

Sheridan College is open to serve Halton, Peel area



DOUGLAS FORD OF ACTON, a business and commerce student at Sheridan Community College in Brampton, is one of over 30 north Halton students enrolled in the college of applied arts and technology. At Thursday's official opening an open house was held, and he is seen showing his parents Mr. and Mrs. Art Ford how to operate an IBM key punch machine. (Staff Photo)

Sheridan College, one of 19 new community colleges of applied arts and technology, had an official opening and installation of its first president in Brampton, Thursday evening.

But the quarters are only temporary. The Ontario government has transformed the former Brampton High School into a community college to serve the needs of Halton and Peel Counties until a new one can be built at a chosen site on the Trafalgar Road in Oakville.

Several education officials from Halton County were among the invited guests as Minister of Education William G. Davis officially declared the building open. Visitors included representatives of school board, inspectors and councillors from around North Halton, and Halton East and West M.P.P.'s Jim Snow and George Kerr.

Three from this county have played prominent parts in the establishment and development of the college that first opened its doors to students last fall. John W. Ostler, president of Canadian Meter Company in Milton, is vice-chairman of the board of governors. Reeves H.H. Hinton of Acton and Herbert C. Merry of Oakville are county council appointees to the board. The three men joined 20 other blue and gray-robed guests on the platform for Thursday's opening.

To date over 30 students from the North Halton area have enrolled for one of 17 courses offered in Sheridan's four main branches—technology, business and commerce, applied arts, and the crafts school of design. Officials expect many more will want to

enroll when the new college site in Oakville is occupied.

Another highlight of the ceremony was the installation of the college president, John M. Porter. Mr. Porter, introduced by Mr. Ostler, was capped and gowned in the formal ceremony. He indicated his love for the college when he described its "environment of openness without tradition...out of this will come just good, plain learning. It is a bubbling, exciting environment and there is an excitement in the school because the students are doing something they really like."

He reviewed the problems in organizing the college, the early fears about empty seats, the recruitment of staff, and the daily ideas for changes, development and correlation of the courses offered. "Our challenge has been frightening, but our opportunity is glorious," he concluded.

Guest speaker William G. Davis paid tribute to Halton county's two M.P.P.'s George Kerr and Jim Snow for their interest in the development of Sheridan. In a little over a year and a half, 19 new community colleges have been established, and the 13,000 total enrolment has exceeded the department's expectations. "There is no question in our minds that colleges of applied arts and technology have created an important niche in the educational development of Ontario," he suggested.

"These colleges are not second grade universities, these

institutions will allow young people of our province an educational experience that was never before possible," insisted the minister.

But while the pomp and pageantry of the official opening ceremony created an impressive

sight, a minor behind-the-scenes battle was raging over the new Oakville site.

Land costs have soared, it is reported, and the 100-acre site on Trafalgar Road the college is seeking may not be available at the offered price. A new site

further north in Oakville may yet be chosen, some officials feel. The land originally selected is on the west side of the road facing Oakville's new administration building and police headquarters, and looking out over the Queen Elizabeth Way.



AMONG THE OFFICIAL GUESTS witnessing the opening of the new Sheridan College of Applied Arts and Technology on Thursday were these four: From left are Milton District High School Board chairman Reford W. Gardhouse, Reeve Herbert C. Merry of Oakville, Halton West M.P.P. George A. Kerr and Reeve H. H. Hinton of Acton. Reeves Merry and Hinton are county council representatives on the college's board. The college will serve Halton and Peel Counties and the temporary Brampton accommodation will end when the new college campus is built in Oakville. (Staff Photo)

Children's Aid Societies co-operate

Five babies head for adoptive homes

Newly adopted babies will be adding a new excitement to the homes of five Halton couples some time this month. A merry Christmas present arranged through a co-operative understanding between Halton Children's Aid Society and the C.A.S. groups in many larger centres in Ontario.

On Thursday five babies, ranging from newborns about 10 days old to one four months of age, arrived en masse in the Halton C.A.S. headquarters on Hugh St. in Milton. It was, in the words of one staffer, "organized bedlam" for a couple of hours but the staff weathered the storm quite well. A few even offered to take home one or two of the cute wee infants.

"Operation Adoption" began in London that morning and reached its climax about noon when the five homeless waifs and three London C.A.S. caseworkers arrived in Milton in a large rented, chauffeur-driven limousine. Later that day they left for foster parents' homes around the county, where after a short stay

they will probably be placed in adoptive homes in time for Christmas.

The mass transfer from London to Milton was an emergency situation, but Halton C.A.S. officials felt the project warranted some publicity as it exemplified the spirit of co-operation that exists between C.A.S. agencies around the province.

"London C.A.S. was desperate, we got a call for assistance a week ago," explained Dr. Gordon K. Askwith, Halton C.A.S. director. Unmarried mothers, he pointed out, flocked to the larger centres when their babies are due, and the city Children's Aid Societies have a problem in completing adoptions for such a large influx of newborns.

In such cases, the city agencies put out a distress signal to area counties where the birth rates

are lower but adoptive parents have to stay on a waiting list.

"This has all been a bit of a panic, but London was a little desperate," Dr. Askwith explained. "So we said send them down here, we can place them."

