



**YOUTH VOTE**  
**MANY FEEL LEFT OUT**  
LOCAL NEWS, PAGE 3



**COURT SURFING**  
**GIRLS V-BALL PREVIEW**  
SPORTS, PAGE 6

WE PUT LOCAL NEWS FIRST

# Simcoe Reformer

93 cents + 7 cents GST

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2005

www.simcoereformer.ca

## Show takes flight

**CALVARY CHURCH CHRISTMAS PAGEANT A TRADITION FOR 18 YEARS**

Daniel Pearce  
SIMCOE REFORMER

Last year it was a full-sized moving train that belched smoke and had a tooting whistle. This year it's a replica of the Wright brothers' first plane that swoops to the front of the stage at the end of the show.

The congregation of the Calvary Pentecostal Church is putting on its 18th consecutive Christmas pageant, a one-hour long play that they research and write (this year's production includes nine original songs), and have their kids perform for more than 3,000 people.

They look for originality: a story that will engage the 2,900 area school kids who are bused in to see the show, has historical significance, and ties in with religion and Christmas.

So what do Wilbur and Orville Wright have to do with Christmas?

Plenty, it turns out. Their father was a bishop in a protestant religion, and the brothers' famous flight at Kitty Hawk, North Carolina, was on Dec. 17, 1903.

SEE CALVARY/PAGE 13



DANIEL PEARCE / STAFF

**Clayton Shelley plays Wilbur Wright and his cousin Chantelle Shelley plays Orville Wright in the Calvary Pentecostal Church's annual Christmas pageant held this week at the Ireland Road church.**

## High fuel cost has silver lining

**SOME MERCHANTS REPORT CUSTOMERS ARE SHOPPING CLOSER TO HOME**

Daniel Pearce  
SIMCOE REFORMER

Higher gas prices, higher heating bills, higher property taxes. They're burning a hole in your pocket, and making some local merchants richer.

Richer? It's a little early to tell for sure. But it seems as if the added cost of driving out of town to shop — and perhaps driving there again after Christmas to do an exchange — is encouraging people to spend their money closer to home.

With the Christmas shopping season only about two weeks old, Simcoe merchants report having both slow and fast starts.

And in both cases they attribute higher fuel and living costs for their fates. Some say it's forcing consumers to be more careful and cut back on

spending while others say it's making people think twice before driving to a mall in Hamilton, Brantford, or London.

"Our traffic counts are up. Our customers' spending is up," says Joe Cruz, manager of the Bargain Shop in downtown Simcoe. "People don't want to travel. They don't want the hustle and bustle of a mall."

John Astles of Astle's Men's and Ladies' Apparel says, on the other hand, that customers are "being a bit cautious" this December.

"I think there's a lot of stress and strain because of gas prices and home heating prices. For every \$50 they put into the furnace, they don't get discretionary things like nice clothing."

The cold snowy weather

SEE HIGH/PAGE 13

## CEO offers assurances to Stelco employees

TORONTO (CP) — Stelco Inc.'s chief executive gave assurances to the steelmaker's 7,000 employees Thursday, as he prepared for a creditor vote Friday that could seal the firm's future.

"I know the uncertainty and concern that a number of you have expressed to me in recent days," CEO Courtney Pratt wrote in a letter to employees. "We can't predict what may happen between now and Monday."

Stelco's goal throughout its 23 months of bankruptcy protection has been to come up with a restructuring plan that its stakeholders will support and that its creditors will vote in favour of, Pratt said.

"We're working as hard as we can to reach this goal before the vote is held."

On Dec. 9, debtholders owed more than \$600 million will gather at a conference centre near Toronto's Pearson International Airport to vote on Stelco's plan. It outlines how the Hamilton-based steelmaker intends to start over with new financing from the Ontario government and Tricap Management Ltd.

There was still no indication Thursday that Stelco's bondholders, who hold enough debt to sway the vote, had been won over. That group has repeatedly threatened to vote down the plan. Late Wednesday, Stelco rejected a rival refinancing plan the bondholders submitted.

