

THE HALTON HILLS **WEEKEND**

**KEN NUGENT**  
Publisher

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## A job well done

We salute the community of Norval for putting on such a great event last weekend in the village.

The Lucy Maud Montgomery Christmas Weekend is growing annually, and this year it even drew a Japanese reporter (the Japanese are great lovers of Montgomery fiction).

And for lovers of Montgomery fiction, the weekend is a transport to the past of their favorite characters, and a celebration of this world famous author who lived for a time in Norval.

We also support the initiative of the local villagers who plan to set up the Norval Heritage Foundation. Eventual plans include building a local museum where heritage artifacts, documents and photographs can be preserved.

This can only add to the increasing tourism value of this area which creates economic activity and jobs. (Tourism in Ontario is a \$17 billion industry employing more than a quarter of million people.)

It's tourism value aside, Montgomery Christmas is a great event for home grown folks in Halton Hills to participate in.

More importantly it requires hard work, coordination, enthusiasm, and the involvement of every village member — young and old. All those involved in this year's event should be congratulated on a job well done!

## Christmas shopping was fun — without the stress

With the arrival of December, the whole world seems to become busier.

Between making plans for the holidays and Christmas parties at home and the office, no one has a moment to spare.

Topping it off, we all have to find time to endure that bane of the season — Christmas shopping.

Like every other year, my wife and I planned to get a jump on the season by shopping earlier. As Cathy works in the retail sector, her life becomes hell as December 24 approaches, and activities around the newspaper office always become busier for me, with more evening assignments around Christmas.

But like every other year, our shopping has been delayed as usual.

At the last moment, we'll be running from mall to mall and store to store, trying to find that perfect gift.

It wasn't always that way for me.

As I thought about Christmas shopping of the past, long before I had kids, job commitments and marriage, I recalled shopping was a pleasure.

As a little guy in the early 1960s, I did all my shopping on the Main St. of Georgetown — in one night.

My parents gave my sisters and myself our Christmas money to spend, (those were the days before allowance, or part-time jobs,) and we decided whether to pool our resources or buy presents separately, to get the best gift we could for our dollar.

Armed with copies of everyone's Christmas lists, we were dropped off on Main St. after supper, around 6 p.m., and picked up at 9 p.m., when the stores closed.

And for those three hours, we had to make the most of it, and try to get our shopping done.

In the days before malls and shopping centres, Georgetown's Main St. was our only shopping option.

And it had lots to offer. We purchased clothes from Silver's Department Store, Cotton's or Henry's men's

purchased at Richardson's Crest Hardware or Thompson's Hardware.

In short, there was something for everybody, and finding the perfect gift on Main Street was just a matter of looking.

My sisters and I managed to pace ourselves, concluding our night of shopping at one of the local restaurants by five to 9, to order a hot chocolate just before my parents arrived to take us home.

It was great fun. You know, we gave simple gifts, but we were tickled pink as our family members opened them Christmas morning.

But somehow it's changed. Today, we push ourselves to the limit, driving to the ends of the earth to find that perfect gift, spending great sums of money, all the while stressing ourselves out.

And for what? Even though it takes many times the effort, Christmas doesn't mean any more to me today than when I was a kid. Perhaps less.

