on Armstrong Avenue to store scrap metals. "We're very, very concerned about open storage." "We didn't just show up on the street 1 1/2 years ago. This process is old," said Mr. Harrison of the condominium. "The residents (of the Sands) are not along," said Mayor Russ Miller. "There are other objections from another industry." The proposal for rezoning will come before council with a staff recommendation Jan. 9.

RIDE hits the mark

Police help keep holiday roads safe

Fewer impaired drivers spotted

Lights are flashing red, and an arm holding a lit orange wand beckons you, but there's no need to be afraid. These guys are on your side. The reason to stop is RIDE (Reduce Impaired Driving Everywhere) and it's Halton Regional Police's way of trying to cut down on traffic fatalities caused by drunk driving. Staff Sgt. Roy Smith delivers some blood-curdling statistics. Of the 21 traffic fatalities in Halton over the last year, half were caused by alcohol-related accidents. RIDE, the program introduced to Halton residents in 1985, is working

against some tough odds. But people appreciate what "the boys and girls in blue" are doing. "We hear from the public that the program is working," says Const. Dorothy Kosciuch from Georgetown's 11 Division. "The RIDE program is getting a familiar name." And Regional Traffic Division Const. Blair Vintinner says the key to RIDE's success is visibility. We want to let everyone know we're out there. He added that some people enjoy being stopped by police for the RIDE spot check. "Now people are saying 'glad to see you out there. You're do-

ing a good job." Being "out there" for police means braving sub-zero temperatures, chasing down cars that don't stop for RIDE's flashing lights, and peering into cars carrying ferocious-looking dogs.

But police seem undeterred. They continue to smile, say "Merry Christmas. Have you had anything to drink tonight." If that question gets a "yes" answer, the questions to follow would be "at what time" and "how much."

If police suspect an impaired driver, it's often of the classic symptoms, there is almost always an odor of alcohol, and the driver will likely have red eyes and could have slurred speech, say police. The RIDE officer will stick his head into the window, close to the driver, examining his condition as the two chat. If the driver seems impaired, he will be taken to the RIDE van, where he will receive the ALERT, the Alcohol-Level Early Road Test.

The device will tell police if a person is impaired by use of a PASS, WARN and FAIL system. PASS gets a green light, and the driver is allowed to drive home. WARN gets a yellow light, and a 12-hour suspension is issued. The driver must surrender his keys to a sober licensed passenger, or park his car for the evening until the suspension has passed.

FAIL means the driver has over 80 mg. of alcohol in his bloodstream. At this point, the driver is taken to the local police station where a breathalyzer test is given. Refusing to take the test is the equivalent of being determined over the legal limit, say police.

But Halton Hills hasn't charged many impaired drivers during the RIDE blitz this past week. In North Halton (Milton, Georgetown and Acton) 140 vehicles were pulled over Wednesday night. Seven were issued warnings, but police did not use the

ALERT system. Further south in the Region on the same night, 237 cars were stopped in Oakville, and 22 warnings were issued. There were six ALERTS given, but all drivers passed. In Burlington on the same night, 1,827 cars were stopped, 28 warnings were given, three charges were laid under the Highway Traffic Act and seven ALERTS were given, with all drivers passing.

Could it be that people aren't doing as much drinking and driving. "There are more designated drivers," said Const. Vintinner, but he added that figures are up for alcohol-related fatal accidents.

In October, 17 year old Shawn McNeil, from Baillinafad, was struck and killed. Police say the youth was turning at the intersection of Guelph Street and Mountainview Road when his motorcycle was struck by a 1984 Chevrolet Pick-up. A Mississauga man, 26, was charged with impaired driving causing death, two other impaired driving related charges and one count of failing to remain at the scene of an accident.

A single-car collision last week left 20 year old Neil Diaz, of Georgetown, in critical condition at Sunnybrook Hospital. Police say the Georgetown man, a passenger in a 1987 Ford Escort, travelling northbound, on Trafalgar Road near Highway 7, Dec. 18, received major injuries when the car went out of control on a curve, and struck a hydro pole and a tree. The driver, a Georgetown woman, 42, was admitted to Georgetown and District Memorial Hospital and treated for major injuries. She was released from hospital Dec. 19. Impaired driving-related charges against the driver are pending, police say.

Halton Police's RIDE program will continue with daily spot checks through December. Then RIDE will have year-round, random checks at various locations throughout the region.

