

# Youth Services Network expanding into north

Halton Youth Services Network, an organization devoted to helping young people fill their needs and share community resources, is expanding into North Halton.

The YSN began last year in Oakville and this year expects to branch out to cover the whole Halton Region, according to program co-ordinator Barbara de Kruff.

Chairmen have been chosen to launch local committees and William Tom will head the work in Milton with Eric Balkind in charge in Halton Hills, she said.

The Halton YSN plans its annual meeting this Thursday evening, Feb. 24 at 7:30 p.m. at Sheridan College and urges anyone interested in the program to attend.

Ron Coupland, Executive Director of Halton Children's Aid Society is the key speaker for Thursday's annual. Mr. Coupland acknowledges that community agencies sometimes have difficulty communicating with one another as well as co-ordinating their programs to youth's best advantage. He plans to present some ideas about improving the situation.

A grant from Ontario's Youth Secretariat helped Halton Youth Services get organized last June. The Secretariat's criteria for networks is, "to provide a forum for the discussion of needs and concerns of young people; and to share information and explore the sharing of community resources toward the improvement of the quality of youth services."

The Youth Secretariat funds one-third of a network's cost while the community covers the remainder.

"We are very anxious to have young people represented on the board of directors," Mrs. de Kruff said. One-third of the members of the local board can be young people but one-quarter of them must be of voting age.

Halton Regional Police, Sheridan College, Canada Manpower, Children's Aid, the Juvenile Assessment Centre, in Burlington, Halton Board of Education and local

parcs and Recreation Departments are participating now.

Last year the Halton Network held two successful public forums. The first was to provide input on Mississauga MPP Terry Jones' proposal about changing the drinking age; the second was on young persons in conflict with the law.

Last summer the Network carried out a two-pronged project to research the needs of youth in the west Oakville area. One part was a door to door survey of households in the Hopedale area, while the second involved a youth drop-in centre at Hopedale Mall and a sports program at nearby Queen Elizabeth Park School.

The Network also funded the printing of a youth resources report done under the auspices of Burlington Social Planning Council.

A director of youth services, further discussion forums and a regular newsletter are projects on tap for 1977, Mrs. de Kruff said.

YSN is also distributing information on government programs providing employment for youth, including the Young Canada Works program, the Experience '77 program and the Student Community Service program.

Members of student government groups and school guidance counsellors are especially invited to Thursday's meeting.

## Pantling family

# Mushing up the sideroad

by Jennifer Barr

There's something quieter and more exciting than snowmobiling these cold winter days. Sledding with dogs is becoming more and more popular, especially at R. R. 2, Acton where Doug and Sheila Pantling have eight Siberian huskies and indulge in the sport every weekend.

It all started four years ago on Valentines Day when Doug bought Sheila her first husky - Dmidri. The family were facing the loss of their old collie and were looking for a purebred puppy. Choice of a husky pup was just by chance but the Pantlings have never been sorry.

Having a young purebred good enough to show, started the Pantlings on the round of dog shows and eventually races. They found themselves getting more and more interested and decided to have "one load of pups."

The rest was the age-old story. Dmidri produced a fine litter by a red Siberian (she's a silver grey) and three of the pups were kept. Son Jeff kept a young bitch pup, Anastasia, and started showing her. He says she's done very well in the six months on the circuit.

Another litter, a year later, produced more fine pups, some of which were kept. Daughter, Diane Penrice of Georgetown owns one of the offspring, while Jeff and second daughter Patricia share the responsibilities of the remaining dogs.

Pulling a 'barge' To Jeff falls the major part of the training. Even though the Pantlings still wish to show for conformation, sledding is their love. Jeff agrees it's possible to make more income from a show stud than a sledding stud but he says they're not in it for the money. Besides, "shows are too political," he thinks.

This is the first year the Pantlings have competed with their team and as yet have only gone to practice runs.

Jeff has made a heavy breaking sled - "a barge", he calls it - and can be seen most days mushing up the sideroad behind a trio of eager huskies.

Finding a good lead dog can be a problem. He must be intelligent and love to stay out in front. After talking to a great many people, reading and learning, Jeff started to work his dogs and decided to use Bucky as lead. This friendly open-faced young dog is strong and keen with all the makings of a first class runner.

