

An interesting byproduct

by
MRS. DIANE DORION
"Don't take the Fathers of Confederation too lightly. These were fascinating men," affirmed Mrs. Dorothy Martin at the December meeting of the Simcoe County

Branch of the Ontario Genealogical Society and the Simcoe County Historical Association. Meeting at the Public Library Annex in Barrie, Dec. 4, the members and guests learned how Mrs. Martin, former

chairman of Toronto O.G.S., commissioned by a Toronto magazine, traced the last direct descendants of the Fathers of Confederation.

Mrs. Martin numbered and identified

each man in the 'text-book' picture of the Fathers, and then searched sources such as cemeteries, archives, museums, telephone directories and books. She also travelled extensively, particularly to Ottawa and Prince Edward Island.

Charts were made up, and each person's name was arranged alphabetically, with data collected, in a notebook. Succeeding generations were listed using alphabet-generation (A-1:A-2). Personal anecdotes were noted on a separate page.

Mrs. Martin gave some history on the progress of the three conferences leading to Confederation.

At the first meeting in Charlottetown, 1864, Hewitt Bernard, secretary (plaque in Barrie), took down all proceedings in long-hand. The representatives, wives and daughters enjoyed many festivities, including a ball given for 700 people, after their second meeting in Quebec.

The last conference, in London, England, was highlighted by Sir John A. MacDonald's wedding to Agnes Bernard, with her brother Hewitt hosting

the wedding breakfast. Here, Sir John A. MacDonald was knighted by Queen Victoria. Four others, who refused to be slighted, were later knighted.

Confederation was proclaimed July 1, 1867. After her 400 hours' research, Mrs. Martin felt that she "knew them all", and also had found many interesting descendants.

Sir John A. MacDonald is well chronicled. His son Hugh John was premier of Manitoba; and his last direct descendant is Hugh Gainsford.

Some fathers left no direct descendants. Sir George Cartier's family tree 'daughtered out', but he left a great legacy of printed word. His letters and records are found in the Archives of Canada.

The Steeves family have much family history compiled in New Brunswick, their last living descendants being the Duke of Somerset and sons (Burk's Peergage); and George Coles, a brewer, from P.E.I., left as his many descendants a goodly 'mix of community' in that province.

When all the last living descendants had been located, they were

photographed individually in the same pose as their ancestor. A collage was made up with each person taking the place of his ancestor in the Fathers of Confederation picture. This familiar picture is also a collage. The original by Robert Harris was burnt.

The collage and accompanying article appeared in the final issue of Toronto's 'Today' magazine.

Mrs. Martin's research work is currently on file in Ottawa under "Children of Confederation".

The next meeting of the society will be held at Parkview Centre, 189 Blake Street, Barrie, on Jan. 8 at 8 p.m. Mrs. Josephine Boos will speak on a family tree.

Mrs. Edith Doan will describe methods of copying photographs.

The public is invited to attend.

That stranger just might be a thief!

Security in the workplace is just as important as is security in the home or on the street.

With hundreds, sometimes thousands, of people working in the same building, opportunities for crime occur constantly for the person who is looking for one. The structure and design of some buildings can be inviting to a potential thief who sees hiding places in numerous doorways or in small unattended reception rooms. Sitting there, a potential thief could be just another customer or client waiting to see someone who is at the moment unavailable.

Crime prevention personnel say that workers can take certain precautionary steps to keep themselves from becoming victims. Their suggestions:

- Never leave handbags on desks or wallets in coat pockets during your absence. Take them with you or lock them away.

- Always keep money in a safe place. Even if it is only petty cash there's enough there to make the theft appealing to somebody. Never leave it in an unlocked drawer during the day. And at night put it in a safe or remove it from the building altogether.

- Be careful with keys. Always put

them in a safe place. Never put spare keys for safes or cabinets where valuables are kept in desk drawers. Deposit them at the bank.

- Fasten vulnerable windows in your absence. It's easy to forget, particularly in the summer, and a thief can come and go very quickly.

- Never assume that a stranger wandering in the building is a member of the staff. Make enquiries. Even "Can I help you?" will often deter the dishonest without inconveniencing the public.

- Don't just accept that a stranger is authorized to be in the building just because he says so. Check with someone in authority. If he is from a courier service or the typewriter company, someone will know. And never allow anyone to remove equipment without first checking their identification.

- Never leave callers alone in the office. Use the telephone to enquire whether someone can see him.

- Don't disclose confidential information to a stranger. No matter how important he may seem, always report any such request to your employer.

Work places CAN be made more secure against crime with a little effort.



Trophies awarded to the best floats entered in the 1984 Midland Civitans Santa Claus Parade were presented this past week during Civitans Club meeting. Shown are trophy sponsors, winners, and Civitans from left are Moreland Lynn, Michael Saddy, Fourth Midland Cubs and Scouts representative Andrew Szafranski, John Patchell, Carol Merkley, Civitans President Richard Ivens, Fourth Midland Cubs and Scouts representative Jody Roberts, Paul Noack, and parade chairman Michael Tinney.

