NAPKIN HOLDER for Christmas is admired by Barbara Edmundson and daughter Joanne, who is six. They were among the many shoppers at the Trinity Activity Group bazaar Saturday.

TAG bazaar brings crowd A large crowd enjoyed the

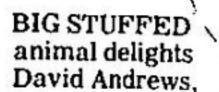
Trinity Activity Group bazaar in the United church Saturday afternoon. Marlene Steckley was

bazaar convener, Dorothy Rognvaldson tea convener and Betty Bowman bake sale convener.

Kathy McGillivray is president of the group. The vestibule and base-

ment of the church were both packed with shoppers. Christmas knitting, crafts, baked goods,

decorations, white elephants, plants and fresh cut flowers were all for sale. There was a special corner where children could pick out gifts at especially reasonable prices.



214 years, at the Trinity Activity Group bazaar Saturday in the United church. His grandma bought fit for him.



at the Trinity Activity Group bazaar Saturday.

the keyword at the contact sure someone living alone is

Egerton expressed some

surprise at how few people

knew of the information

aspect of the centre's work.

where there are over 1,000

headings for information. For

the last three summers

students have worked em-

centre's files.

Mississauga,

Guelph.

piling and updating the

The centre receives calls

Hamilton.

not only form Georgetown,

Egerton believes these long

distance calls are from

people who can't get through

centre. The callers are all right.

guaranteed confidentiality

In cases where a referral is

required, the centre will take

the first name and telephone

number to forward to an

appropriate agency, such as

Alcoholics Anonymous, for

One thing that the centre's

volunteers are questioning is

the need for follow up calls.

There are mixed feelings,

Egerton said. "It is better we

don't (follow up) in the

overall picture, but I won-

check our prices at

TOY MAGIC

• Fisher Price Music Box Mobile \$18.95

• Fisher Price New Doll House \$36.95

• Fisher Price Hospital \$19.99

The centre also has a shut-

and so are the volunteers.



SOME OF THE crafts for sale at Trinity Activity Group bazaar included paintings by Jean Johnston, hooking by Mary McKenzie and felt crafts by Gwen Johnson, as well as Christmas stockings and puppets made by other members of the group. Volunteer clerk Karen Steckley shows some of her stock.

#### Thieves take hub caps

Four 15-inch stotted mag wheel hub caps were reported to Halton Regional Police as stolen last week.

The theft is reported to have taken place while the vehicle, owned by an R.R. 1 man, was parked at the high school.

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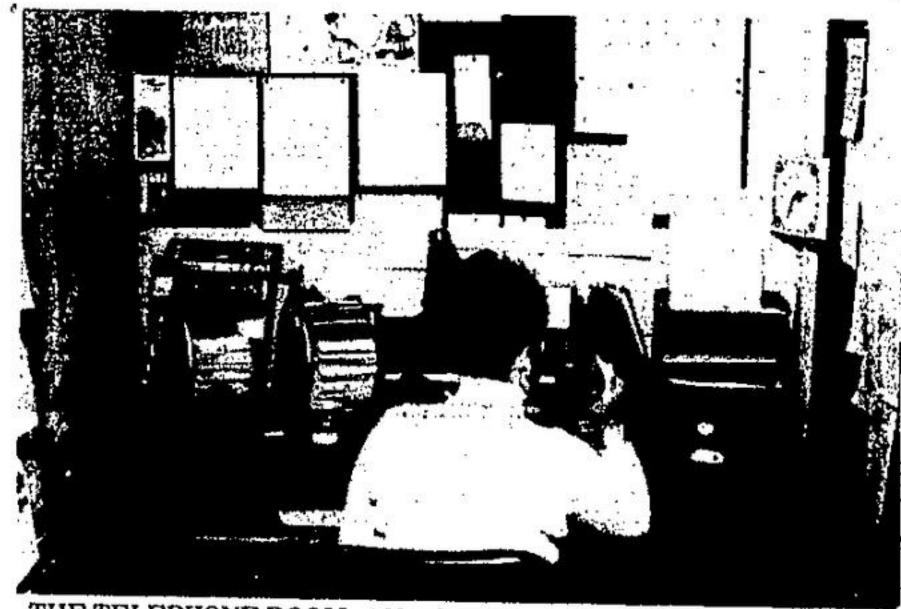
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# Distress centre five years old today



THE TELEPHONE ROOM at North Halton Contact Centre is manned by a volunteer. There are about 60 volunteers who have manned the phone continuously since the centre opened five years ago.

(Wednesday) that North and the regional public health Halton Contact Centre in unit. Members of these \$2,000 from the provincial Georgetown took its first call, groups felt a concern for the Since that time the centre has numbers of lonely, distressed logged an impressive number people they came in contact and private donations. of statistics.

The single telephone has anonymous service was been manned continuously, a total of 41,976 hours, a fact which give the 60 volunteers a source of pride.

Up to the end of 1977, the of contact centres in general. centre logged 16,027 calls. Indicative of the growing acceptance of the contact centre and the service it offers to distressed callers, or to those phoning merely for there are about 45 centres in information, is the fact 7,403 were calls logged this year to Canada. November 6.

"At the rate we've been going," Lou Egerton, chairman of the centre said in an interview Monday, "we won't be far off 9,000 calls for the people in the community

The centre averages about 700 calls a month now and Egerton recalled that with 105 calls the first month and half in service, "We thought we were doing fantastic. . . We've ranging from housing, day come a long way since we opened."

