

May open in spring

# Recovery house is underway

"It won't be a place where men are brought to flop out for a few days. It will be a place for inebriates who may require detoxification. They will be encouraged by compassionate, hopefully experienced people to take part in the program and they will be encouraged to overcome the feeling of self worth that is lost through drinking."

That, in a nutshell, is the way Rev. Rod Lewis of Milton describes the hopes and aspirations he and his

colleagues on the board of directors hold for the Halton Recovery House.

Mr. Lewis is the president of the newly incorporated board of directors. Other key positions are held by vice-president Bob Clement, treasurer Ron Hackett and secretary Marlene Swarbrick.

Red tape

Mr. Lewis and other proponents of the recovery house had hoped the house could have opened by the beginning of this month but the preliminary work that must be done has taken longer than expected.

A file folder bulging at the seams represents the hours of research and legwork and reams of correspondence to and from government agencies, community organizations and business.

At this point the group has officially become an incorporated board of directors with 15 members representing a cross section in the region.

The board of directors has drawn up a budget of \$77,000 for the first year's effort. Providing final approval is given, 10 per cent of the operating and maintenance costs will be covered by the province, leaving the group to raise \$15,400 locally.

An intensive campaign aimed at raising that money is about to swing into high gear and according to president Lewis, donations from all sectors are welcome.

Early response

The board hopes to receive financial support from foundations, municipal bodies, industrial firms and unions as well as service, ethnic and church organizations.

Mr. Lewis has been encouraged by an early response from Local 1067 of the United Auto workers and the Brampton Presbyterian which donated \$700 and \$250 respectively.

As recently as Tuesday the Boston Presbyterian Church Ladies Fellowship Group threw their support behind the house with a pledge of \$500.

He sees the three donations as a breakthrough and evidence of support for the project. Providing the financial needs can be met and a location can be found for the house, the house will open in the spring of 1976.

The president notes that the steering committee had considered building a house but workers are now focussing on an older home that can be renovated.

The choosing of a site represents one of the major problems the group faces in getting the project operative. Not only does the site have to meet local zoning regulations and be favorably received by

neighboring landowners and residents, but it must also meet criteria set down by both the Ministry of Health and Ministry of Community and Social Services. The restrictions set down by each group differ and as Mr. Lewis has learned, few sites meet the combined restrictions.

Credibility

Initially the board of directors may rent a house in order to establish some

credibility in the region.

A long wait

Homewood in Guelph and Donwood in Toronto are the closest facilities for handling drinking problems. Both are faced with long waiting lists. People looking for help could spend six to nine months trying to get into either.

"We feel we have to catch him before he hits the skids and before irreparable damage is done to his employment, his family or to himself emotionally, physi-

cally or psychologically," Mr. Lewis said.

The Halton Recovery House will be unique in that it is believed to be the only home that enters to people in both detoxification units and a recovery wing.

Good support

The need has been substantiated through letters from hospitals, doctors, police and businesses as well as the 14 AA branches in the region.

According to Mr. Lewis his group of volunteers realizes the house won't be the answer to drinking problems in Halton, but it will hopefully be a meaningful start and a step in the right direction.



BEV BARKER uses the proper methods for crossing guards as he keeps his one foot on the curb and the other on the same line as his partner across the street.

## Students act as crossing guards

Halton Regional Police Sergeant Peter Bromley has been in town frequently the past few days recruiting 40 students from Robert Little public school as crossing guards.

The guards are needed at the Mill/Willow Sts. corner to stop traffic as school children cross the busy intersection.

Two patrols are needed in this new method, with one guard on each side of the street. When called to duty, they take one step into the street, keeping one foot on the curb, the other on the white painted line on the road. Each guard is kitty-corner to the other, so they are on different lines. Once in the intersection, they keep their arms and fingers outstretched, indicating someone is going to cross. Once the pedestrian is across, the guards wave the traffic on.

First time

Sergeant Bromley said this is the first time this method has been used in Halton, but was adopted by Guelph some time ago.

Grade sevens in the school are undergoing a training session with the Sergeant before actually practising the method themselves. Passing motorists instinctively stop or slow down when they see someone standing on the corner, but the new crossing guards wave them through.

Pedestrians of every age must learn to obey the guards, Sergeant Bromley says.

The school children have a very responsible job to do and pedestrian co-operation is a very important part of learning that responsibility.



CORRINE ANDREWS points the way to safety for the young pedestrian. She is one of the new M.Z. Bennett crossing guards at the Mill-Willow corner, who are learning the proper methods of guarding people from traffic.

## Housing starts down from last year's total

Building permits issued in October were down from last month, but up over October of last year, with a total of \$897,819 October 1975, compared to \$669,119 in October 74.

Over the year to date, permits are down two million dollars from 1974, and housing starts are down from 316 to 269.

Thirteen house permits totalling \$469,000 were issued last month, up six from September.

An industrial permit for Commercial Shearing in Acton accounted for \$110,000 and an industrial building, being constructed by Al Plutti on Mountainview, North,

Georgetown was listed at \$50,000.

Work has started on the renovation of the old stone house on Maple Avenue, Georgetown, into a day care centre. The permit is valued at \$74,000.

Despite the lateness of the season seven swimming pool permits were issued bringing the total for the year to 142 new pools in town, almost the same as 1974 at this time.

Halton Hills has collected \$2,127 in permit fees, but lot levies are the big money-maker.

To date this year Georgetown has collected \$96,625 in lot levies and Acton has collected \$14,700.

## Glen Gray Recreation Director

Glen Gray, area recreation coordinator, will assume the position of recreation director, filling the spot vacated by Doug Collison at the end of October.

Mr. Gray came to Georgetown as area coordinator shortly before the establishment of regional government and the establishment of Halton Hills.

His salary will be in the \$17,500 range.

The position of recreation director was advertised, with 25 applications received for the job.

## Houses, addition to plant approved

Homes in Kingham Hill and an addition to the Commercial Shearing plant helped boost the \$409,950 total for building permits in Acton in October.

There were eight permits issued by Halton Hills for single family dwellings in Kingham Hill Estates; total-

ing \$240,000. The building permit for Commercial Shearing was valued, at \$110,000.

There were three permits for residential additions, alterations and repairs amounting to \$5,500, and one for a residential garage at \$2,200. Miscellaneous category accounted for \$52,200.

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