

# Opinion

**Halton Hills THIS WEEK**

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**PUBLISHER: Ken Bellamy**

**EDITOR: Colin Gibson**

**OFFICE MANAGER: Jean Shewell**

**CIRCULATION MANAGER: Marie Shadbolt**

**HALTON HILLS THIS WEEK IS INDEPENDENTLY OWNED & OPERATED.**

**PHONE: 873-2254**

**FAX: 873-3918**

## Merry Christmas to everyone

Merry Christmas to you, Merry Christmas to you, Merry Christmas, Merry Christmas, Merry Christmas to...oo..oo you.

There! It's out! Now if the thought police don't swoop down on Halton Hills in the next little while, you may be able to read this column.

If you don't hear from me next week, it will be because these afore-mentioned thought police, in conjunction with the politically correct army of the night, will have me in chains somewhere being forced to read a revised version of 'Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs.'

According to my sources, the revised version is entitled 'The chaperoned adventures of a young woman of indeterminate pigmentation who wanders through a forest not threatened by clear-cutting in the company of Seven Eunuchs.'

The point of this particular exercise concerns the brouhaha rapidly developing over the use of the word Christmas, in all its forms and nuances, as it pertains to our rapidly approaching visit from the jolly old fat man who will give rather than take away - obviously, not a politician.

The foofaraw started in Sudbury - of all places - when a minor minion of the Ontario NDP government released a memo declaring all icons and similar decorations having a reference to Christ in relation to the celebrations surrounding December 24, be banned from provincial government offices and similarly, never pass the politically correct lips of the homopos employed by the aforementioned government.

The crap shooters in Queen's Park (in reference to gambling, of course) were quick to disassociate themselves from the memo, but the word quickly spread like wildfire throughout the province and the philosophy was latched onto by other equally barren brains.

We are told that children in certain schools are only allowed to sing 'seasonal songs', again, with no reference to Christ, or Christmas.

Companies are having 'seasonal parties' as opposed to Christmas parties so as not to offend religious minorities.

Christmas trees are to be referred to as 'holiday' or 'seasonal' trees and the break we get from work is to be referred to as time off to enjoy the 'winter festival'.

There is word that some twit at a Toronto Y.M.C.A. hostel attempted to invoke the same ban until someone pointed out that the letters of the organization stood for Young Mens Christian Association.

This for me, comes very close to being the final straw.

I am a Christian, although not a practicing one, and according to the latest figures from Statistics Canada, Christianity is the faith of upwards of 70 per cent of the Canadian population.

I am expected - nay ordered - to respect the faiths and accouterments of Jews, Muslims, Buddhists et. al. and expected to go quietly into the night when it comes to those who would deny me similar rights in terms of my own Christian beliefs.

Not bloody likely. Despite the fact Christmas has become overly commercialized, it is celebrated as a mass to the birth of Christ and the Christian religion.

The Three Wise Men, the Nativity scene, the manger, the hovering angels are all part of the culture of Christianity. The birth of Christ also represents a rebirth of hope in mankind.

Just as we cannot, and should not, denigrate any aspect of other religions, the same sort of respect should be shown to those of the Christian faith.

Christmas celebrations are also part of Canadiana. As the story goes, the Christmas tree was first introduced to Canada in 1781, in Sorel Quebec, by a German immigrant, Baron Frederick von Riedesel. The tree is reputed to have been a balsam fir and was decorated with white candles. The giving of gifts is also representative of the gifts given to Christ on his birth.

Perhaps I am being politically incorrect. Tough pine cones!

Merry Christmas, everyone.

Colin Gibson

## The People's Corner It's time to end bank gouging!

**To the Editor:**

New government legislation tabled at Queen's Park earlier this year requires

publicly traded companies to disclose the amounts that are paid to their upper management, directors and chief

executive officers. One of the first disclosures was the banking sector.

credit card interest rates which have come down only recently due to public pressure. None of us can escape the money-grabbing services charges that although seem small, add up to millions in bank profits and allow these exorbitant wages.