The centre was founded through the efforts of the Georgetown and District Ministerial Association, the Georgetown chapter of the

with and decided that an

needed. The growth in the number of calls the contact centre receives reflects the growth

In 1973 there were 27 distress lines which were members of the Ontario Association of Telephone Distress Centres, In 1978 Ontario and about 96 across

About a year after forming, the centre was approached by the provincial government to be an official information centre, a fact which most don't realize, Egerton said.

About 40 per cent of its calls are from people seeking information. There is a relatively large library of information on subjects care, pollution and seniors activities and services to control. abortion, safety. single parents associations, and mental

health. The centre's 1977 budget out of luck."

It was five years ago today Red Cross, the YM-YWCA was \$6,677, of which \$2,500 came from Halton Hills, government and the balance from churches, service clubs

> The centre was originally opened as a suicide prevention and distress line but it has been only since 1977 that separate statistics have been kept on suicide related calls. In 1977 there were 34 calls but up until the end of October this year there have been 65.

When the centre was founded, it anticipated a lot of calls from lonely and distressed people, Egerton said. "But the biggest surprise was the number of calls." Even so, they expected more calls from young people than they actually get. "They're always saying they want someone to talk to. We're still getting calls but not the number we

expected." One of the biggest frustrations the centre's volunteers get is from people calling with nowhere to spend the night. "We can't tell them to keep walking the streets."

"We can put people up on a temporary basis with the Red Cross or the Salvation Army but it is limited to local motels or hotels and if their rooms are booked up, we're

dation is for homeless women and children and does not address the problem of men and youths with nowhere to go, he added.

At one time the centre used to have a youth home program for those who for one reason or another had left home, Egerton said. They used to go into private homes but there weren't enough homes available. The youths were then froced to go either to Oakville or a home in Toronto, a situation which often put more stress on them when they preferred to stay in der." this area.

Egerton noted that if the in service whereby they call rate of calls continues, another phone may need to be installed. That would mean mean having two volunteers, "quite a strain on the

phones. He noted too that the centre would like to have a drop-in centre. It would not necessarily offer counselling but would provide information or even just human contact for lonely people. A drop in centre would attract people who don't feel comfortable on the telephone.

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Contact Centre's **FAMILY** 

North Hallon Contact Centre uses the letters of the word FAMILY to break down the kinds of calls it receives.

once or twice a day to make to distress centres in their

In 1977, five percent of the calls were about Financial matters; three per cent for Alcohol and drugs; 14 per cent Miscellaneous, 40 per cent Information: 37 per cent for Lonely and depressed; and three per cent for information

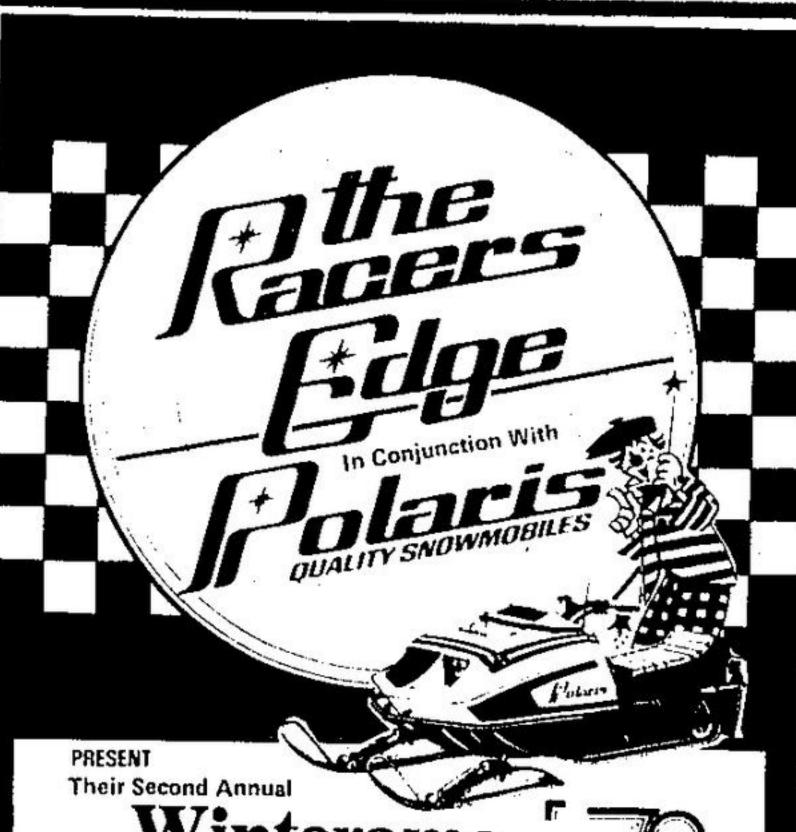
about the centre. Anonymity, is guaranteed for both caller and volunteer However, confidentiality is except in a few special cases.

(compare Shoprite \$37.93)

own communities. For a Bell Telephone operator who finds a distressed person on the line seeking some assistance, there's nothing to do but go down a list of distress centres. Georgetown makes the connection because the phone is answered.

The centre trains volunleers in spring and fall. Currently there are 14 volunteers undergoing training which is three hours a night for six nights. About 90 per cent of the volunteers are women. They are taught not what to say but what not to say. They need to be good listeners rather than good

Acton and Milton but from talkers. Brampton. The number to call is 877-Orangeville and Toronto.



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