

# Y2K means extra holiday

Students at Halton's public schools will start the year 2000 with a few extra days off, thanks to Y2K.

Y2K stands for the Year 2000 foul-ups many fear may occur when computer calendars change on January 1 from '99' to '00'. To buy extra recovery time, Halton District School Board officials have opted to delay the start and finish of next winter's Christmas break.

"Most school boards are moving to a late start for the Christmas break, starting with December 24 off and taking it through to January 10," superintendent Kit Rankin told trustees at a recent board meeting. "This ensures if any problems do take place, there will be adequate time to cope."

Oakville Trustee Marianne Hawthorne said she could not ever recall the break starting the day before Christmas.

But Ms Rankin said on the final school day of December 23, classes will end 1 1/2 hours earlier than normal. "This would allow families more time," she said.

Official holidays will run through January 7 inclusive and, with the weekend added, the return date for students will be Monday, Jan. 10, 2000.

The Halton Catholic District School Board will have the same Christmas holidays.

Other significant dates for the 1999-2000 public school year are March 13-17 for March break, January 27-February 2 for first semester exams, June 22-28 for second semester exams, and October 8, December 3, February 4 and June 30 for professional development days.

The PD days will be the same at both elementary and secondary schools.

# Flash of another culture

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the shocked aftermath of the hurricane.

It has slowed down now, leaving Mr. Baker once more in the role of unelected fund-raiser.

It's a role he got used to after a visit to Casa Guatemala last September. Christmas was coming and he wanted to make a difference in the lives of the children who call the orphanage home.

"I wanted to organize Christmas gifts for the kids," he said. "A teacher there said one of the biggest items they needed were backpacks."

Mr. Baker relayed the message to the Halton public via several local newspapers and watched stunned as they responded by donating no less than 450 of them.

Along with the backpacks came 50 boxes of food and \$10,000 in cash. All the donations flowed through the St. Elizabeth Anglican Church in Burlington.

One of the contributors to the cause was Martin Street school.

A question and answer period revealed that the Milton students were not exactly overwhelmed by a sense of tragedy following Mr. Baker's presentation.

Some children asked how long it would take to fly, sail or walk to Guatemala.

Another, noting Mr. Baker's English accent, inquired if he were acquainted with a pop sensation group of the 1960s, The Monkees (whose lead singer David Jones is English).

To send a donation to Casa Guatemala, contact the St. Elizabeth Anglican Church at 5320 Bromley Road in Burlington, L7L 3C4.

Cheques should be made payable to the church, with a notation that the money is to go towards Casa Guatemala.

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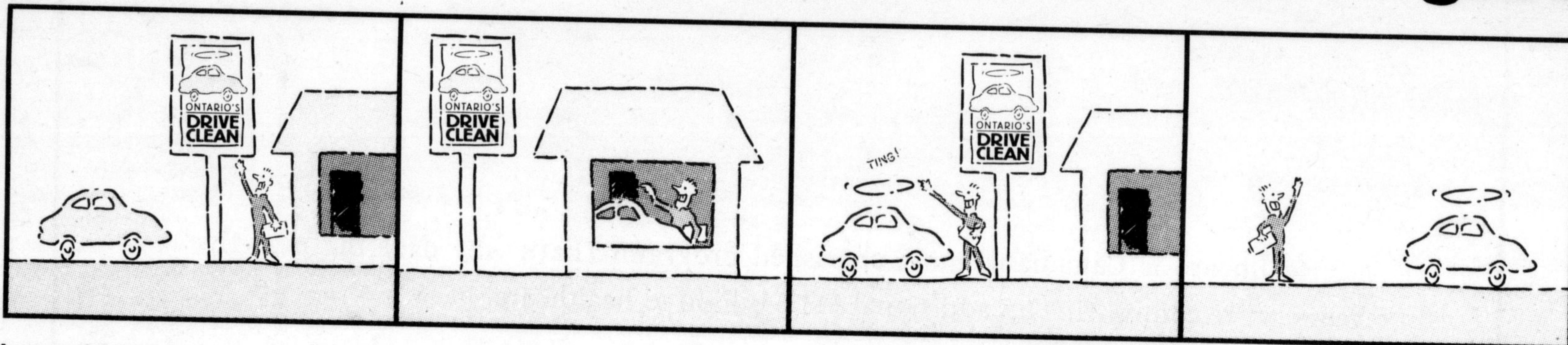


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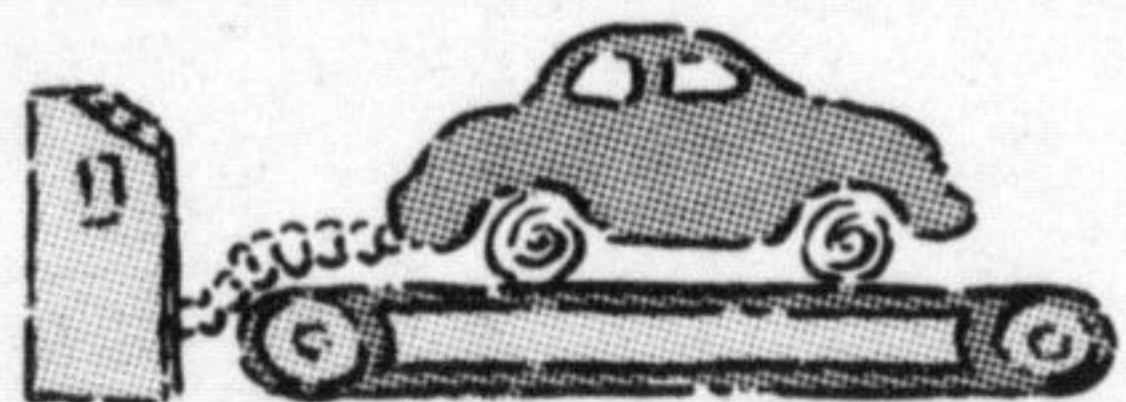
# How can a test this easy make your car feel so good?



