



First-time blood donor

GIFT OF LIFE: First-time blood donor Cathy MacSween received some encouragement and thanks from Canadian Blood Services lab assistant Elaine Power (left) and Acton blood chair Julia Roehrig and Fritz DeHaan. - Frances Niblock photo

White Christmas for Santa, he has other names too

It looks like Santa Claus will have lots of snow for his sleigh to glide on as he does his rounds on Christmas eve.

Unless an unexpected thaw blows in from the south, the weatherman expects flurries over the rest of the week leading up to the Big Day. Everyone who has been dreaming about a white Christmas will likely have their hopes realized.

The rain and thaw of last weekend washed away a lot of the snow piled up from last week's storms. However, another weather system blew in with a vengeance Sunday evening with plenty of snow to replace that lost in the above freezing weather on the weekend.

Christmas Day? Lots of snow will make it great for winter sports such as skiing, sleigh riding, tobogganing and, of course, snowmobiling. Santa? He should be resting.

To millions of children all over the world Santa Claus is a figure who fills them with joy. This legendary figure, who flies the world in his sleigh filled with toys and drops down the chimney delivering gifts to good girls and boys, is a favourite of children, no matter what country they live in.

Santa Claus, a jolly, stout man with a twinkle in his eye, rosy-red cheeks and a cheerful laugh, is an adaptation of the European legend of Saint Nicholas. He wears a bright red suit trimmed with white fur, a long red cap and shiny

black boots. In England, he wears the very same outfit, but the he's called Father Christmas.

In France, children refer to him as Pere Noel, which means Father Christmas. He wears a long red robe and white fur hat with wooden shoes. In Switzerland we see another variation on Santa. His name is Saint Nicholas, and he wears a long white robe and a tall pointed hat called a miter.

There are numerous other

counterparts of Santa Claus across the globe, including the German Kris Kringle, the Italian Befana, the Swedish Jultomten and Russia Babouschka. Though he may look a bit different and be called many names, to children of all countries his message is the same. They peek out the windows and hope to catch a glimpse of this special man as he flies through the sky, delivering gifts for boys and girls to enjoy on Christmas Day.





Wishes everyone Season's Greetings

**We will be closed from Dec 24th
Reopening Tuesday Jan 2nd/01
35 Mill St. E., Acton
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POLICE BEAT

Accident closes highway
Police continue to investigate a two-vehicle accident that put two people in hospital and closed Highway 25 between 10 and 15 Side Road at Speyside for three hours on Saturday afternoon.

Relatives report Jarrett Powell, 23, of Georgetown, has improved after being transferred to St. Michael's Hospital from the Milton hospital with serious injuries. Acton firefighters extricated him from the car which was extensively damaged.

His fiancée's son, Gavin Steeley, 2, of Georgetown, who police report was properly restrained in the back seat, was taken to the Hospital for Sick Children with serious injuries. He has been released and the driver of the second vehicle, William Stewart, 57, of Acton was not hurt.

Police report an independent witness saw Powell's 1999 Chev Cavalier stop at the stop sign on 15 Side Road at Highway 25, and proceed easterly into the intersection, coming

in collision with Stewart's southbound 1988 Chev pickup truck.

It was raining and the road was wet when the accident occurred at 12:40 p.m.

Fail to remain

No one saw a motorist hit a parked car in the slippery MacMillan's parking lot on Highway 7 west of Acton on Saturday.

A shopper told police while she was in the store her car was hit hard enough to move it in the parking space, causing only minor damage to the left rear corner.

New cops for area

Six new constables will be inducted into the Halton Regional Police Force today with a special swearing-in ceremony at force headquarters in Oakville.

Two of the six will be assigned to work out of District 1, Georgetown.

David Laus is a Toronto native living in Mississauga. After a stint with the Canadian Armed Forces and time as a provincial offences officer with the Metropolitan Toronto Housing Authority, he took his Law and Security di-

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CLOSED: Monday, Dec. 25 and Tuesday, Dec. 26

