



THE BOARD of directors of Halton Hills Legal Clinic are standing, Ralph Ursel and Johan McMillan; seated from left, Gordon Chapman, Susan Tanner, Morley Mills, Monty Hyde and Pat Salt. Missing are Rev. Peter Barrow and Anne Currie. Peggy Balkind will staff the office in Acton, with Gordon Chapman and Ron Henry the duty counsels.

## First legal clinic now open here

The first legal clinics in Acton and Georgetown are now in operation—the first of its kind in towns this size.

The clinic will be held two days a week in the Community Services Centre in the Y, staffed by Peggy Balkind and Jill McCrostie. A phone is expected any day.

An Open House will be held when everything's ready, to give people a chance to ask questions about this unique clinic.

Mrs. Balkind or Mrs. McCrostie will be here on Monday and Thursdays. Duty counsels here will be Gordon Chapman and Ron Henry.

These are the first legal clinics to be established outside an urban area and it's a pilot project. It will be reassessed in March, Mr. Chapman says.

Peggy Balkind is hired as a "para-legal" and will attend training sessions at Parkdale Community Legal Services, a clinic that has been in operation for the past seven years.

Mrs. Balkind moved recently to Knox Ave., Acton, from Georgetown. Jill McCrostie was community worker in a similar clinic in Toronto and helped set up the Riverdale Social Services there.

The clinic, a type of store front lawyer, where no appointments are necessary, and the public is free to walk in, gives summary legal advice and advice on other

social problems only to those unable to pay.

Other areas covered by the clinic would be problems with Unemployment Insurance, Workmen's Compensation, and guidance through the maze of social services. These matters are not usually dealt with by a lawyer in a private practice.

An important function of the clinic would lie in explaining the individual's rights and serving as an information service for referrals to agencies and if the person can pay, referral to solicitors. However they would not recommend any particular solicitor.

Summary legal advice could include advice on going to court about traffic tickets, or small claims. Other items handled by a community legal clinic are landlord-tenant disputes, family maintenance, other family problems such as wife beating, harassment by bill collectors, and non-legal matters such as welfare, pensions, and advice on obtaining a Manpower retraining grant.

Going into the community to speak on the function of the clinic and explaining legal rights to groups at schools, churches or citizens' organizations is part of the educational program of the legal clinic.

Final approval for the clinic was given by Convocation, the governing body of the Law Society of Upper Canada, a few weeks after a public meeting was held in Georgetown.



PEGGY BALKIND and Jill McCrostie, staff of the Halton Hills Community Legal Clinic, display booklets on various aspects of the law at the

## Halton-Burlington Liberals elect new slate of officers

The annual meeting of the Halton-Burlington Provincial Liberal Association was held Wednesday, October 25 at the Charles Hotel, Milton.

Julian Reed, MPP for Halton-Burlington introduced guest speaker, Vince Kerrio, MPP for Niagara Falls.

Election of officers took place and the new executive for 1977-78 is:

President—Isabell Harmer.

Ex. Vice-President—Laurie Reed.

1st Vice-President—Al Wilson.

2nd Vice-President—Isabell Harmer.

Membership Chairman—Helen Reid.

Area Reps: Brenda MacKay, Lois Kowalchuk, Pat Dowdall, Sheila Raspberry, Stel Snow, Bill Coats, Frank Harshman, Noel Bates, Kay Blanchard, Ralph Denny, Jack Lawson, George Henderson, George Burt.

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Treasurer—Dolly Moulden.

Secretary—Lois MacKenzie.

Youth President—Nancy Dunlop.

Membership Chairman—Helen Reid.

Area Reps: Brenda MacKay, Lois Kowalchuk, Pat Dowdall, Sheila Raspberry, Stel Snow, Bill Coats, Frank Harshman, Noel Bates, Kay Blanchard, Ralph Denny, Jack Lawson, George Henderson, George Burt.

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## No Watergate here — Chretien

While Federal Treasurer Jean Chretien sloughed off talk of RCMP break-ins as much concern about nothing the saga continued to be unraveled during an emergency meeting of the House of Commons in Ottawa.

Mr. Chretien was in Oakville speaking to the annual meeting of the Halton Liberal Association. Prior to the meeting he met with reporters and he laugh ed when the media and the opposition talked of government cover-ups in connection with the break-ins.

He said the government had turned over the cases to the Quebec Government when the federal government

learned of the incidents. "Police are human like everyone else. They are bound to make mistakes. They are like any other citizen. If they have made mistakes they'll have to explain it to the judge. Those guys, they are not above the law."

He said there was no intent to cover anything up. "If we had kept this under the table I guess it would still be there."

"The press is dreaming that some day they'll get their Canadian Watergate. Forget about it. It won't happen. Trudeau is not Nixon. I know you would be happy if it were true but it is not so forget it," he told reporters.

# Understanding needed

Canadians have lost their competitive position in the international marketplace and are now paying for their lack of discipline according to Federal Finance Minister Jean Chretien.

Chretien told the Halton Liberal Annual meeting that Canadians are being judged as living beyond their means for too long. But the Minister said the situation will improve in the future.

He said the national unity issue couldn't be separated from the weakness of the Canadian dollar and inflation. "Political instability is closely interrelated with inflation and the weakness of the dollar," he said.

"My country is Canada. I go to Quebec and speak of the virtues of Canada. We started from nothing just over 100 years ago and now we are one of the most important countries in the world. We have more freedom here than anywhere in the world and we are so sensitive about it."



CANADIANS SHOULD get to know one another and a lot of the tension between French and English could be eased, says Federal Finance Minister Jean Chretien.

He said the country has so many virtues but seemed intent on concentrating on the disadvantages or drawbacks. "The country has too many good things about it to let it go down the drain."

The problem of two languages and two cultures has been with us for 100 years and it will continue to exist, he explained.

Asked what the ordinary citizen could do to encourage national unity Chretien admitted there wasn't a lot anyone could do.

He stressed the need for understanding the other culture. "If you have relatives or friends in Quebec, talk to them, write to them, visit them, show signs of understanding."

Chretien praised the exchange programs that sees French students visit Ontario and English students visit Quebec.

"Students come back understanding something good about Canada."

He said often problems stem from not knowing anything about the other culture. He acknowledged being tempted by the separatists movement in his early years but claims after learning about the country and its many virtues he is a staunch federalist.

"The country has more virtues than problems but we always talk of the problems." He blamed part of that on the media who he said concentrated on the negative point of view.

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