

"The only limitations are what we impose"

Lawrence Smuckler, director of the new Halton Developmental Centre, believes every child is entitled to an education. He feels the object of the Centre, located in 13,000 square feet of space at the Ernest C. Drury School, Milton, is to get severely retarded and multiple handicapped children to do as much for themselves as they possibly can.

To achieve this goal the centre has a staff of 10 highly qualified persons to work with a total of 30 school-age children. An army of volunteers will work on a one-to-one ratio with the children

who are bused to Milton from all over Halton Region.

Special care
The Centre has been established to help children who need more specialized care than already offered at schools for the mentally retarded. It is a place where severely handicapped children will be helped with behavioral problems the schools are not equipped to handle.

Areas of greatest concentration will be in self help and social skills. Walking, dressing, personal hygiene, eating and language development are high priorities of the program which began April 5.

Mr. Smuckler believes there is no child who can't be helped. "I'd never predict what a child's potential ability will be," he says.

"We're not working with special people, we're working with children with learning problems who require special training. It's no big deal," he insists.

He believes the only limitations on these children are the limitations society imposes. "The more severe the handicap, the more resources and staff is needed to teach the child," Mr. Smuckler explains.

Relieves parents
Parental relief is a major reason for the program at the Centre. Parents are involved in the program so they can continue the approach at home.

Parent training programs will be set up with workshops and home visits as part of the overall picture.

"Our object here is to get people to do as much for themselves as they possibly can," Mr. Smuckler says. "Our ultimate goal is to make ourselves unnecessary."

The Centre is jointly operated by the Burlington, North Halton and Oakville Associations for the retarded and is funded by the Ministry of Community and Social Services.



LAWRENCE SMUCKLER is the director of the new Halton Developmental Centre for severely retarded and multiply handicapped children located at Ernest C. Drury School in Milton. He received his master's degree in child and developmental psychology in New York and now lives in Milton with his family.

Volunteers needed
Volunteers will play a crucial part in the program and those interested may call 878-8582 to learn more of the work needed.

The staff has been carefully chosen with as many different backgrounds as possible for a cross fertilization of ideas. They are Susan Hall, Maureen Bessenbrugge, Linda Brown, Velma Doran, Pat Holdsworth, Judith Mathieu, Peggy McCandless, Barbara Storch, Bella Touchie and Diane Young.

Lawrence Smuckler holds a master's degree in child and developmental psychology from the University of Connecticut in New York State.



PSYCHOLOGIST DIANE YOUNG is one of staff of 11 persons working with children at the new Halton Developmental Centre. She helps Susan control her motor activity with the aid of the tape recorder. The professional workers are well qualified with honors BAs and master's degrees in psychology.



VOLUNTEER EDITH BIELBY supervises sandbox play of two little girls at the new Halton Developmental Centre located at Ernest C. Drury School in Milton. Half of the proposed 30 children are now in the centre which began operations April 5. The remaining 15 children will be introduced gradually. The centre is asking for more volunteers.

Manor budget cut

Administrator of Halton Centennial Manor, Stan Allen must look for areas in his \$3,141,743 budget where he can cut \$141,743. Mr. Allen received that directive from Halton's Administration Committee after the committee examined the budget Wednesday.

Committee made no suggestions where the cut should be made, but claimed the increased region's share of about 53 per cent was not acceptable.

In 1975 it cost \$2,727,423 to run Halton Centennial Manor and of that, the region paid \$284,954.

"Can't understand
This year the budget stands at \$3,141,743 and the region's share is \$438,821. Making the motion to cut the budget, Councillor Carl Eriksen said he did not like the type of mo-

tion that called for blind cuts, but claimed he couldn't make enough sense of the budget to make detailed cuts.

Councillor Jim Watson asked that the daily rates charged for residents be reviewed. He suggested consideration should be given to increasing fees to those with the ability to pay.

Halton Hills Mayor Tom Hill said he had worked on many budgets prepared by Stan Allen and had never found them to be padded.

"What's \$141,000 in \$28,000,000?" he asked.

Have Money
Responding to questions, Mr. Allen suggested that if the committee wanted to take all it wanted from the residents there was enough money there to run the home at a profit. He referred to financial reserves of the resi-

dents.

He indicated the first areas he would cut from the budget would be in the area of maintenance, but suggested that would be penny wise and pound foolish.

Humeniuk's barber shop had a charming display for Easter in the front window.

Move to censure CAO fire staffers fails

Halton Region's Chief Administrative Officer Ernie Reid escaped being officially censured by the Region's Administration Committee Wednesday. However he was severely chastised during a discussion that took a large part of the morning's meeting.

Oakville Councillor Carl Eriksen urged the committee to officially express its dissatisfaction in the way the CAO handled a recent staff transfer. That motion failed. But committee members continued to verbally assault the CAO.

obeyed council and committee direction. He argued that the additional treasury staff was approved only subject to the transfer of Manor staff. He concluded that the result of the staff action was just another two additional bodies in the treasury office.

Full responsibility
When Oakville Councillor Mac Anderson asked who was responsible for the action Mr. Reid said he accepted full responsibility.

"Does that answer your question," Chairman Dave Coons asked.

can. He could jump on one or two department heads but instead he's taking the blame himself."

Burlington Mayor George Harrington supported Watson's stand. Harrington usually takes a tough stand in staff matters.

He admitted that he had become confused in the maze of paper and claimed there was a problem in keeping lines of communications open. "But there's no sense putting your head in the sand."

Not known
In December of 1975 Regional Treasurer Don Farmer requested two people be added to his department. On first glance the committee denied that request but later agreed that if two people could be taken from Halton Centennial Manor and their functions transferred to headquarters they could be added to the staff.

What in fact happened and remained unknown to the committee until this month was the two people at the Manor refused to travel to Burlington to work. Consequently they resigned and two new people were hired to work in the treasurer's department at headquarters.

Work not transferred
But Manor Administrator Stan Allen said some of the functions performed by the two people who resigned is still carried out at the Manor. Oakville Mayor Harry Barrett insisted that the two people in the treasurer's department be fired. "It's backdoor action right down the line. The staff decide they want it and they'll get it come Hell or high water. If they can't take a direction move over and someone else will."

It was his contention that the staff had deliberately dis-

Attempts fail
After two attempts to have the CAO censured and subsequent attempts to have the two new employees fired had all failed a report on the problem was commissioned.

That report will address itself to the workload at the Manor and to the pros and cons of centralizing staff.

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