



Letters to Santa
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Merry Christmas



Aiming for tournament heights
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Shops closed on Christmas Eve

By BEN DUMMETT and DONNA KELL
the Herald

If you thought you could finish your Christmas shopping in town Sunday, think again. Most retail stores in Halton Hills will close their doors this Christmas eve.

Many Georgetown merchants say they will follow the provincial

Retail, Business Holidays Act that won't allow Sunday opening.

Under the act, convenience stores can open on Sundays and statutory holidays.

Wayne Luedtke, spokesman for the Committee for Fair Shopping, which includes A and P and Dominion, Loblaws Supermarkets Ltd., Miracle Food Mart and the

Oshawa Group Ltd., said A and P, Miracle Food Mart and Loblaws, all on Guelph Street in Georgetown, will close this Sunday.

"We are closing our stores to give our employees a three-day Christmas break," he said Thursday. "We intend to open again the following Sunday."

The two Canadian Tire Corporation stores in Halton Hills will also shut their doors Christmas eve.

"I hope I never have to open on a Sunday," Russ Hare, manager of Georgetown Canadian Tire said. Don Gordon, manager of Acton Canadian Tire said he "definitely" won't open Sunday.

Zeller's on Guelph Street, one of

the stores under the Hudson Bay Co umbrella - the corporation that recently appealed to Halton Region to permit the stores Sunday exemptions - won't be open Sunday, manager Rick Mundy said.

Stedman's Department Store in Acton will close Christmas eve because employees refuse to work the holiday, store floor manager Chris Lynds said. "No one wanted to (work)," she said.

Stedman's, although previously open Sunday, is within its legal right to open, the manager said.

Some store owners closing in downtown Georgetown tomorrow would rather be open.

Cachet owner Barbara Cooke said she'll be closed but "I'm a private retailer, I should be able to open when I want," she says.

Jim Goodlet of Goodlet's on Main Street said, "I never want to open Sunday and I never will."

For those looking for those Christmas low prices, Bargain Harold's Discount will be closed Sunday despite rumors that the stores would open.

"We've made the decision across the province that our stores will be closed," company spokesman Bernie Nigalis said.

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Man 'grabbed by throat' car, wallet is stolen

Brampton resident Jose Pereisa, 48, was grabbed by the throat and then had his wallet and 1978 Chevrolet stolen outside a Lynden Circle residence in Georgetown Wednesday morning.

Mr. Pereisa was uninjured. Halton Regional Police are looking for a 23-year-old white male who, at the time of the incident, was wearing a beige coat and blue jeans. The assault occurred at 3:18 a.m.

The two men met in a Brampton hotel earlier in the evening. Mr. Pereisa drove the suspect to the Lynden Circle residence under the pretext that the suspect was going to show him a house that was for sale. But when the two arrived, the suspect grabbed Mr. Pereisa by the throat and demanded Mr. Pereisa's wallet. The suspect then told Mr. Pereisa to get out of the car. The suspect then fled in the car.

Police later found the car abandoned in Norval. They believe the suspect took a taxi to somewhere in Peel Region.



Remember! Santa likes milk and cookies

These two girls had a long list for Santa Claus when he came to visit the McGibbon Hotel last weekend for a Business Improvement Area breakfast with Santa. Heather MacArthur, 3, and Stephanie Virag, 4, of Georgetown nestle into Santa's lap to talk about dolls, toys and all

the treats they want to see under the Christmas tree Monday morning. Today is the last day for Christmas shopping in Georgetown and Acton - most stores will be closed for the holiday. (Herald photo by Donna Kell)