

# GRAPE VINE

fax (905) 877-3067. You can also write the Halton Hills United Way at 115 Main St. S., P.O. Box 286, Halton Hills, Ontario, L7G 4Y5.

## Actonites hit the stage

The Halton Hills Children's Chorus presentation of *A Ticket to Christmas* was a hit over the weekend with 10 Acton youngsters joining the cast of 96. The modern musical version of *The Christmas Story* delighted audiences at the John Elliott Theatre with its look back through Bible times.

The locals involved included Caitlin Lichty, Kimberley Freeland, Katie Locke, Matthew Peruscello, Rita Matton, Daryl Matton, Jessie Locke, Carly Stein, Heather Ellis and Kendra Freeland.

## St. Joe's gets paint job

If you wondered why St. Joseph's School became the site for Sunday mass on the weekend, it's because the church is undergoing a complete interior paint job.

"It was done five years ago, but was due for another painting. A lot of candles burn in the church and with the wax and smoke the walls get darkened," Father Valeriote says, adding work should finish by week's end. The colour is Italian straw (a white-cream colour).

## No Tanner next week

*The Acton Tanner* will not publish a paper next Wednesday (Dec. 27). As well, the office will be closed from Dec. 23 through to Jan. 2. You can look forward to the first issue of 1996 on Thursday, Jan. 4. Regular Wednesday publication will resume after that.

The staff wishes everyone a safe and Merry Christmas.

## Library eyes future

The Halton Hills Libraries master plan steering committee is still at the public consultation stage of a library services master plan to see how they can provide service into the next century for Acton and Georgetown. Since September, the committee has been looking at service directions and addressing issues of finance.

However, Chief Librarian Betsy Cornwall said in terms of capital, nothing will be done until the Acton Arena issue is solved.

"In terms of the Acton library, we'll have to consider whether we want to move it or improve the existing building," Betsy said. "It has its own physical problems with access. Do we want to create a library that is better located or a joint facility to save money?"

## United Way nearing goal

The Halton Hills United Way is closing in on their 1995 goal of \$210,000.

Campaign West (Acton) chair Robin Elliott last Thursday reported that 75 per cent (\$159,000) of the target had been met. While dollar-wise the industrial sector is up 39 per cent from 1994 with six new businesses on board, the residential is down \$2,000 to \$4,188.

If you were not canvassed and would like to donate to the United Way, call Kathleen at 877-3066 or



**BRASS QUINTET:** At a recent concert at Trinity United Church, the sounds of five horn players delighted everyone's ears. From left, Colin Williams and George Elliott on the cornet, Peter Wilcox on the tuba, Rebecca Drotos on the French horn and trombone player Jeff Carr. (Eve Martin photo)

# On the sixth day of Christmas

I'm still trying to find that elusive 'Christmas spirit.' Counting today (Wednesday), there are only five shopping days left 'til Christmas. I guess it's officially time to panic!

I do this to myself every year. I only have to buy for "the Bride" and always start to plan my shopping excursion around Dec. 1. Actually, I've been ahead of myself these last few years.

When the kids were small, we'd all troop out Dec. 24 to shop for Mom. I'd supervise as they all picked out their special present for her. Then, when they were satisfied, I'd start my shopping. By this time they were ornery and tired. I did as much refereeing as I did shopping. I'd usually finish about five minutes before all the stores closed.

These days things are more tranquil. I have the time to leisurely poke about the stores, looking for that one gift that piques my imagination. This year, even "the Kid" went off with her sister instead of going with me. I think I miss the old days - tranquillity can be lonely.

"The Bride," on the other hand, is right in her element. "Shop 'til you drop" has been her motto for the past several weeks. Lists have been drawn, Santa has been consulted and forests felled to produce the wrapping paper for her excursions.

I'm convinced she believes it would be a personal insult to Mr. Chargex if she left any of the credit limit unused. Such insult, she believes, would cause the credit card gods to wreak havoc upon the whole family. We won't even discuss her attitude regarding cheques.

