

# CAS much better society is told

Haltom Children's Aid Executive Director Ron Coupland summed up his report to the CAS Annual meeting in three words: "We made it."

The short, terse phrase described the outcome of the highly publicized battle of the budget that the CAS had waged with the Ministry of Community and Social Services.

Coupland and the Board of Directors presented and defended a budget calling for 37 per cent increase. They argued Haltom had fell far behind in its services to children under the care of the society.

The year was half gone before the budget was finally passed and even then the approval came only after the support of the solicitor Noel Bates was enlisted.

"They won the battle of the budget and initiated policies that led to new and improved service ventures," Coupland said.

## Will publish CAS history

Society President Bryan Clarke said the fight with the ministry had been so time consuming, that the board hadn't been able to delve into some programs in 1977 the way it wanted.

He told the membership that this year the board would strive to develop program, keeping in mind the fiscal restraints and work to improve the rapport with other social agencies in the region.

During 1977 the society opened a society operated children's group home on Alcornbury Court in Burlington, Clarke reported. He noted budget restraints and competition for staff by the ministry had made it difficult

"Twenty-five volunteers help in (Mothers Groups) located in Milton, Georgetown, Oakville and Burlington. These are mothers, often single parents, who are identified by C.A.S. or Public Health as people who would benefit from meeting weekly with other mothers in similar circumstances. They share experiences, support one another, listen to guest speakers, see films on relevant subjects, or do craft work.

The volunteer auxiliary is expected to dissolve this month and become a committee of the board. Both Mrs. MacDonald and Mr. Coupland see the move as bringing the volunteers closer to the mainstream of the operation. Instead of acting independently of the board.



JILL MURRAY CONCENTRATES on her picture at the library story hour Thursday. The hour of stories and games usually ends with a coloring session.

## Steel bars are answer for some

The closing of Hillcrest training school in Guelph is a step in the wrong direction, according to Dr. R. E. Stokes, President of the Ontario Psychiatric Association.

Stokes was the guest speaker at the annual meeting of the Haltom Children's Aid Society. He claimed the schools with steel bars on doors such as Hillcrest were often the best places for violent young people.

Stokes said the death of Milton resident 15-year-old Robert Bruce Shepherd prompted undue and unfair criticism of the school. The youth committed suicide in the school last November.

Stokes said the collective guilt of society arises in stormy anger towards the people who had the thankless job of trying to help the individual.

"Professionals are criticized, institutions are challenged and the press reach new levels of irresponsibility," Stokes said.

Stokes said that in Shepherd's case there had been 12 social agencies involved, but he claimed there

was a lack of co-ordination, a function he says should be under the wing of the Children's Aid Societies.

"I was very pleased to see the ministry send out a circular indicating that the CAS should be the co-ordinating body. But I was disappointed to learn of the decision to phase out Hillcrest. The ministry never sent out a circular on that."

Stokes claims that in spite of the feeling of some that steel bars are inhumane, there will always be a need for maximum security facilities for violent people.

## Ospringle

# Easter service well attended

by Doris Fines  
Mrs. R. A. Craig of London, Ontario, visited at Easter with her parents Mr. and Mrs. H. R. Howard. Other visitors were Mr. and Mrs. Steven A. Craig of London, Miss Linda Jane Furlonger of Atwood, and Douglas Vingoe of Alliston.

Mr. and Mrs. George Lang, Bonnie Lang and Mrs. Jack Wheeler, spent a weekend at Parry Sound. Bonnie visited for the rest of the school holiday at Bramalea with the McCausland family.

The Easter service at Knox Church was well attended. Brenda Bruce was soloist in her usual charming manner. Easter lilies graced the church, compliments of Mr. and Mrs. William Rupka. One of these beautiful lilies was delivered to Mrs. Thomas Fines, and one to Gordon Howes, following the service, bringing a cheery brightness to these two who haven't been enjoying their usual good health.

I have been hearing rumors of robins being around the vicinity, but I myself failed to set eyes on one until Sunday, and then it wasn't on our own property. Our own special little summer residents haven't arrived yet.

They probably know there is still three feet of snow in our back yard.

Mrs. Thomas Fines, Doris Fines, Mrs. Ross Ferguson, and Mr. and Mrs. Gary Ferguson visited at the home of Mr. and Mrs. William Henderson at Belwood, on Sunday. Mrs. Fines' great granddaughter, Melanie Redman of Mount Forest, was celebrating her third birthday, which was on April 1.

Safety was the topic of the seventh meeting of the Ospringle Busy Bees, which was at Joan Veerman's home. The roll call was answered by stating how they tried to keep physically fit. They tried exercises, and each girl demonstrated one. They played a Key to Good Health game.

Home, dealing with: explosive cans, poisonous plants, keeping stairways well lighted, electrical hazards, safe storage of foods, and warnings on leaving rakes and other things lying around to clunk you on the head when you are not looking. Each girl was given a bottle, and was asked to tell what remedy she would use if its contents were accidentally swallowed.

Jennie Flinders was hostess for the eighth meeting, which was on Food and Fitness. The girls answered the roll by stating how they tried to keep physically fit. They tried exercises, and each girl demonstrated one. They played a Key to Good Health game.

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## Dump fighters win case

Members of the Tremaine-Britannia Citizens' Group were elated this week after scoring a major victory in their fight against Haltom Region over the location of a landfill site in Milton.

The Supreme Court of Ontario ruled that a by-law passed by regional council designating the Tremaine-Britannia area as the dump site is invalid.

What that in fact means is, the region must go to the Ontario Municipal Board before applying for a certificate of approval from the environmental hearing board.

The region had wanted to apply to both the OMB and the review board at the same time but as a result of the court decision, the region must go to the OMB first.

If the OMB rules that the landfill site should not go ahead, that will be the end of the case and there will be no need to go through the lengthy and expensive environmental hearings.

The dump fighters see it as a major tactical victory. According to their lawyer

David Estrin, the group stands a much better chance of receiving a favorable decision from the OMB than the Environmental Review Board.

Estrin is confident the battle will be won by the group at the Ontario Municipal Board.

Estrin feels that the fact the land is class one soil will weigh heavily in favor of the dump fighters.

Should the dump fighters be successful in defeating the proposed dump, the region will have to go back to the drawing board and start its search all over again.

Some of the protestors feel the matter will be set before the OMB in about six months' time.

Spokesman David Katz said he hoped the three-year-long battle could finally be put to rest.

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