

Halton Hills' Clinic offers both social, legal advice

By Jennifer Rowe

Peggie Balkind and Terrence Edgar are each experts in their own field, but it's their combined efforts which makes Halton Hills Community Legal Clinic work.

It takes Edgar's expertise and community legal worker Peggie Balkind to run the clinic effectively. "My role is to deal with those cases which are more legal than social," Peggie handles those which are more social than legal," he said in a recent interview.

Mr. Edgar explained that often cases overlap in these two areas. This is when the two consult in order to provide best advice to the client.

The clinic has been in existence since October, 1977. However, this year the practise of having duty counsel was replaced by Mr. Edgar, the lawyer. He was called to the bar in April of this year and joined the clinic staff, June 4.

Having lawyers either full or part time, depending on the size of the community is an idea which stemmed from a report put out by Mr. Justice Grange of the Supreme court. In the Grange report it was noted that having only a duty counsel was not a satisfactory situation. It was recommended in the report that a lawyer should be present to supervise clinic staff.

With duty counsel attending a few times a week, they could not be responsible for the clinic and the work taken on during the week. Under the Grange system a lawyer can also handle ongoing cases.

Terrence Edgar is in the Georgetown office on Main Street Wednesday to Friday, Acton on Thursday evenings and Mississauga Monday and Tuesday. Peggie Balkind is in town Monday to Friday with the exception of Thursday, when she works in Acton.

Much of Peggie's work is done outside the office, checking with various social agencies and making suggestions in regards to lodging and the many other practical aspects of the cases she handles.

One of the common problems with a legal clinic is defining its job to the public said Mr. Edgar. "Many people confuse the terms, legal clinic, legal aid and duty counsel."



Peggie Balkind and Terrence Edgar work as a team at the Halton Hills Community Legal clinic. Peggie is a community legal worker and Terrence is a lawyer.

Duty counsel, which used to serve the clinic is a group of lawyers paid by legal aid to give summary advice. Mr. Edgar said duty counsels are often found in courthouses for people to get last minute advice before entering the courtroom. A lawyer on duty counsel

cannot take on a client he has met while on duty counsel.

Legal aid is an Ontario Government funded program to assist those who cannot afford legal help. Those wishing to apply for legal aid fill out a form, are assessed and notified

on whether all, part or none of the legal fees will be paid through the plan.

Those receiving legal aid are given a certificate which is accepted by most lawyers. It works along the same principal as OHIP, however there are no premiums to be paid by the recipient.

A legal clinic, Mr. Edgar explained, is funded by the Ontario Legal Aid Plan and operates free to the public. Each clinic has a board of directors which can set the guidelines for eligibility. "We give summary advice without worrying too much about their financial background. We are part of the community and want to be available to give advice involving both social and legal work," he says.

When the work gets beyond brief advice and requires making calls, sending letters, etc., the financial standing is examined.

When the idea of legal clinics were first introduced some lawyers were apprehensive clinics would take away some of their work. Mr. Edgar said, "It's not the clinics' job to take away work from lawyers. The work done is not the kind usually done by lawyers," he said.

Mr. Edgar said the clinic does not handle serious criminal and civil matters, however they will advise someone whether they should seek a lawyer, especially on these matters. Legal clinics operate only in areas where legal aid doesn't normally grant certificates. Legal aid forms can be filled out at the clinic. Included in the centre's work are family problems, unemployment insurance, debtor creditor, consumer, welfare, tenant, employment, workmen's compensation and alcohol and drug problems.

Mr. Edgar said his hours at the clinic were based on the amount of work duty counsel had. He feels that although 50 per cent of the cases are solved in one visit, others require follow-up. "Since duty counsel was only here for a few hours it was not possible to have follow-up work. Now we are able to take these types of cases," he says.

Mr. Edgar feels the balance of legal and social aid provides a better, more useable service for the community.

Georgetown film location

Regional Council approved the closing of a road in Georgetown to facilitate the making of a movie.

The decision was made at its meeting in Oakville at regional headquarters Wednesday, July 4.

The road to be closed is Main St. between Church and James, Monday and Tuesday, Aug. 13 and 14. Halton Hills Councillor Roy Booth spoke in favor of the motion as did Halton Hills Mayor Peter Pomeroy.

The company making the movie is Westfront Productions Inc. of Toronto.

Unit-location manager Richard Flower said in a letter to council, the production is a "full length theatrical motion picture," entitled "Never Trust An Honest Thief." He said, "The film is set in a small American border town and one of the more important sequences is a July 4th parade."

The parade is to be held

on Main St. Our preliminary discussions with the people of Georgetown and organizations such as the Georgetown Business Improvement Area, (BIA) have assured us that there would be no major objection to our requesting the street be closed off for the two days," Mr. Flower said.

The company's plans also call for the redecorating of the Paper Mill bridge on River Dr. as a Canadian-American border crossing.

"This would mean dressing the area with signs and flags," Mr. Flower said.

"There would also be a placement of a small temporary building on the southwest side of the bridge."

Bus trips discussed

The evening meeting of Acton's Golden Age Club was held on Wednesday, July 18, at Luxton Hall. Owing to the illness of the president and first vice and the second vice holidaying, the past president presided. Marjory Hall was at the piano.

Bus trips were discussed for the cooler weather.

The birthday song was sung to Bert Davidson.

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Hughes-Gillespie wedding in June

Trinity United Church was the setting for the marriage of Bonnie Rose Gillespie and Lorne Foster Hughes June 9.

Both the bride and groom live in Edmonton, Alberta. The bride is the daughter of William and Evelyn Gillespie, 138 Wynford Place, Acton, and is a food supervisor at the University of Alberta. The groom is the son of Edward and Billie Hughes, Mayerthorpe, Alberta. He is an accounting clerk at Imperial Oil.