After the lead dog, teams consist of four or six dogs teamed for strength and pulling ability. At the moment, Jeff works only three dogs at a time for better control and communication.



HUSKIES ARE friendly as Jeff Pantling proves.

Belonging to two sled clubs, the Nordog Slidders, a club embracing an area from Bracebridge to Cambridge, and the Siberian Husky Club of Canada, has provided the Pantlings with much needed information and a chance to join in club events.

Sleds can be costly. Frequent events include cross country races in which teams compete by running individually timed courses of roughly seven miles. Rules differ with every club but one of the universal ones states contestants must complete the course with the same dogs they started with. If a dog is injured or tired, he's brought in riding on the sled or trotting beside the team.

The valuable dogs (they sell as puppies for \$250 to \$350) are well cared for by their owners. Feet are toughened and checked carefully for injury. Harness fits comfortably. Each harness is usually made individually for the dogs. Roger Johnston of Acton has been making padded nylon harnesses for the Pantlings and they are well pleased with it, finding it more durable than leather.

Sleds are also another sizeable investment. Racing sleds weigh 35 lbs. and cost \$175 to \$250. This may not sound like much until one realizes a sled may only last a single race.

Jeff Pantling remarks "They get pretty busted up if you run them into a tree." That's one of the reasons he uses a heavy rough-built sled for training.

The wood used in sled making is usually ash and has to

be pliable and supple as well as light weight.

Dogs sleep out. Cost of keeping the dogs is considerable and the Pantlings are loath to add it up. Five pounds of meat, plus great quantities of meat, eggs and "dog dinner" are used every day. Milk bones and oil for the coat are daily treats. Veterinary care can be very expensive although Doug says they find routine care cheaper now they have a visiting Guelph vet come to the kennels instead of the clinic visits necessary when the family lived in Georgetown.

The dogs are housed outside in pens, two to a run, with small sleeping kennels. However, Sheila Pantling says the dogs rarely use the kennels. Their coats are made for weather, she explains, saying huskies can shake the rain off and be dry in a second. The dogs are happier outside, the Pantlings feel, although a large whelping box is kept in the basement for confinements.

The runs are cleaned and disinfected daily and each dog gets his daily run. Puppies have every shot in the book and are X-rayed for the presence of hip dysplasia, an infrequent but sometimes crippling hereditary problem.

When the number of dogs became too many last year, the Pantlings moved to Acton

from suburban Georgetown. Now they have room for their kennels and sled trails in their own bush.

They recently built a heated kennel for boarding dogs on their 12 acre property.

"They don't think I've got enough to do" laughs Sheila who is the main force behind the kennel. Doug hopes to be able to make the boarding kennel a business proposition for the whole family.

Snow eyes. Sheila becomes quite lyrical when talking about her huskies. They're ideal family dogs, she thinks, explaining the husky is most gentle with people.

"They only fight among themselves," she says.

Siberian huskies don't have any odor and are non-allergic for people who suffer from dog hair allergies. They come in many different colors, from red, buff, and chocolate brown to white and silver-grey. They can have either blue or brown eyes and have a third eyelid called a snow eye for protecting the eyes against glare and snow. The eye looks blurry when the snow lid is in place - sort of built-in sunglasses.

Judging by the happy yelps of welcome that greet the visitor and the enthusiastic licking one gets from the Pantling huskies, sledding is not only a healthy hobby but a very rewarding one for the owners of these delightfully friendly animals.



SHEILA AND JEFF Pantling hitch up the dogs for a run.

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6:30 p.m. - Evening Fellowship  
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Pastor's Phone - 853-1835

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SATURDAY  
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### Sunday, Feb. 27, 1977

9:30 a.m. - Sunday School and Adult Class  
11:00 a.m. - Morning Worship  
7:00 p.m. - Evening Fellowship

### UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA TRINITY CHURCH, ACTON

Rev. Chas. Beeton B.A., B.D. Dr. George Elliott M.A., Ph. D. Director of Music  
Sunday, Feb. 27, 1977

10:00 a.m. - Morning Worship

### UNITED CHURCH MISSIONARY

Rev. Bruce Eaton "Food My Sheep" Reception Following  
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### BAHA'I

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Everyone Welcome

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Sunday, Feb. 27, 1977

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