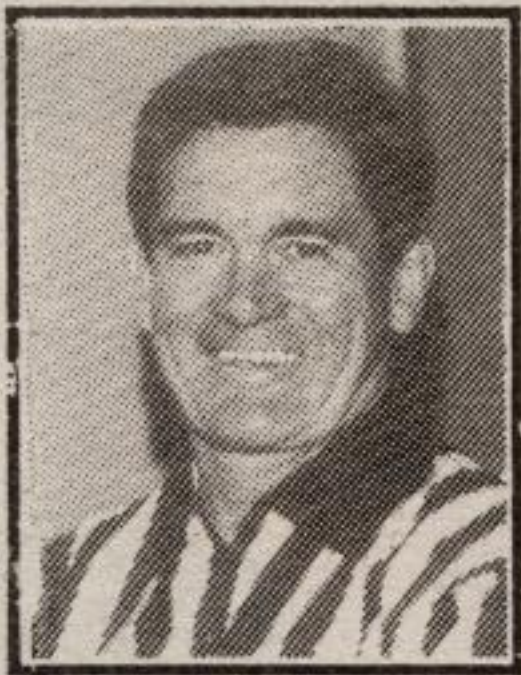


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Shopping in the Caribbean — A real deal!

Why are prices so great in duty-free Caribbean island jewellery, perfume and liquor stores — it's because there are no sales taxes, import duties or government tariffs. The economy of the islands is based on tourism and all sales made are a benefit to the economy. The local governments generate funds by way of taxing the people who sell the goods.

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Turks and Caicos is fast becoming a popular destination for Canadians, some to reside, although I'm sure they want to keep their island a secret! Some of the finest beaches in all the Caribbean, a top diving area, a championship golf course and fine weather — what more could one ask! Sandals Resorts has seen the light and has purchased the Royal Bay Resort and Villas in Provo. The chain will spend \$7 million U.S. "Sandalizing" it to bring their total to 11 popular dream holiday locations in five countries.

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The all-inclusive vacation package is "the way to go" for us Canadian holidayers! The security of a no-surprise holiday is more appealing than ever, including for some three or four day junkets. Signature Vacations has more than 70 properties to offer with the full ride! Diamond Sunset Bay Resort in Nuevo Vallarta, Mexico, is typical of these — we tried the location out over New Year's and found everything about it to be exceptional!

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Ever been to Mirabel Airport in Montreal, often referred to as the major joke of Canadian aviation? Unless you are on a charter, or travelling as cargo, you won't get there in the future! One of the first monster airports built (in 1975), it has cost Canadian taxpayers some \$6 billion. It is soon likely to be relegated to only this service as it is not feasible for regular schedule carriers. On our first visit there it was like seeing a whole town under one roof — but deserted! Remember when plans were in place for a similar airport northeast of Toronto some years ago...

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Your professional travel agency likely has a video of the place you want to travel to, or the cruise ship you want to set sail on. If not, then they can get one — a good way to get a feel of that next venture — give them a call or better still, drop in and pick one up!

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MP urges seniors to renew pensions

Guelph-Wellington MP Brenda Chamberlain wants to remind seniors eligible for Guaranteed Income Supplement and Spouse's Allowance to renew their applications before March 31.

"Seniors who receive either of the supplements must renew each year. Regrettably, some forget and their benefits are reduced when they receive their April cheque, and it does take some time before the situation is corrected," Chamberlain said. "By renewing before March 31, seniors are guaranteed this extra protection will continue."

In Canada, 40 per cent of all pensioners receive the GIS or SPA. These benefits are given to low-income seniors to provide additional assistance to ensure self-

sufficient living. Because they are based on income, seniors must file applications each year.

"I know how important these additional benefits are to many seniors. I urge everyone who is eligible for these benefits, or who are currently receiving them, to ensure they complete the forms. Some of our seniors may believe that the supplements are given automatically," Chamberlain said.

"These monthly benefits give those most in need added protection. I hope that everyone in our community who is eligible to receive these benefits will ensure that they renew their application."

Information can be found by calling Human Resources Canada at 1-800-277-9914.

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SINGING BOY SCOUTS!

Robert Little students and Acton Beavers J.D. Hartnagle, 6, left, and Matthew Lo Turco, 7, were decked out in their uniforms at Thursday's Junior-Primary school choir practice. They were also celebrating Scout Week. (Doug Harrison photo)

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