If creditors approve Stelco's plan Friday, it will go to an Ontario court for approval, and

SEE CEO/PAGE 2

## Hellyer: council's decision may have been hasty

**NORFOLK TURNED DOWN OFFER OF MORE COPS**

Samantha Craggs  
SIMCOE REFORMER

Peter Hellyer wishes he'd had a moment to explain before Norfolk council turned down the offer of three new police officers for the local Ontario Provincial Police detachment.

The chair of the Norfolk County's police services board says he worries council made the decision without knowing the whole story.

Two officers would have focused on local high schools, a liaison between police and youth that Hellyer says oth-

er areas have with much success. The third would have focused on domestic violence cases, following up with victims and doing the substantial work surrounding each incident.

The Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services would have covered 100 per cent of the salaries for the entry-level officers (about \$35,000) for two years. The county would pay any incidental costs related to the positions. Council turned down the three new officers Dec. 6, saying it was an expense not needed on the tax bill.

But Hellyer worries the decision was made without enough current information.

"I would have liked the chance to present our case," he says.

Norfolk County, Hellyer says, has the largest number of youths on probation and parole in southwestern Ontario. Other communities with officers in schools have seen a dramatic reduction in youth crime. Brantford, for example, has four officers in high schools.

Norfolk also sees four or five domestic violence occurrences every weekend. The current officer dealing with the cases has been taken from the front line, so a new officer would actually be replacing an officer to bring Norfolk's force to full complement again, he says. With the government offering to pay 100 per cent of that salary, "this has to be thought through a little more."

Councillors also mentioned the possibility of severances when they declined the offer. Hellyer says there is enough turn-over in the force that vacancies could be found through natural attrition.

"There was no rush on this," he said.

Mayor Rita Kalmbach, a member of the police services board, was vocal against accepting the new officers. She said in an interview yesterday she hasn't heard anything to change her mind. She worries the officers could be integrated into the OPP contract, already \$10.2 million with a tendency to expand without warning. She also

SEE DECISION/PAGE 2

## Shopping like Bob and Doug will cost you \$458.75, eh

Kate Schwass  
SIMCOE REFORMER

Forget the turtle doves, ladies dancing, swans-a-swimming and a partridge in a pear tree — give us hosers, golden tuques, back bacon and a beer in a tree for Christmas.

The cost to fulfil Bob and Doug McKenzie's Twelve Days of Christmas (which only has eight days because the song was too long and the brothers didn't cover days nine through 12), and buy each item only once, costs about \$458.75.

The figure isn't exact because with things like eight comic books, the price would vary between \$3.25 to \$4.50 depending on what you buy (we used prices from Marvel, DC and Dark Horse Comics).

To buy all 113 items for your sweetheart (repeating the items in each verse), it

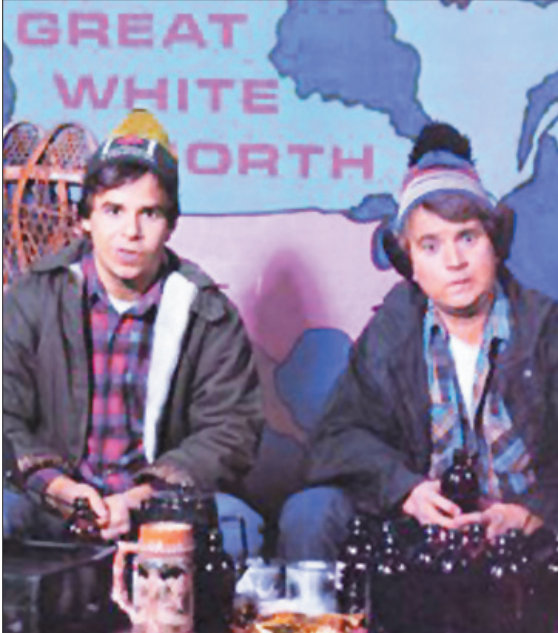
would cost a grand total of \$1,754.54.

That's a beauty, eh?

It's a heck of a lot cheaper than buying items in the traditional holiday classic. That bill rings in at \$18,348 US, American-based PNC Advisors said in their annual Christmas Price Index.

All of the items in The Great White North version of the song (we don't need leaping lords) can be found locally, except maybe the golden tuques. Have you ever tried to find a golden tuque?