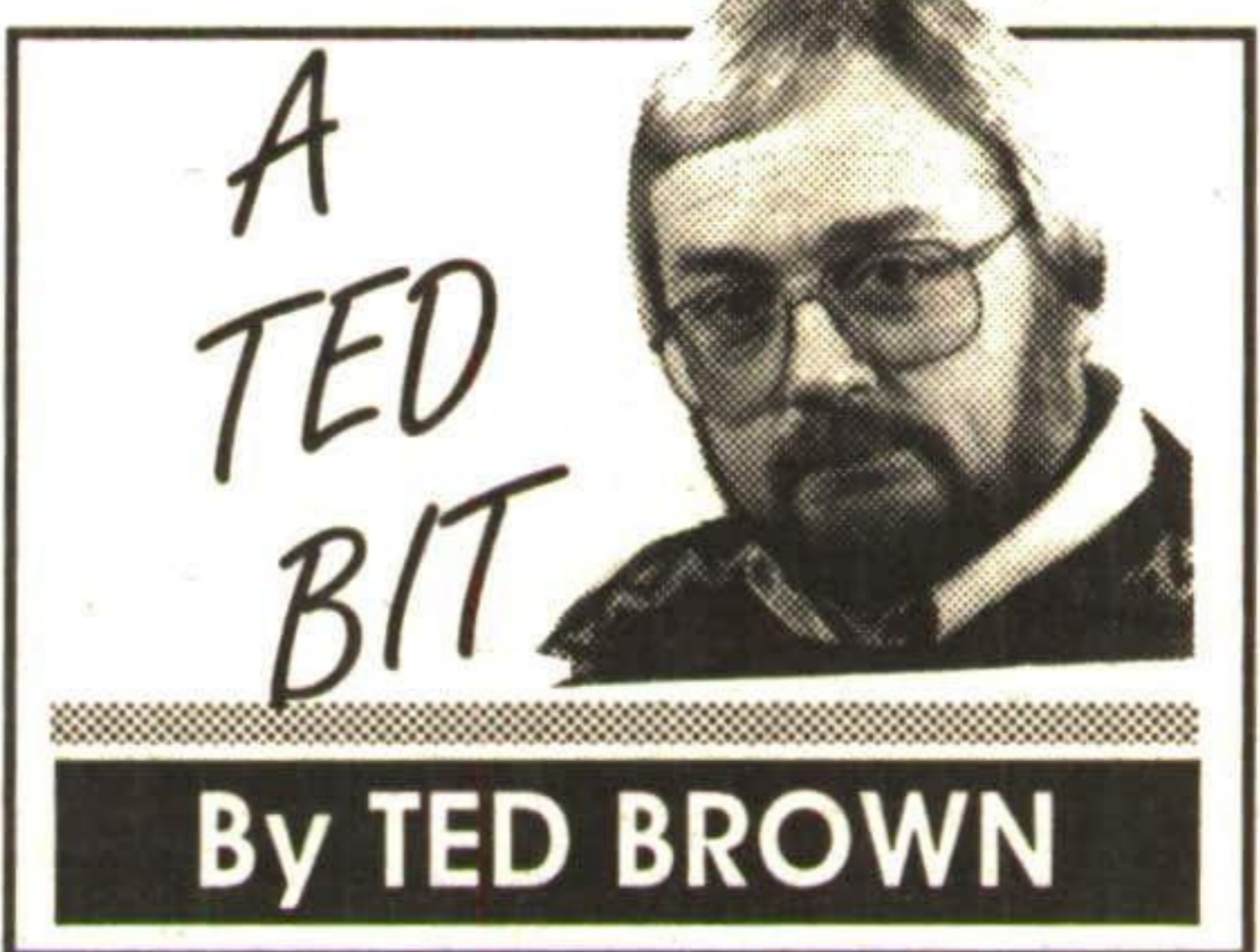
That's unfortunate. I don't think Christmas was meant to be a time to tire us out, rather to celebrate and enjoy the love of family and friends.

Despite all this, I'm hopeful.

I know I can't return to the fairy tale atmosphere of my childhood. That's impossible.

But I do look forward to sometime enjoying the serene calm and warm cozy emotions of a simple Christmas — without the stress.

Perhaps then, it will once again be fun.



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Watch it! It will be yours they use, when municipalities pass the buck.

## Did you know?

Decorating the Christmas tree has become a time-honored tradition, which began when primitive tribes used trees to adorn their homes. Later Romans trimmed trees with trinkets and candles, and the Druids honored their gods by tying gilded apples to tree branches. In the 19th century tree decorating was simple with cotton, strings of popcorn and cranberries, paper sculptures, candy canes, gilded nuts and shells, and wax candles. Ornaments were first made in North America in 1939 by the Corning Glass Company. Today ornaments are becoming a collectible item.

— Carlton Cards