



### Parting friends

Hans Witt, left, general manager at Leitz's Midland operation for about six years, says good-bye and farewell to good friend Brian Downer, president of the Midland Chamber of Commerce. Witt and spouse were treated to a reception last Thursday afternoon

at the Highland Inn, where those who knew and loved him gathered to say so long and present him with a gift. Witt says he'll miss everyone he has gotten to know in this town, but it's time to move on.

## Leitz boss leaves Canada

It's back home to Germany this week for Hans Witt, general manager of Leitz in Midland.

After more than six years here, Witt is leaving Canada and Leitz for a job with a communications company in West Berlin.

"It's like leaving home for me," Witt said at a reception last Thursday at Midland's Highland Inn, sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce.

The president of the chamber presented Witt with a framed photograph as a going away gift. "In the short time I have known you, you have shown encouragement, confidence and co-operation towards me that

can be forgotten," said Brian Downer.

"Your enthusiasm has been a source of inspiration for your associates and friends in our community," he continued. "Your roots in Midland and your many friendships will linger for a long time."

When asked what he would miss the most, Witt replied: "The bay, the environment and all the nice people here. I've made many good friends."

However, he said there are nice things about going back to Berlin, a West German city surrounded entirely by Communist East Germany.

For instance, he'll enjoy the cultural life of the city.

Witt has become well-known in Midland both for his position at Leitz and for his work with the Chamber of Commerce.

Many of the town's top business people attended the reception last Thursday afternoon.

Reflecting upon the economic differences between the two nations, Witt said "North America has lost a bit of its edge in productivity."

But he noted the low Canadian and American dollars would help us to become more competitive on the world market.

He also said "the whole of North America is lacking in the amount of skilled labor."

As for free trade, the outgoing Leitz manager said he's "convinced" it's a good thing for the country. Although some would lose their jobs in the short run, he said, in the long run it will create more jobs.

"Ten years down the road everyone will think it was the right decision," he said.

## Give a child a Christmas wish

by Dan Downey

The Children's Aid Society in North Simcoe will be sponsoring a special project this year called "A Christmas Wish."

With the help of our community, we are hoping to be able to provide a present for children in families we know of, who are not in a position to buy their own gifts. Each year, we find a number of these families who fall between the cracks of the efforts made by other agencies in the area.

We have decided to organize a toy collection which will enable us to ensure that every child we

work with has at least one wrapped present under the tree, on Dec. 3, 4, and 5, social workers and volunteers will be sitting at a table at the Mountainview Mall.

People will be encouraged to take a card from a Christmas tree which will have a child's first name, age and gender on it. The person will then be asked to purchase an appropriate gift for the child, at a cost of between \$10 to \$15 and return it to the booth unwrapped.

It will be wrapped and delivered on their behalf to the child's home. Money will also be collected to cover the cost of the gifts

for children who's cards may not be taken.

We would like to encourage anyone interested in this worthwhile project to come to the mall on these days and support it. It is an excellent way for you to have a direct impact on a child's Christmas this holiday season and know that your efforts are being truly appreciated.

If you have any questions about "A Christmas Wish" or you wish to become involved with our family service work in another way, please call 526-9341 or drop into our office at 578 King Street.

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