Making more than a dozen calls (and hearing salespeople laugh at the other end each time we asked for a golden tuque), we were told there were taupe, brown, beige and even one black tuque with a gold band around it, but no



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

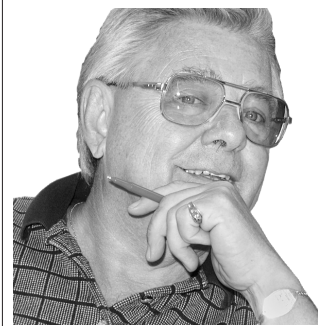
**To buy all 113 items for your sweetheart (repeating the items in each verse of Bob and Doug McKenzie's Twelve Days of Christmas), it would cost a grand total of \$1,754.54.**

### Bob and Doug's list

- Eight Comic Books — about \$3.50 to \$4.50 each, \$29.24 for eight different titles — The Trophy Haven in Simcoe
- Seven Packs of Smokes — \$8.30 for a king size pack of Players each, \$58.10 for seven packs — Mac's Convenience in Port Dover
- Six packs of 2-4s — \$35.50 for a case of 24 Molson Canadian bottles, \$213 for six cases — the Beer Store in Port Rowan
- Five golden tuques — \$9.99 each, \$49.95 for five — Bizou in the Simcoe Town Centre
- Four pounds of back bacon — \$4.99/lb, \$19.96 for four pounds — Van Maele's Country Food Market in Langton
- Three French toasts — \$4.25 for an order (\$5.50 if you add sausage or bacon), \$12.75 for three orders — Chubby's in Delhi.
- Two turtlenecks — \$6 each, two for \$12 — Main Station Apparel in Waterford
- One beer in a tree — \$63.75 — beer — \$4.75 for a domestic pint — Simcoe Arms Norway Maple tree — \$59 — Nanticoke Nurseries and Garden Centre near Windham Centre
- Total if you buy the items from each verse only once: \$458.75
- Total if you repeat the items from each verse: \$1,754.54
- These prices do not include GST and PST.

SEE SHOPPING/PAGE 13





**PeachPit**  
A daily almanac  
compiled by  
Leighton Peach

## FROM OUR FILES

**28 YEARS AGO**

Considering all the arguments that Townsend should be built and should be built now, according to Malcolm Martini, a consultant hired by the region to prepare Haldimand-Norfolk's official plan. Martini made the comments as he presented a 60-page report to regional council yesterday.

**35 YEARS AGO**

Norfolk County Council yesterday unanimously approved the final report of the first phase of the Haldimand-Norfolk Study Committee — a report on land use for the two counties. The report, if it is accepted by Haldimand County Council, will be sent to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs.

## NOSTALGIA

The antiquated Norfolk County jail will soon be getting some reconditioning; employees at the Norfolk Home for the Aged (Norview) are in for a raise in pay and some of Norfolk's garbage disposal areas are inadequate, the Reformer reported on this date in 1970. These topics highlighted Tuesday's Norfolk County Council. The Department of Public Works has, in conjunction with the superintendent of the jail, submitted a proposal to recondition the jail building in the amount of \$50. The jail forms part of the building which also houses the Norfolk County courthouse on Colborne Street South, in Simcoe. A 100 per cent recovery will be made on the cost. The work will be administered locally.

## YOUR WORDS

“Youth do have a voice and there is no wasted vote.”

**Valya Roberts,**  
NDP candidate  
(See story, Page 3)

## PHOTO ARCHIVE



**28 YEARS AGO...** *Les Burton, Maple Street, Simcoe, was one who started clearing driveways early in the morning to be on time for work . . . if they freed themselves from the mountain-like snowbanks.*