Adoptive parents like to obtain their adopted children as soon as possible after birth, so the five who arrived from London Thursday shouldn't have any trouble finding good homes with loving parents. Most prefer to adopt a child at three to six weeks of age.

Right now the Halton Society has 35 foster parents homes available to take in children for short periods of time until the right adoptive parents can be found. C.A.S. workers help select the right child for the right home.

Last year Halton Children's Aid completed 74 adoptions, and

59 per cent of all the children classed as "in care of" the C.A.S. in Halton were adopted and living in adoptive homes.

"We have a good inter-agency system the director said. Halton often helps larger urban centres with adoptions because of the county's high density of middle-class homes with young couples who, for personal or health reasons, wish to adopt a child.

Thursday's project just had to be a big success, according to chauffeur George LaHive of London who drove the big nine-passenger limousine to Milton. "There wasn't a squawk out of them all the way down."

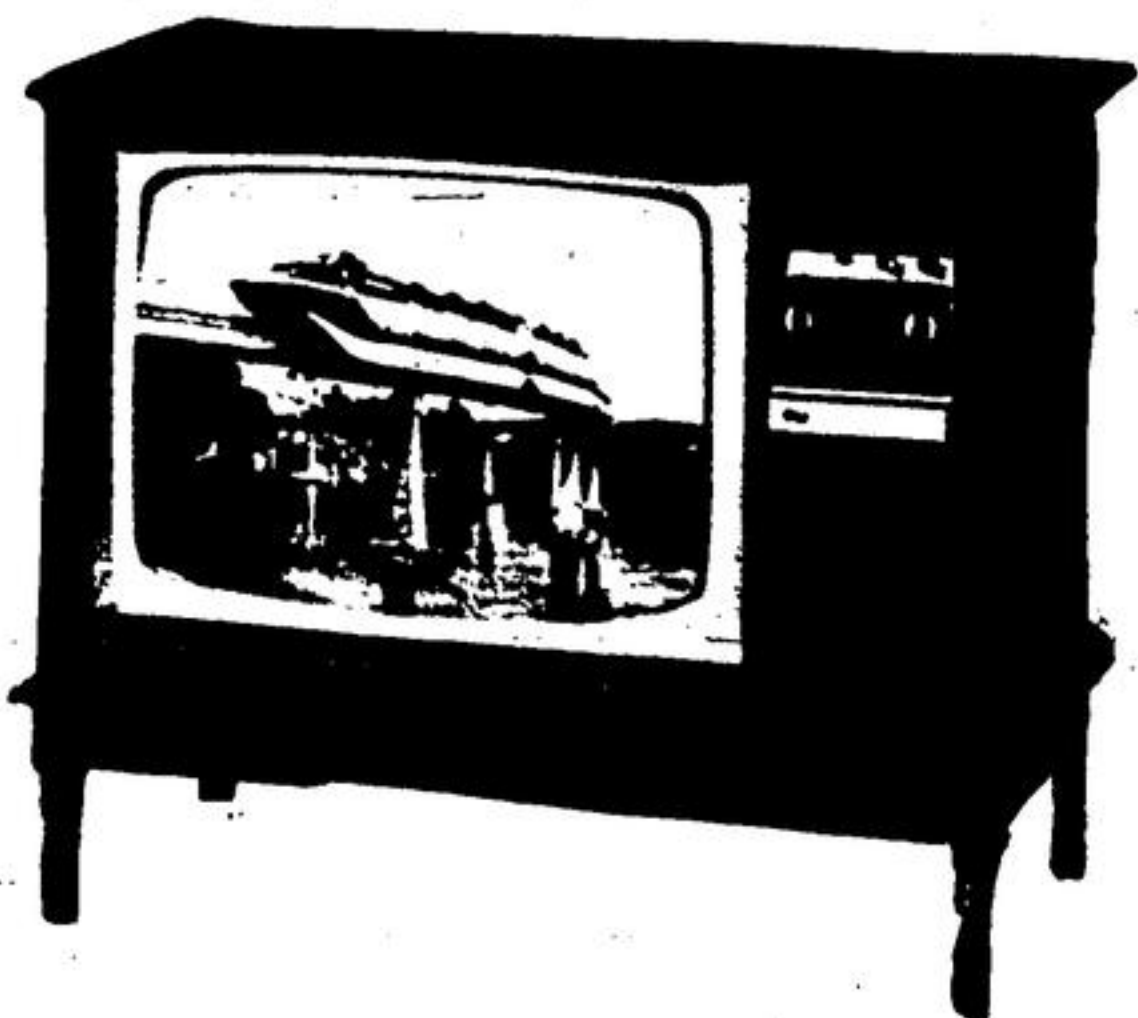
London C.A.S. staffer Mrs. Arlene Nobbs, who with Mrs. Pam Mingo and Mrs. Doreen Peters accompanied the infants on the trip, reported just one casualty — a dirty diaper that had to be changed en route.



LIKE A DOTING FATHER, Halton C.A.S. director Dr. Gordon K. Askwith hugs a tiny tot for whom the local Children's Aid is helping to find adoptive parents. The Halton Society assisted the London C.A.S. when London issued a desperate call for foster homes and adoptive parents. "We don't have any trouble finding good homes for them," Dr. Askwith assured everyone. (Staff Photo)

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