A big thanks

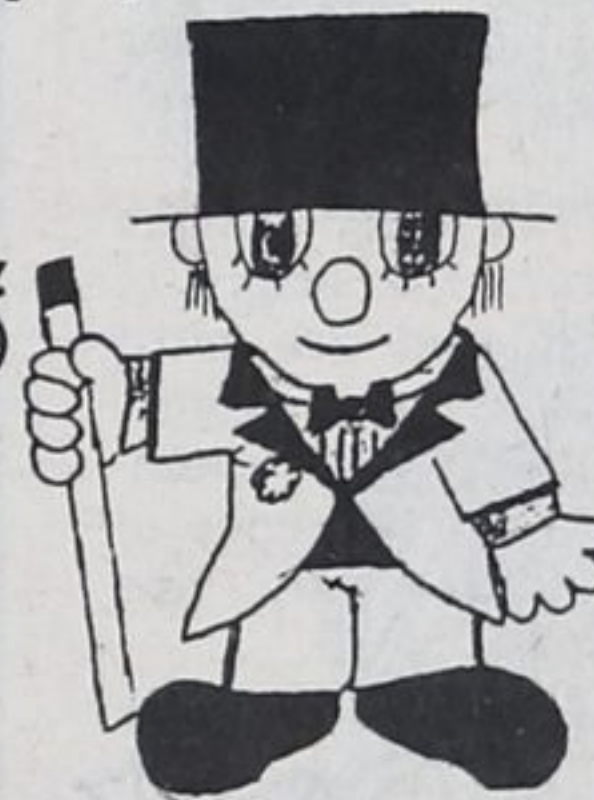
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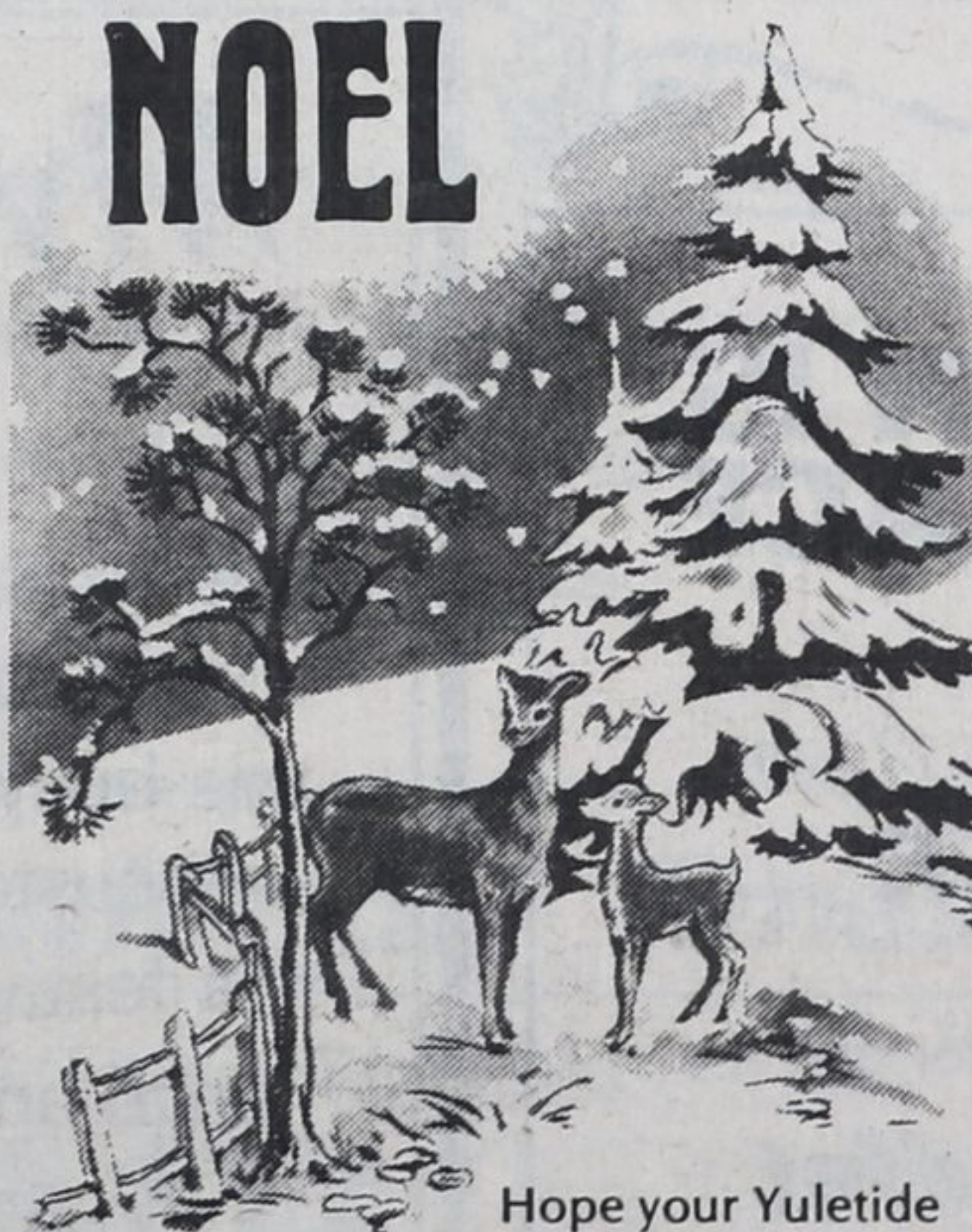
SEASONS GREETINGS



