

# Mexican student here learns English at school

For the second year in a row, Acton High School has a student visiting from Mexico to learn English while he continues his studies. Eduardo Velez, 18, arrived in Toronto last Wednesday and began work Monday. Last year Alejandro Guereca made the same trip.

Eduardo came to Acton because he wanted to be in a small town near a big city, and Acton fit the bill. He has been in the United States several times, and wanted to see Canada.

Although he speaks a little English already, he had Ariel

Leal with him to act as interpreter when he talked with the Free Press. Eduardo is interested in studying architecture in University. He was placed in classes at the high school this week, with the option of changing them if he did not like them.

Keith Black. It was largely through the efforts of Keith Black, a teacher at the school who worked through International Fellowship, that Eduardo was able to come to Canada. Mr. Black became involved with projects of this sort in 1965, when he began travelling with young people to other countries. He soon became convinced of the value of this travel and has since brought Alex Guereca to Acton.

Eduardo will be staying with Marguerite Taylor on Willow St. Mrs. Taylor says she speaks enough English that they can get along. She also says she is enjoying having Eduardo at her house "very much".

Meeting people. In his first week up here, Eduardo spent most of his time meeting people in school and visiting in the area. Acton is "a lot different, but a nice town" he said through Ariel. His home is in Mexico City.

The food here, including the high school cafeteria's food, is "very good" according to Eduardo. He is not used to eating hot spicy food in Mexico because his relatives are European, so our food is not that much different from what he eats at home.

The weather, however, is different. In Mexico "it's a lot hotter than here," he said. It is still summer there, and the summers are hotter than ours. Eduardo plans to try to learn to skate and ski when he is here.

According to Mrs. Taylor, Eduardo's home in Mexico City is heated by solar power. He has one brother and two sisters making six in his family. His father will be visiting him Monday.



EDUARDO VELEZ, centre, enjoys soccer, tennis, auto racing and music. He was brought to Acton from Mexico to learn English, largely through the efforts of Keith Black, right. Ariel Leal, left, is acting as his interpreter until he becomes more familiar with the language.

# Service offers help to troubled families

"The Family Counselling Division of Halton Social and Family Services doesn't guarantee to solve problems, but will try to put them in perspective and present options," says Mrs. Betty Hill, family counsellor who has just taken up her duties here.

Marriage conflicts top the list of problems handled by the agency, and Pat Doherty, Supervisor of Family Counselling advises "It's important people seek help before it becomes a crisis."

The Family Counselling Division, financed by taxes through Halton Region, focuses on the types of problems that can happen to almost anyone. Such everyday heartbreaks as marriage troubles, children's problems, extra-marital affairs, depression, parent-child relationships, runaway youth, loneliness and isolation and tries to help the more serious and less frequent problems of suicide

attempts, psychiatric follow-up, alcoholism, and drug abuse.

It's a big job functioning quietly and in absolute confidentiality. The problems unburdened to Mrs. Hill are never revealed.

The service is completely advisory in that no-one has to take the proffered help, and is open to anyone whether rich or poor.

The trauma of separation or divorce can be lessened with the help of the Family Counselling Service, who frequently find the children in such a situation are also disturbed.

Mrs. Hill emphasizes the people who come there make the decisions not the agency. "We simply present options, and perhaps give a new perspective on their problems, and that very often is enough to help straighten out the situation," She says some people need more direction than others. She

insists they can't help anyone who is not willing to help themselves.

She explained some people seem to feel they are a failure if they have to seek outside help from a resource person. She says this is entirely wrong, and points out it takes more courage to see help is needed than to sit and wallow in misery.

She said while the aim is always to keep a family together, sometimes the solution is separation.

Mrs. Hill, a mother of six, says she is well aware families are constantly in transition, and sometimes just talking things over with an outsider helps.

"There's nothing wrong with having problems in marriage, but when nothing is done about them, only further heartbreak results."

In marriage problems it's always better if both partners come for help, but if that proves impossible, the other should come anyway to help them cope, Mrs. Hill advises. She said the Family Counselling Division can be supportive of the partner who is willing to come.

"To be a family counsellor, apart from academic qualifications, you have to be a comfortable person who knows they're not perfect and don't have all the answers," says Mrs. Hill. And she is a warm, comfortable person with no pretensions and a down-to-earth humility.

She stressed that no-one has to be referred to the agency, but can simply phone up and ask for an appointment.

Mrs. Hill said she and all members of the Family Counselling Division are delighted at the establishment of a legal community clinic in town, since she said it fills a need that has existed for a long time.

The agency serves Acton, Georgetown and the former township of Esqueving, and Mrs. Hill is in Acton at the Acton Community Services Centre every Tuesday.

Mrs. Hill, a resident of Delrex Boulevard, Georgetown, for 16 years is the mother of six grown up children and has a Master of Social Work degree.

She was with the Halton and Metro Children's Aid for 14 years and was with the provincial official guardian's office for one year.

In Georgetown, her office is in the Georgetown Medical Centre.



MRS. BETTY HILL, Family Counsellor with the Halton Social and Family Services, has just taken up her new post. She's in Acton every Tuesday.

## Secretary C. of C.

Janet Fleming is the new secretary of the Chamber of Commerce, replacing Betty Eastwood who has resigned.

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In the developing countries of the world, 60 per cent of the children are dead before they are five years old from diseases such as dysentery, cholera and infantile gastritis caused by drinking and washing in polluted water.

—The autumn leaves are falling quickly.

## Budget

Milton Council sitting as committee of the whole chopped over \$140,000 from the 1978 capital budget during the budget session last Tuesday.

The cuts from the budget of \$1,613,650 bring the level of spending to within what treasurer Don Lougheed recommended as a safe level of spending.

The greatest cuts were made in the area of parks and recreation. Twenty-five thousand dollars for the engineering of an indoor swimming pool was deleted.

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# Cheshire Home opens Saturday

Halton Region's first Cheshire Home for physically handicapped adults will be opened in Burlington on Saturday, October 29, with about 250 invited guests present at the ceremonies.

The home, one of 10 in Canada established by a worldwide Cheshire Foundation, will be officially named 'Carey House', in commemoration of Burlington's 1976 posthumous 'Citizen of the Year', the late Robert C. Carey.

His widow, Mrs. Shirley Carey, will declare the house, a 100 years old structure on Ontario Street, in downtown Burlington, open. A reception will follow, at St. Luke's Anglican Church, across the street.

The house, which will provide accommodation for about eight adults, is being specially adapted to the needs of the physically handicapped.

Carey House was bought by Halton Cheshire Homes, Inc., a charitable foundation, with funds originally provided by the May Court Club of Oakville. Additional funds have come from many regional service groups. A \$200,000 campaign is being launched immediately to raise money to complete the project.

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