

Editorial

Shop at home this Christmas

Despite the fact Halton Hills is not blanketed with snow, the Christmas season is indeed upon us.

The Santa Claus parade in Acton two weekends ago and the 59th annual Lions Club-sponsored Georgetown Santa Claus parade held this past weekend provide physical evidence that it is indeed, "The season to be jolly."

Canada's economic woes, however, have already - and will continue - to put a damper on the Christmas season for a fair number of Halton Hills families and businesses.

Reality does tend to intrude even during the Christmas festive season when we are celebrating "Peace on earth and goodwill toward men."

Despite the hard times that are upon us, families will still attempt to put up a brave front for their loved ones and gifts will be bought and special food preparation made with loving - and sometimes expensive - care throughout the Christmas holiday season.

Similarly, in hard times, communities must pull together to weather the storm of economic uncertainty that hovers over and threatens all of us.

Halton Hills Herald columnist John Sommer, in his column in the Arts and Ideas section of today's paper, extols the virtues and the virtual plethora of gifts and bargains available in Georgetown's downtown shopping core.

It is obvious from his prose that Mr. Sommer is indeed community-minded and supportive of local businesses.

Let all residents of Halton Hills expand even further on Mr. Sommer's theme.

Residents of Halton Hills should adopt the slogan "Shop at home" for the 1990 Christmas season.

The main communities of Halton Hills, (Georgetown and Acton) can more than serve the needs and wants of residents in a variety of ways.

There are department stores, specialty shops, catalogue outlets, restaurants, grocery stores, various automotive dealerships - in other words, something for everyone and every taste, up to and including the most discriminating shopper.

By Christmas shopping in your own community, money earned by residents stays in the community and circulates, thereby helping to ensure that the community, as a whole, remains relatively healthy.

So by all means, enjoy your Christmas.

But give some thought to the health of your community by "Shopping at home" this Christmas festive season.

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People's Forum

Letter of the Week Seniors take exception

Dear Editor,
On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Georgetown and District Seniors' Association I take exception to the headline and the tone of the content of "Ben's Banter" in your issue dated Nov. 14th. I accept that you have the right to call things as you see them but the community would be better served if you were more positive and less negative in your comments.
Surely there is enough negativism in the world particularly at this time. We badly need good up-beat leadership from our politicians and the media. Instead of highlighting the reasons why things can't be done, the media would perform more usefully by seeing opportunities to promote ideas for overcoming difficulties to achieve positive and beneficial results for our community.
Our Board has provided the Herald with a paper entitled "Facing the Facts"; surely the

Herald can pull out of that something more positive than what Ben had to say.
Association representatives have had their first formal meeting with Councillors on a joint committee. It was amicable and positive. Of course it takes time to get results but they will be made public as the work of the committee progresses.
The Association has put together a great deal of information on the establishment and operation of senior centres. It has 800 members, \$20,000.00 in the bank, plans for the physical needs of a seniors centre and planning in progress for an up-graded financial campaign.
We are very positive in our attitude to the task we have set ourselves and we'd like this to be known and also that we are working for the whole community, not just ourselves.
W.L. Mellish,
President, Georgetown and District Seniors Association.

Student responds to professor

Dear Editor:
I would like to respond to Carole Lusby's Letter to the Editor on my November 14th article on "Adjusting to University Life," as not only was I taken out of context, but the purpose of writing it has seemed to have misled her.
Never did I write in the article, as Ms. Lusby suggests, that it was the responsibility of the teacher to make sure that University students get their homework done. I even made a point of writing that they can't be expected to because there's just too many students.
I also never suggested or even hinted that I felt test dates or essay deadlines were unfair. I simply wrote that "professors might move a test date now and then or grant extensions on essay due-dates, but that is a rarity." And it is a rarity. Unless a change is made to the course outline in the first week or two of classes, extensions or the moving of test dates doesn't happen all that often.
And I'm glad it doesn't, because I am one of these people that Ms. Lusby writes "have planned their time carefully in order to complete the assignment to meet the due date."
I'm glad Ms. Lusby finds it interesting that my University life could be summed-up by an incident in my first year where a teacher threw a coffee lid into a desk.

However, she must remember that I was relating this incident to the differences I was trying to point out from high school. I apologize if she feels that I was stereotyping teachers - and I congratulate her for taking the effort to memorize 160 names of her pupils.
However, I don't feel I was wrong because I wasn't just talking about Ryerson (which has a great deal of smaller classes), but Universities all over. Try and tell me that teachers at Brock, Queens, and the University of Toronto try to memorize the names of 200 students in one class alone, and I'll be laughing.
It is correct that I wrote teachers "just teach the lesson and go back to his office or home." But I am once again taken out of context when you don't add the next line, that teachers will "answer your questions, address your concerns with

the curriculum and even set up appointments to discuss essays or problems, but after that it's all up to you." And it is.
Some Ryerson professors are women, as I failed to point out. Sorry. I guess by the '90s, some women are not used to the accidental generalization given to males in some professions. I meant no offense.
The sole purpose of my article in the GDHS section of the Herald newspaper was to give some kind of insight to students on what they can expect in University. It's too bad that Ms. Lusby didn't look at it that way and took it as a personal attack on the teachers at Ryerson.
This is something I would never do because I respect a great many of them, and even admire a few.
Sincerely,
Garry J. Murdock,
Student, Ryerson Polytechnical Institute, Toronto.

Write us a letter!

The Herald wants to hear from you. If you have an opinion you want to express or a comment to make, send us a letter or drop by the office. Our address is 45 Guelph St., Georgetown, Ont., L7G 3Z6.
All letters must be signed. Please include your address and telephone number for verification.
The Herald reserves the right to edit letters due to space limitations or libel.

Snobbery!

Dear Editor:
Smokers can do without John Sommer's help. His ideas wreak of snobbery. He states, "Today, only the poor smoke and those who disregard their health."
If smoking would still be a

habit of the upper classes nobody would dare to attack them!
How offensive! I can't believe this is the voice of "ideas and arts" in Halton Hills.
Jane Gadoutsis,
Glen Williams.