### Testing is good for the air we breathe.

When Ontario's Drive Clean emission testing program begins early in 1999, it will lead to significant reductions in smog-causing pollutants. The program will require cars and light-duty trucks in the Greater Toronto Area and the Regional Municipality of Hamilton-Wentworth to pass a clean air test every two years<sup>1</sup>.

The simple test will take about 20 minutes at an accredited Drive Clean facility, and cost no more than \$30<sup>2</sup>. Once you've passed, your car



will feel good because it's running right, and you'll feel good because it's for the air we breathe.

### How does the test work?

The test itself is easy. Your vehicle will be parked on a dynamometer - a kind of treadmill that allows it to be "driven" on the spot while a probe in the tailpipe analyzes the exhaust and sends the results to a computer.

Your vehicle's test results will be compared to the emission standards for its make, model and year, and a report showing a "pass or fail" will be issued. It is estimated that 80-85% will pass the test.

### What happens after the test?

If you "pass", that's it. Just have the "pass" report with you when you renew your licence plate sticker at a Ministry of Transportation Driver and Vehicle Licence Office or self-service kiosk.

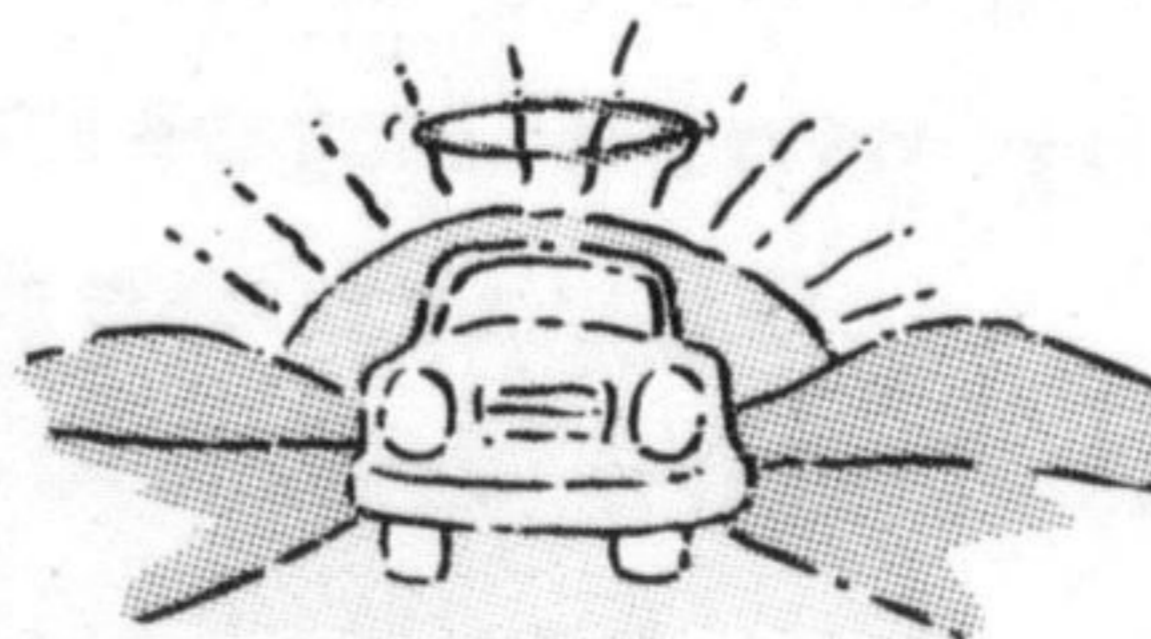
If the vehicle "fails" it must now be repaired and retested. A simple tune-up will often suffice. Your vehicle must pass the test before the registration can be renewed, or when it is re-sold. You can get a one-time only "conditional pass" by showing that at least \$200 worth of relevant repairs have been done<sup>4</sup>.

### Who will be tested?

Drive Clean affects cars and light-duty<sup>3</sup> trucks that are more than 3 years and less than 20 years old. If your car is to be tested, you will receive a notice about 90 days before your vehicle registration renewal date. Vehicles with even-number model years, whose licence renewal comes on April 1 or after, will go first in 1999. Odd-number model years will follow in 2000.

### Will Drive Clean really work?

The Drive Clean program is



administered by the Ministry of the Environment and will be closely monitored to ensure that it is both fair and effective. With full implementation, it will help cut smog-causing pollutants from vehicles by up to 22 per cent in the program area.

In the end, we'll all benefit from Ontario's Drive Clean program, because we'll be doing something positive for the air we breathe.



For more information call:  
**1-888-758-2999**  
[www.driveclean.com](http://www.driveclean.com)



For the air we breathe.

**Emission testing starts in early 1999.**

1. A similar program for heavy-duty trucks and buses will follow. 2. Plus applicable taxes. 3. Light-duty refers to vehicles weighing 4500kg or less. 4. Repairs must be done at an accredited Drive Clean facility.