Commercialism aside, I find it harder to develop that Christmas spirit these days. Not having little ones is certainly one cause. The sudden co-operative spirit and twinkling eyes make it easier to get into the season. There are other external factors, however, which help us become merry.

Last week, my colleague on the page opposite, the Ravishing and

## The Way I See It

With Mike O'Leary



Jovial Joanne (J.J. for short), wrote about her travels around town to see the Christmas wreaths. What a great idea that was. Having the Citizens' Band and the Baptist Puppeteers out on the street was appreciated. Hats off to Janis Fread and the BIA for arranging this.

We may not have the same windows as the Eaton's and Simpsons of old, but many of the merchants in town have outdone themselves in decorating their windows. A stroll downtown on a crisp evening, with all the Christmas decorations blazing (also courtesy of the BIA) is bound to get those Christmas juices bubbling.

Like J.J., my childhood memories are of a big city Christmas, but memories of a small town Christmas can be just as heartwarming. It's just that we parents have to be a little more imaginative and sometimes energetic. It'll be worth it though, in years to come, when J.J. hears, "Mom, do you remember when..." After all, true Christmas spirit is made - not purchased.

Over the past few years, it's almost become a tradition that some numbskull will publicly dump on our Christmas traditions. This year some chowderhead in the Brampton Courthouse banned the Salvation Army Chorus from singing carols in the building's foyer. These peabrains who do this make me furious.

The rationale is that Brampton is a multicultural city and the

Christmas carols might offend someone. What a load of reindeer droppings! It seems that some people's definition of multiculturalism is that all the world's cultures are to be respected, except those of Christians.

Christmas is the celebration of the birth of Christ, after you cut through all the tinsel and glitter. I respect other religious and cultural events. How come my own government won't respect mine? Of course, if you say that, you're a racist. So be it - at least I'm not a nincompoop like this Brampton judge. Humbug!

While we're on the topic, I think we should all boycott stores that display "X-mas" or "Festive Season's Greetings" signs. Unless things changed when I wasn't looking, we're not celebrating the birth of Malcom X. "Festive season" means absolutely nothing. I'm in the retail trade and there are lot of non-Christians who are only too happy to get extra sales at Christmas. If the season is good enough to make a buck from, it's good enough to put up the correct sign. "X-mas" stores are crossed off my list. How about you?

In the end, the carols on the radio, the smiles of people on the street and the feeling of goodwill shall prevail. We'll throw some loonies in the Sally Ann kettle, hum *Silent Night*, and step off the working treadmill for a while.

The message of the Christ child has always been one of love, peace and justice for all. That is my wish for you this Christmas.

May you find joy in the delighted smile of a child, warmth in the loving eyes of your family, and a happy and prosperous new year. Merry Christmas to all.

Even water-skiers!

# HEY!

What is your Christmas wish?



"Peace of mind for all I know. Somebody is always suffering at this time of year and I think that is sad. I hope everyone gets through the holidays. It's easier said than done."

Beryl Bennett, Elmore Drive



"I wish peace and good health for my wife Susan and I, our families and friends."

Olev Richling, Blooms Away co-owner



"My brother-in-law has just left for Bosnia on a six-month term of peace making, so I wish for peace there and hope it holds. My thoughts will be with him this Christmas. Other than that, maybe a million dollars."

Victoria Rithey, Rockwood



"I'm just moving into Acton, so I hope to make new friends within the town."

Kathy Kropf, Trillium Terrace

## Same time last year ...

M & M Sports Pro Shop and skate-sharpening facility allowed to stay in Acton arena ... Andy Katsilieris, owner of Andy's Restaurant, organizes February winter carnival days for Acton schools ... Toronto resident Jack Hernick offers to take seniors sailing on Fairy Lake aboard his own 18-foot yacht.