Banks have shown huge profits during recessionary times and it's coming at our expense. Only a strong collective public outcry to such greed will put an end to this gouging.

Stuart Eckert  
Georgetown

## A fond farewell

**To the Editor:**

Dear Halton Hills Friends:

After a lengthy maternity

leave, a leave of absence and much consideration, I have decided to stay at home full-time with my family.

Since September of 1984, I have met and worked with many people in the Town of Halton Hills in my position as Recreation Supervisor for the Halton Hills Recreation and Parks Department.

I will not name everyone because, inevitably, someone would be missed, but you know who you are; from Seniors to Summer Program staff, participants and parents; along with the Special Needs Drop-In Program; all part-time staff and my fellow colleagues both inside and outside of the Department; the Mayor and Members of Council; those Special Service Clubs; the newspaper reporters; all who work diligently to make Halton Hills a better place to live; and of course, to the friends I met through my association with the town; you were a pleasure to work with and know and I will miss you all.

Thank you for your support and friendship.  
**Debbie Miethig**  
Past Supervisor of  
Community Programs  
Halton Hills Recreation  
and Parks Department

## Support appreciated

**To the Editor:**

I would like to thank the Georgetown Marketplace and the local merchants who allowed #676 Royal Canadian (Army) Cadets Corps to hold their tag weekend on their premises the weekend of Nov. 25 - 28. Without their community spirit and cooperation, events like this would be most difficult to achieve.

Also a big thank you to all the people of Georgetown for their generosity. All donations are used strictly for the benefit of the cadets.

We are able to take more recruits on our Spring Training Program. Young people, male/female over the age of 12 who are looking to put some challenge and adventure in their lives are always welcome. Get fit, meet new friends, it's fun - it's free.

Come to the Georgetown Armoury, #1 Park Street on Wednesday, Jan. 5 at 7 p.m. or phone 877-4215 for further information.

**Captain J.H. Harrison,**  
CD  
Commanding Officer  
Georgetown

## Got a beef or a comment?

Halton Hills This Week welcomes your letters. Letters must be signed and include your full name and address. Names will be withheld on request. Halton Hills This Week reserves the right to edit, revise, or reject any letters on the basis of factual errors, punctuation, spelling errors or as a result of space limitations. Opinions expressed in letters to the editor are not necessarily those of Halton Hills This Week or its employees.

Send your letters to:

The Editor,  
Halton Hills This Week,  
232 Guelph St., Unit 9,  
Georgetown, ON,  
L7G 4B1  
or fax to:  
905-873-3918

## Conservation is the key

**To the Editor:**

After hearing Paul Muldoon of Pollution Probe speak on the Great Lakes at P.O.W.E.R.'s annual meeting, I feel compelled to put pen to paper.

He spoke about the aquifers being the life blood of the great lakes. This brings home most emphatically that we should, indeed we must, protect our water and environmental resources.

After the war when the economy was booming, although mostly on plastic cards, we became the "me" generation. We wanted it all and we wanted it now. We have already mortgaged the future of generations yet unborn. Hopefully, we have learned the error of our ways before we squander our natural resources wantonly and become a third world country.

We must rethink our lifestyle. Conservation must be the key and we must protect what we are fortunate enough to have in this beautiful country of ours.

In the great span of time when each generation is only here for a short time, it would help if we think of ourselves as stewards or caretakers of the environment for future generations as we are grateful for what our forefathers have done for our benefit.

My husband and I are senior citizens and have lived long enough to have seen many changes in our lifetime. We realize the importance of the aquifers in the limestone formation under the Niagara Escarpment and hopefully, the powers that be will too.

**Marjorie Kirkwood**  
Acton



## Hospital tree lighting

Jean Gravelle, an employee at Georgetown and District Memorial Hospital, and her husband Phil, joined in carol singing last Thursday at the tree-lighting ceremony at the hospital, part of a fundraising program to purchase an electrocardiograph (ECG) machine.

photo by Simon Wilson/HHTW