



**THREE WISE MEN?** Warming up at the band hall before carolling Wednesday night were Tony Verhaegen from Erin, Gerry Paton and Sims McPhedran from Acton. - Angela Tyler photo

## Acton Citizens' Band makes their annual Christmas tour

Twenty-five members of the Acton Citizens' Band continued a long-standing tradition of taking holiday music out to the community last Wednesday night with the Band's annual Christmas tour.

The Band members boarded a bus and made stops at seven Acton locations including the seniors' building on Elizabeth Drive, the Legion apartment building and the olde Hide House. At each location the Band played for about 10 minutes before moving on to the next appreciative audience.

"I guess this tradition was started 56 years ago by (bandmaster) Charlie Mason," current bandmaster George Elliott explained after Wednesday's concerts, adding that the idea is to spread some holiday cheer.

"We also stopped at the corner of Church and Maria Streets to play for people there. Our oldest band member, Harvey Dewhurst, who had an operation on his knee and couldn't come out with us, also lives in that area so we were able to play for him as well," Elliott said. "We were able to play for him as well," Elliott said.

Unlike last year when a woman on Birchway Place tried to quiet the band and told them to leave her property before they woke her sleeping baby, this year's crowds were happy that the Band made the effort.

"We used to go around town and stop under a lamp post to play but this year we just stopped at public places and nobody told us to be quiet," Elliott laughed.

After a last stop at Tim Horton's the Band headed back to the Band Hall on Wallace Street for some hot chocolate and Christmas goodies and a well-deserved two week rest.

Band practices begin in the New Year and the Band is slated to play at the Acton church's community unity service on January 31. The Band is also entered in the Guelph Kiwanis festival in late February.



## Halton Business seminar

A typical new entrepreneur in Halton is between the age of 30 and 49 - and is starting a business as a sole proprietor from their home, often a consulting company in the fields of health and safety or computers.

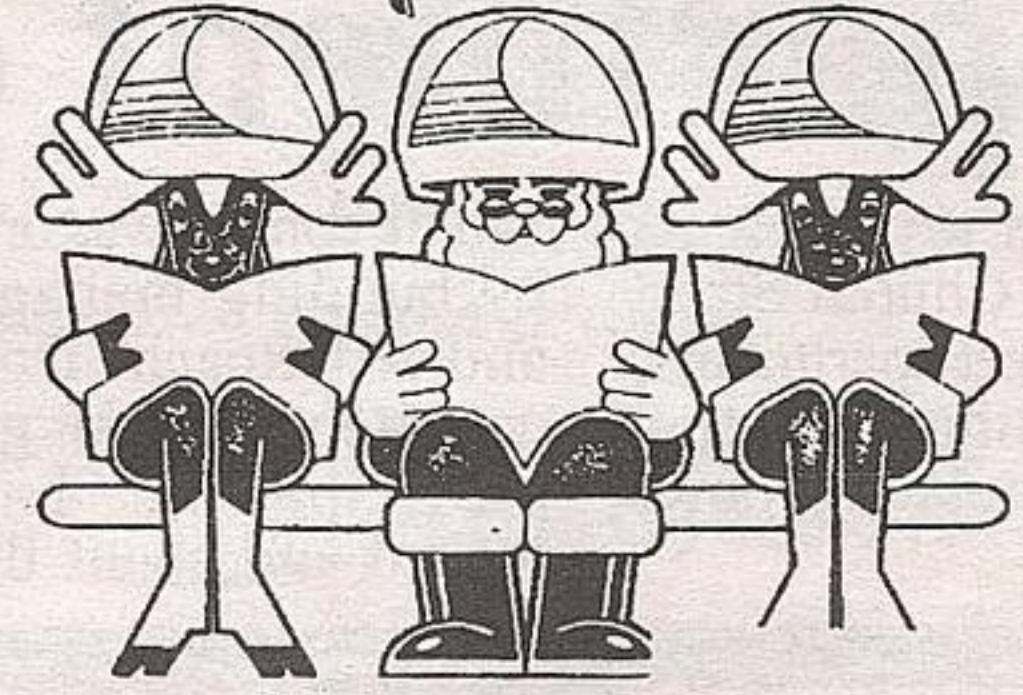
And January is the busiest month for new business registration. More than a fifth of new companies start up with the New Year, according to the Halton Business Development Centre, which registers and tracks the development of new companies.

The centre estimates the financing required to start their business is usually under \$10,000.

In 1989, Ontario statistics showed that 47 per cent of new businesses ceased to exist after three years. After five years, 80 per cent of new businesses had failed. But in 1994, new information indicated that the success rate increased dramatically when help was provided with business planning and training. This entrepreneurial incubator turned the failure rate on its head - leading to a new business success rate of 80 per cent after 10 years.

Jan. 13: What's an Entrepreneur?