Have the Merriest, most Wonderful Christmas ever!

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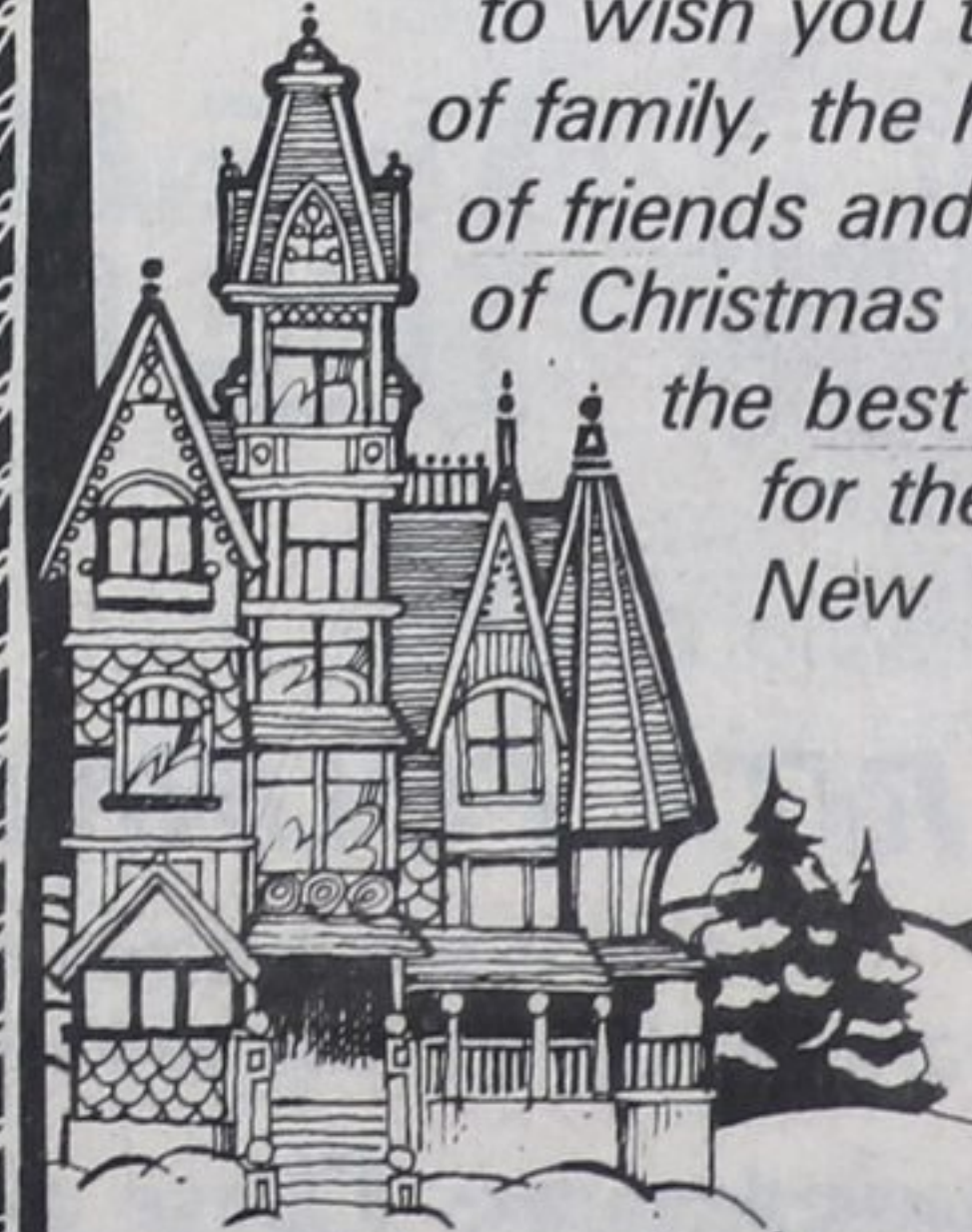


Hope your Yuletide season is filled with joy!

ROLFOTO
347 King St. **526-5001** Mountainview Mall **526-7171**

HOLIDAY GREETINGS

To our very valuable friends & customers, we would like to wish you the joy of family, the happiness of friends and the love of Christmas & all the best wishes for the New Year.



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