## DEATH NOTICES

**MISNER, JAMES (HENRY)** Lt. Comdr. R.C.N. Peacefully, on Sunday, December 4, 2005, at Norfolk General Hospital in his 97th year. Henry was predeceased by his wife Mildred and brothers Elmore (Janet), Jack (Eleanor) and Charles (Thelma) and his sister Margaret. He is survived by his daughter Moira (Peter) Manley, brothers Robert (Muriel) and Donald (Bertha) and sisters, Laurel Ballantyne and Florence (Charles) Watkinson. Lovingly remembered by his many nieces and nephews for his wit, optimism and love. Henry served in the R.C.N. 1940-1946 and 1950-1956. During WWII he was on loan to the Royal Navy and served in the North Atlantic and Mediterranean Theatres. He reenlisted in 1950 and was in charge of Seaward Defence for Canada's West Coast. In 1956 he returned to his family business and served as the President of Henry H. Misner Ltd. Among his many contributions to the Fishing Industry, he was the true pioneer in introducing trawl fishing to the Great Lakes. At Henry's request cremation has taken place. Memorial Service will be Saturday, December 10 11:00 a.m., St. Paul's Anglican Church (corner of St. George and Market St., Port Dover) Rt. Rev. Clarence Mitchell officiating. Expressions of sympathy to the Norfolk General Hospital Foundation would be appreciated by the family. Arrangements entrusted to THOMPSON WATERS FUNERAL HOME (583-1530).

**GILETCHUK – ALICE:** Passed away at her residence on Wednesday, December 7, 2005. Mrs. Alice Gilechuk of R.R.#2, Simcoe in her 88th year. Much beloved wife of the late Gordon Gilechuk (2001). She is survived by her sons; Gordon of Simcoe and John of Welland, three grandchildren, two great-grandchildren, sisters; Ann Boychuk of Powassan and Nancy Gordy of Simcoe, brothers; Bill Gordy of Hamilton and Evans Gordy of Simcoe and her cousins. Mrs. Gilechuk was predeceased by a brother; Mike Gordy. Friends are invited to meet with the family on Sunday, December 11, 2005 from 2:00 - 4:00 and 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. at the FERRIS FUNERAL HOME, 214 Norfolk St. S., Simcoe where the funeral will be held on Monday at 11:00 a.m. Pastor Marc Bertrand officiating followed by interment at the Greek Orthodox Cemetery. Those wishing may donate to the Norfolk General Hospital Cat Scan.

**MAHONEY, DENISE (NEE LEZON)** Passed away suddenly in Simcoe on Friday December 2, 2005. Mrs. Denise Mahoney of Simcoe in her 45th year. Loving mother of Marcus Phillips. Beloved daughter of Donna Lezon. Dear sister to Michael Lezon all of Simcoe. Denise will be sadly missed by many other relatives and friends and her special aunt Glenna Compoli of Simcoe. At the families request a private family visitation and funeral was held on Thursday December 8th, 2005. Deacon Frank Chowhan officiated. Interment followed at Oakwood Cemetery, Simcoe. If so desired donations may be made in Denise's memory to the Simcoe and District Humane Society. Arrangements entrusted with the FERRIS FUNERAL HOME, 214 Norfolk St. S., Simcoe. (426-1314)



**SHEPHERD, DOUGLAS LEE** – Passed away in his own home after a lengthy battle with cancer on Thursday, December 8, 2005 at the age of 54. Beloved husband of Brenda Shepherd (Immel). Loving father of Douglas Shepherd Jr., Michelle Shepherd and Billie-Jo Shepherd at home. Proud grandfather to Shawn, Erika and Brady. Predeceased by his parents William (1971) and Mary (1986) Shepherd as well as sisters Shirley Waugh (1989), and Roberta Taylor (1992). Survived by brothers, Harold, Jim (Shirley), and Don and sisters, Hazel (George Potts), Ruth and Doreen. Lovingly remembered by many nieces, nephews and special family friends Floyd Wilson, Silverhill, and Helen Shepherd, Simcoe. Doug was a long-time employee of the Norfolk County Roads Department. Friends are invited to meet with the family at the FERRIS FUNERAL HOME, 214 Norfolk St. S., Simcoe on Friday, December 9, 2005 from 2:00 to 4:00 and 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. where the service will be conducted on Saturday at 11:00 a.m. Dr. Mark Bohman officiating. Interment at Walsh Baptist Cemetery to follow. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations payable to The Juravinski Cancer Centre, Hamilton would be greatly appreciated by the family.

## Decision

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

worries this is a “backdoor way” for the government to increase officer complement province-wide and ultimately shoulder taxpayers with the bill, already more than residents can afford, she said.