Gerald Rennie officiated at the double-ring ceremony with Mrs. Denny providing the organ music.

Escorted down the aisle by her father, Bonnie wore a long flowing white satin gown with an empire waist and long puffed sleeves trimmed with lace. A Juliette cap held the three quarter length lace trimmed veil.

The bride carried a bouquet of red roses and lily of the valley.

Sherri Livermore, a friend of the bride, Acton was maid of honor. Bridesmaids were Lene Larsen, friend of the bride, Guelph, and Michelle Boland, cousin of the bride, Islington. Flowergirl was Tricia Hughes, niece of the groom from Fox Creek, Alberta.

They wore long mint green dresses and white floppy hats. Tricia wore a long white dress and floppy hat. They carried yellow and gold silk flowers.

Peter Gillespie, brother of the bride, Acton, was bestman. Ushers were Tal Hughes, Fox Creek, Alberta and Bill Hughes, Rainbow Lake, Alberta, both brothers of the groom, and Kerry Hughes, nephew of the groom, Rainbow Lake, Alberta, was ringbearer.

At a dinner and dance at the Col. John McCrae Memorial Royal Canadian Legion, Guelph, the bride's mother received her guests wearing a long peach dress with a long matching coat. The groom's mother wore a long floral dress. Jim William, friend of the bride and groom from Tabes, Alberta, was master of ceremonies. There was a special presentation of a gold chain given to the bride from the groom's mother, and sister Margie, who could not attend. A telegram was sent from the groom's sister and family from Duncan, British Columbia.

Guests admired the wedding cake made by the groom and decorated with red, yellow and white roses.

Special guests at the wedding were: the bride's great great aunt, Ada Howes, 93 years old, Fergus; Marg and Roy Mattson, Mayerthorpe, Sarnia, Listowel, and Acton area.

Prior to her marriage, Michele was guest of honor at four showers. They were held by: Mrs. Bertha Warnaar, the groom's aunt, a miscellaneous shower; Brenda Wilson, a miscellaneous; Mrs. Anne Wyga, Mrs. Mary Van Dam and Renate Voskamp, miscellaneous shower; and Mrs. Tina Kamminga, Mrs. Anne McCarron, Mrs. Mary Koks, and Mrs. Coby Kamminga, a grocery shower.

Following a honeymoon to New York, Pennsylvania, and Kingston, they made their home on Mill St., Acton.

Alb; groom's parents, Mayerthorpe; Tal, Dianne, Tricia and Tallie Hughes, Fox Creek; Bill, Connie and Kerry Hughes, Rainbow Lake; Jim Williams, Tabes, Alb. Other guests came from Edmonton, Guelph, Georgetown, Acton, Toronto, Kitchener, Beeton, Tillsonburg, Islington, London, Orangeville, Waterloo, Pickering, Brantford, Renfrew, Willowdale, Lindsay, Mississauga and Clark-

Joanne Soroka and Dianne Hughes held a shower for Bonnie in Mayerthorpe, and Sherri Livermore, Lene Larsen and Michelle Boland hosted a shower at the Livermore home in Acton.

After the couple returned to Edmonton, a surprise party was held in their honor by friends who could not attend the wedding.

They are now living in Edmonton.



Bonnie Gillespie, formerly of Acton, and Lorne Hughes, of Edmonton, Alberta, were married in Acton June 9. They are living in Edmonton.

Local couple wed in June ceremony

Two employees of Frank Heller and Co., Michele Diana Kremer and Ed Rauwerda were married in Beth-El Christian Reformed Church June 2. Rev. J. Cooper officiated with Mrs. A. Venema on the organ.

The bride is the daughter of Mrs. C. Kremer, R.R. 4, Acton. The groom is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Bill Rauwerda, Cook St.

Escorted down the aisle by her brother Brian Kremer, Michele stopped on the way to the altar and gave her mother one long stemmed red rose. On the way back down the aisle with her new husband, Michele paused and presented her mother-in-law with a red rose also.

For her wedding day, Michele chose a long white satin gown with angel sleeves, and a two tier fingertip veil. She carried a bouquet of gold sweetheart roses with baby's breath and white satin ribbon.

Renate Voskamp, a friend of the bride, was maid of honor. Anne Wyga, sister of the bride, and Teresa Rauwerda, cousin of the groom, were bridesmaids.

They wore floor length light blue dresses with floral print overlay. Renate's gown was a shade darker blue. They carried bouquets of white carnations, forget-me-nots and baby's breath with white ribbon.

Michele's gown was made by her sister Anne Wyga, along with her

own bridesmaid's dress. The maid of honor and Teresa's dresses were made by the mother of the bride.

Michele wore a pure gold bracelet belonging to her grandmother.

Bert Nap, a friend, was bestman. Ushers were Otto Wyga, brother-in-law of the bride, and Gary Rauwerda, brother of the groom.

Otto Wyga was master of ceremony at a dinner and dance held at the Acton Legion.

The bride's grandmother and aunt attended the wedding from the Netherlands. Other guests were the groom's cousin and one aunt from Calgary, Alberta. Guests also attended from Dunnville, Jarvis, Hamilton,



Michele Kremer and Ed Rauwerda were married in Beth-El Christian Reformed Church June 2. They have made their home in Acton. Photo by Wm. Stucky.

Toronto wedding

On July 11 the wedding of Marley Grindell Webb formerly of Acton, daughter of the late Henrietta Grindell, to A.W. Street, son of the late Mr. and Mrs. A.R. Street of New York, was

solemnized in Toronto. Miss Mary Chalmers of Toronto was maid of honor.

The happy couple are spending their honeymoon on his yacht.

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