Merry Christmas



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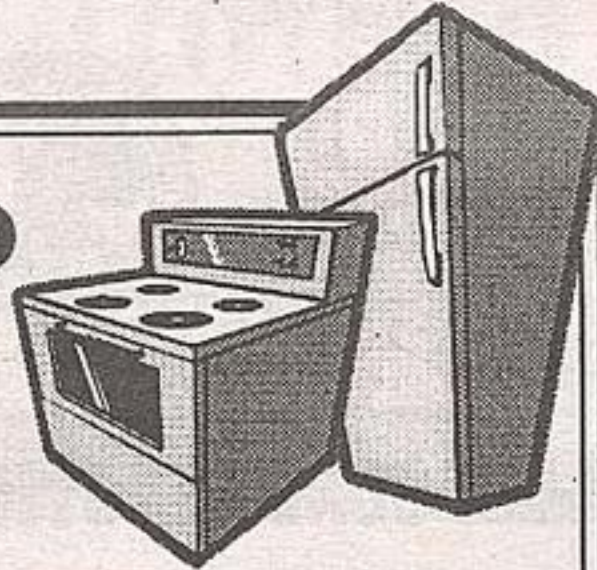


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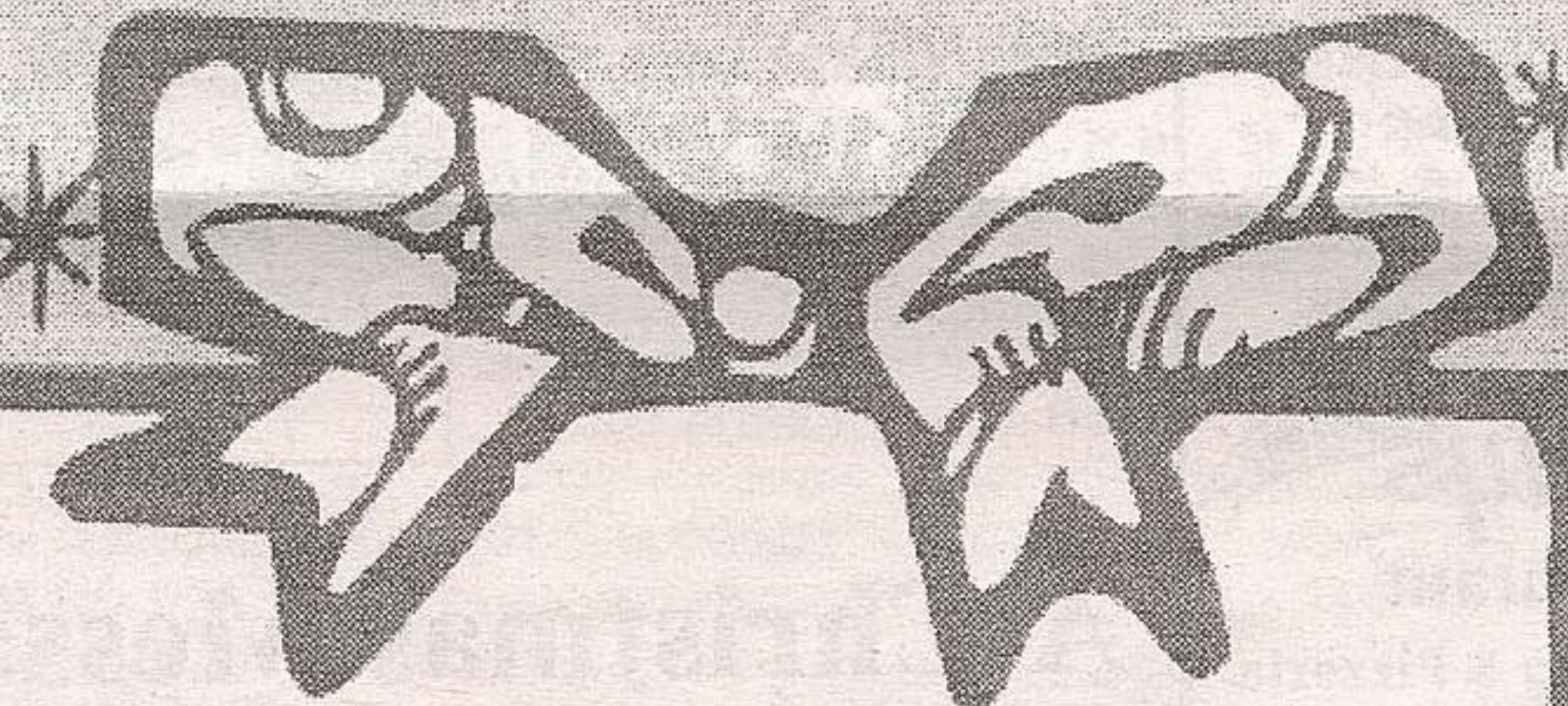


Holiday Hours:

Christmas Day - Closed  
Boxing Day - (Dec. 26th)  
Open 12 noon - 4 pm  
Closed Sunday (Dec. 27th)  
New Year's Day - Closed

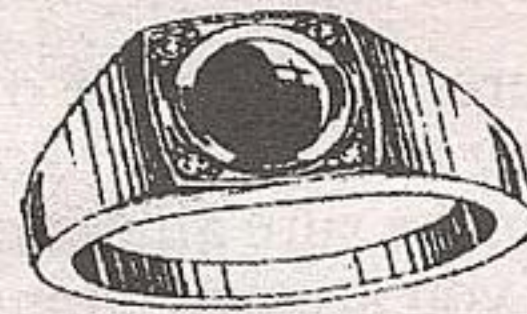
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