The OPP will not renew the contract annually unless it includes an adequate number of officers for Norfolk, she said.

“Do we have enough? We must have.”

With the new calendar year coming, which means issues can be brought back to the table, Kalmbach said she's not against revisiting this one.

“But I have been assured as mayor that we are already adequately covered.”

Samantha Craggs (519)426-5710 ext. 136  
scraggs@bowesnet.com

## Police suspend search

Residents along the waterfront are being asked to continue to watch the shoreline for any evidence that may wash up onto shore that could possibly help locate three missing boaters after police called off the search yesterday.

Joni Zavitz, 45, of Port Bruce; Thomas Voros, 39, of Brownsville; and Csaba (Frank) Guylas, 48, of Aylmer went missing after the boat they were sailing from Port Bruce to Port Stanley failed to arrive at its destination.

The trio were last seen by on Sunday at 12:30 p.m. The vessel was described as an 18-foot white-over-

black, single-mast sailboat with the name Easter on the stern.

On Monday, a Canadian Coast Guard vessel, helicopter and Hercules aircraft, along with the OPP searched the area. On Tuesday, the U.S. Coast Guard joined the search.

The search continued Wednesday, but the boaters were not located. Yesterday, the OPP announced the search for the overdue boaters had been suspended indefinitely.

The OPP and Canadian Coast Guard regularly conduct air patrols for missing boaters.

## CEO offers assurances to Stelco employees

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Stelco will begin its emergence from bankruptcy protection, Pratt said.

If the plan is defeated, the court will listen to alternative proposals, which will likely include either a sale of the company or a push into receivership, he added.

“The following points will apply during any sale process the court might initiate if a plan is defeated tomorrow:

“— The company's day-to-day business operations and relationships with suppliers and customers will continue in the normal course.

“— Your wages, benefits and other terms of employment will continue in their current form.

“— Whatever process is followed will be conducted under the supervision of the court.”

Steel market fluctuations have repeatedly thrown road blocks in the way of Stelco's lengthy restructuring process.

Last year, soaring steel prices pushed the firm into the black, diminishing any motivation creditors might have had to settle for smaller recoveries.

The latest twist is an international bidding war that has erupted for Stelco's next-door neighbour, Dofasco Inc. Two major global steel companies have recently bid for Dofasco, apparently sparking a desire among Stelco's creditors to own a piece of its equity when it emerges from court protection.

## Schools await word on funding

The McGuinty government will make a funding announcement to promote student success in rural high schools on Monday.

The announcement will be made by Minister of Education Gerard

Kennedy, Minister of Labour Steve Peters and Minister of Agriculture Leona Dombrowsky. The Coalition for Small Schools will also be on hand in Dorchester, Ont., for the announcement.

**Simcoe Reformer**

AGREEMENT # 0463795



Canadian Cancer Society  
Société canadienne du cancer

1 888 939-3333 • WWW.CANCER.CA

# Calvary church christmas a tradition for 18 years

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

“On the day they flew, they sent a telegram home. At the end, they said ‘We’ll be home for Christmas,’” says church member Steve Shelley, who wrote The Amazing Christmas Flying Machine, his tenth Christmas production for the church. “To not have been home for Christmas would have been devastating for the family.”

Along the way to the first powered flight by humans the audience

is taken through the brothers’ struggles and setbacks as they experiment with kites, then gliders, and finally a motorized aircraft.

“They’re disappointed. They face failure. They were ready to give up at numerous points,” says Pastor David Kingston. “The show teaches kids to keep on going. Don’t give up on your dreams.”

The Wright brothers’ dreams, Kingston notes, were developed in childhood when their father gave them a helicopter-type toy for

Christmas but not fulfilled until adulthood.

The show is also an opportunity for the 45 kids from the congregation who perform to have a learning experience. “It’s good for our kids,” says Kingston. “It helps them grow.”

They have to learn lines, work together, attend rehearsals (which start in September), and perform several times in the church’s packed 650-seat theatre.

“It’s fun and scary all at the same time,” says Mackenzie Sheridan, 9,

who plays the captain of the ship that takes the brothers to the Kitty Hawk beach.

The highlight of the show is the two-thirds-sized replica of the Wrights’ historic plane — reconstructed by the congregation from drawings — that is suspended at the back of the stage.

