

Psychometrician

Helps children, parents cope

After appointments at the Community Services Centre last Thursday morning, Peggy Polhill chatted about her work with the Free Press.

She knows that not many people here realize the kind of work she does for children and their families in North Halton, and she's enthusiastic in explaining it.



Children are honest...

She is part of the special services team that works out of the North Education centre. They go to all the schools in the area.

Miss Polhill explains there are three primary and junior consultants, two speech therapists, two remedial resource people, three with psychological services and one attendance counsellor.

Handle anything

To put her in the right slot in the system she is termed a psychometrician with the psychological section. But, she says "we handle any program or child who may have academic, behavioral or emotional difficulty in the school."

Could she give us an example?

She chose to cite the problem of a boy who becomes very aggressive and will deliberately destroy property of his classmates, and misbehave even with the teacher.

The principal will call her in and she will talk to the parents and the child, to start.



The system works...

Since the Community Services centre is open, she can suggest a third alternative meeting place to the parents. Before, they could arrange to meet at only either the

school or the home. Some parents like the opportunity to meet in a different location altogether, she is finding.

She especially enjoys working with children. "They are so honest," she beams.

Consent

Parents' consent must be obtained before she makes an assessment of the child. She may pass a case on to the Children's Aid Society or a doctor, for instance. She finds her tests helpful but "I don't depend on numbers."

She comes to the Robert Little school primarily, with Ruth Tabor looking after problems at the high school and the M. Z. Bennett school.

This is her fifth year as a psychometrician and she is still full of interest and enthusiasm about her job and the people she meets.

More and more parents are aware there is help for them and their children, she is finding. They are becoming more willing to ask for help.

Just a chat

Sometimes parents find reassurance in just one chat, says Miss Polhill.

She has empathy and sympathy for parents bringing up children these days. She realized how difficult it is for them to know just what is the right thing to do.

"They get double messages," she feels. Parents at home deal with an awful lot on a day to day basis, she says.



People have common sense...

Parents have come to think experts have all the answers, yet Miss Polhill has seen that usually parents have the answers themselves—they just sometimes need to talk a problem over and develop their own confidence. "People don't get enough credit for their own common sense."

Sometimes parents are concerned if their child is not exactly what they consider "normal." There's no reason everyone should be "normal", she smiles.

She likes to tell parents to just "Be yourself." She has seen how sometimes they "go overboard" on certain things, and of course this is unwise.

Must work

As for the school system, she sees errors being made and a lot of things being done right. She looks at the way today's children turn out and sees that the system must be working!

Most of them are turning out just fine. Teachers and principals and parents are now all more aware of problems that can develop. For instance, they know the child who is too quiet and well-behaved may not be the healthiest. Problems are being spotted and screened now, as they would not have been a few decades ago.

History

Peggy Polhill comes from Burlington. She has her Honors B.A. in Psychology from the University of Toronto and Master of Applied Psychology degree from Waterloo. She interned at Niagara Falls hospital and then came with the Halton board of education. On holidays, she enjoys travelling and photography.

Wayne Moss in real estate now

Wayne Moss is now a real estate salesman with G. Alec Johnson Ltd., after his business, Moss Pro Hardware, was sold and he took a special course.

Bill and Marjorie Morse from Toronto bought his hardware store in January, and Mr. Moss headed for Sheridan College to take a six week full time course run by the Ontario Real Estate Association.

The new salesman received his licence April 21 and has been busy since then. He feels the business is really starting to pick up now that the warmer weather is here and thinks the slump is over.

Wasteacher

Mr. Moss started his schooling at York Mills Collegiate and continued on to York University. From there he went to Toronto Teachers' College.

For a total of five years he taught at Willowdale Junior High School. During this time he moved to Acton and commuted the distance each day. One year was spent teaching at Stewarttown school before



Wayne Moss

the hardware business caught his eye.

Now that he is in real estate, he is able to do what he has always been interested in—selling land. He is also interested in land itself and wanted to stay in the Acton area so took the "natural" recourse.

Works garage \$90,850

The addition to Halton Hills works garage on the Seventh Line should cost \$90,850, Councillor Ern Hyde told council Monday night. With washroom and lunchroom facilities added to the existing works garage, the total should be \$106,000. Council approved the work, with only Councillor Harry Levy opposed.

Hyde asked for council approval to complete the building, where the steel is erected at present. He said the next step is to get bids on the block work. He said he would like to invite bids from three firms at least, on the block

work and at least two on the roofing.

"I just want to know if you're going to advertise," said Mayor Tom Hill. Hyde said he only knew of one local firm equipped to do the high block work but would be happy to know of any others. He said there are drawings, approved by the Ministry of Labor available to anyone.

The mayor insisted the only fair way was to advertise, and Hyde agreed to do it that way. He claimed this building would be built for ten dollars a square foot, compared to an average of \$17 a square foot

on similar buildings. Levy repeated his opposition to the extension of the works garage, saying he had seen nothing in writing, no plans and objected to the way it is being done.

Hyde argued the committee had taken the method that cost the least. "If we had an architect the cost would be half as much again."

Two car collision

Halton Regional Police investigated a two-car collision on Mill St., April 22 at 5:55 p.m.

A car driven by Robert Beerman, 64 Churchill Rd. S. sustained \$100 in damages and a car driven by Karl Gathof, 270 Mill St. E., received \$1200 in damages when they were in collision, police estimate.

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Approve 9% raises for staffers

Halton Regional non-union staffers were awarded raises of nine per cent after a lengthy and heated session of council last week.

The package will cost an estimated \$228,000 and employees will receive merit increases over and above the nine per cent.

Burlington Councillor Jack Rafis and Burlington Mayor George Harrington squared off in an all-out shouting match, during the debate.

Rafis sided with the staff and won support for his contention that the staffers must receive the increases.

The staff are human beings, just like everyone else. They have to eat too. I don't see why you're trying to make headlines on these salaries," he shouted at the mayor.

Harrington told the council the only issue at stake was money. He pointed to the region's projected increase and said the money just

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Car/truck in collision

Mill St. E. was the scene of the April 24 collision between a car driven by Terry Davidson, R.R. 1 Acton and a truck driven by Alan Thompson, 42 Young St., Halton Regional Police say.

According to police, damage remains at an estimated \$1,000 to the Davidson vehicle.

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