"We wish to object to the change of this zoning, since some of our units will be looking on this site and we think it will be detrimental to our units, having scrap metal and salvage in our backyards." Mr. Harrison said in a letter to the town. "We're concerned about noise, cranes and two or three shift opera-

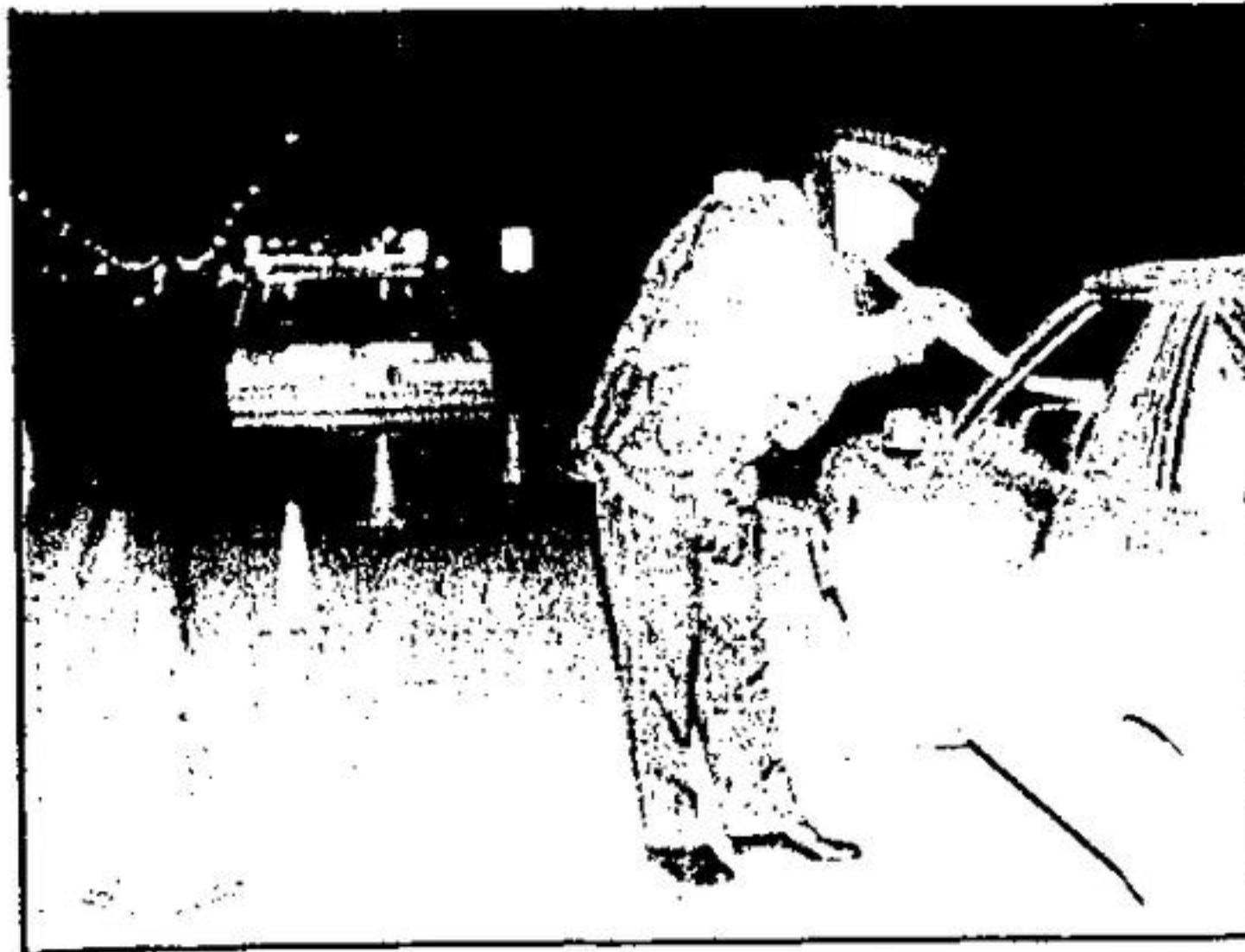
Ring in the new

Friends and neighbors will be gathering at two locations in Halton Hills to help ring in the new year on Saturday. In Georgetown residents are invited to Knox Presbyterian Church once again this year. The bell ringing ceremony at Knox Church is now into its seventh year, according to organizer Marilyn Serjeantson. Hot chocolate and apple cider will greet chilly midnight watchers outside Knox Church. About 300 balloons will be distributed throughout the crowd and on the stroke of midnight, the balloons will be released. Georgetown Citizen of the Year, Ted Gorth, will ring the bell in the belfry of Knox Church following a countdown to midnight.

About 150 people gathered outside the church last year. Many revellers walk to and from the bell ringing ceremony, said Mrs. Serjeantson. Acton ceremonies will take place at the old town hall. Organizer Gerald Rennie plans to have Acton Citizen of the Year, Don Dawkins, ring the bell at the town hall at the stroke of midnight following a countdown. Hot chocolate and balloons will



also be distributed at the Acton celebration. After Mr. Dawkins rings the bell, anyone who wants to give it a try can line up and ring in the new year personally, said Mr. Rennie. He expects people to begin showing up at the old town hall around 11:30 p.m. Last year, between 75 and 100 people took part in the Acton ceremony.



Halton Regional Police have set up RIDE spot checks throughout North Halton during the holiday season. The RIDE program, introduced to the Region in 1985, is intended to Reduce Impaired Driving Everywhere, now, and during the rest of the year. (Herald photo)

1988 *Happy New Year* 1989