On Thursday morning, a glitch prevented it from performing its show-ending stunt. It made little difference, however. During the curtain call, the cast tossed tiny store-bought

Styrofoam planes from the stage and into the waiting hands of hundreds of wildly cheering school kids.

It’s called living with life’s little disappointments.

Public performances of The Amazing Christmas Flying Machine will be held at the Calvary Pentecostal Church on Ireland Road in Simcoe on Saturday at 3:30 p.m. and on Sunday at 6 p.m. Admission is free.

Daniel Pearce  
(519) 426-5710 ext. 132  
dpearce@bowesnet.com

## Shopping like Bob and Doug will cost you \$458.75

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

all-gold tuque. Instead, we found the next closest thing: a yellow tuque (the Fitzhenry and Whiteside Canadian Thesaurus says yellow is a synonym of gold).

Inflation has also hit the song, eh.

When SCTV’s McKenzie brothers (Rick Moranis as Bob and Dave Thomas as Doug) released their 12 Days of Christmas in 1981, a pack of Player’s cigarettes was \$2.73, Imperial Tobacco media relations says. Now, to buy the same pack, it’s \$8.30.

Erik Niklas, a 29-year-old single hoser who moved to Vancouver, B.C. from Columbus, Ohio recently, created the BobandDoug.com website.

While he was too young to see the McKenzie brothers in their prime, he says, “they’ve been iconified because

they’re so purely Canadian.”

He says an Ohio radio station plays the classic tune each year.

“I think some of the gifts are not understood by non-B&D fans though, like (the words) two-four, back bacon (which is called Canadian bacon in the States) and tuques, but I think the spirit of the song is there even if you don’t always understand what they’re talking about,” Niklas says.

Lindsey Rivait runs a Rick Moranis fan site from her Windsor home. She was also just a young child when the album came out, but she says their version of the Twelve Days of Christmas resonates with Canadians.

“The McKenzie Brothers’ Twelve Days of Christmas still strikes a chord with Canadian listeners because it’s just plain funny. Even now, after we’ve all heard it so many times,

when we hear it around Christmas we just lose it,” Rivait says. “Canadians know how to poke fun at themselves, so seeing Bob and Doug, these bumbling idiots on SCTV, portray every Canadian stereotype is just funny. Their humour isn’t dated, so it still stands up as funny, even today.”

Some people may ask, why didn’t the brothers cover the other four days in their song and why am I only getting eight days of gifts instead of 12? When they counted up their days, there was Christmas Day, Christmas Eve, Boxing Day, New Year’s Eve and New Year’s Day.

Doug explained, “Uh, there’s two Saturdays and Sundays in there, that’s four. (Added to the five listed above) That’s nine, and three other days which I believe are mystery days.”

## High fuel silver lining

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

has also helped, say some merchants. It gets shoppers thinking about buying boots, coats, and sweaters — and thinking about the holiday season.

“I think people are in a little better mood, especially because the snow came early,” says Dave Smyth of Smyth’s Shoes and Outdoor Store.

“People seem to be more in the Christmas spirit. There’s not as much doom and gloom in the news as last year,” adds Smyth, who says his business is up by about five or 10 per cent from last year.

Sales at the Canadian Tire on Queensway East “seems a little better than last year,” says store manager Paul Blair. “The last three or four weekends have been very busy.”

Across the highway, business at Zellers is up “marginally,” says manager Ed Janzen. “Customers are spending more than

last year.”

John Wright, manager of Budd’s in downtown Simcoe, says business has been “so-so” but adds “it’s a little too early to tell” how the season will pan out.

Mark Halmo of Halmo Jewellers says business “is off to a slow start.” He suggests people are spending their money on technology, such as upgrading cell-phones and televisions, rather than traditional items.

A couple of stores down from Halmo, Mark Boerkamp of the Source — which sells electronic items — says business “is extremely busy. It’s a little nuts.”

People are also shopping early this year, says Boerkamp. “Consumers are getting smarter. They know if they wait until the last minute you won’t get your pick.”

Daniel Pearce  
(519) 426-5710 ext. 132  
dpearce@bowesnet.com