



Kim McCristall and Wayne Young were married July 7 at St. Joseph's Church.

## McCristall-Young vows pledged at St. Joseph's

St. Joseph's Church was the setting of the July 7 wedding of Kimberly Ann McCristall to Wayne Clifford Young.

The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Philip McCristall, 27 Nelson Court in Acton. The groom is the son of Mr. and Mrs. James C.A. Young of Malton, Ontario.

Father Leo Speagle officiated at the ceremony. Organist was Mrs. Tom Manes and soloist Mrs. Dave Manes, both friends of the family.

Escorted down the aisle by her father, the bride wore a white scoop neck dress trimmed with French lace. The skirt of the dress was pleated. She wore a matching French lace garden hat trimmed with a short veil. The bride carried a bouquet of white daisies, yellow roses and baby's breath.

Matron of honor was Mrs. Carolyn Artem, a

friend of the bride. She wore a mint green dress and carried a bouquet of white, yellow daisies and baby's breath.

Connie and Carrie McCristall, the bride's sisters, along with Linda Young, the groom's sister, were bridesmaids. They wore soft yellow dresses and carried bouquets similar to the maid of honor's.

Best man for the occasion was the groom's brother Steve Young. Ushers were friends of the groom, George Artem and Kevin Marcoux and the bride's cousin Fred Allen.

An evening reception followed at the Acton Legion. The bride's uncle acted as master of ceremonies and the groom's great uncle said grace.

The wedding cake was cut with a knife which belonged to the groom's great grandparents.

After the ceremony the

traditional drive around town included an unusual but sentimental touch. The couple were transported through town and ushered to the Legion in the 1927 Studebaker firetruck. This same truck and driver, Bern VanFleet, were used to drive the bride's parents around town on their wedding day 22 years ago.

Special guests included the groom's grandmother from New Brunswick, the bride's grandparents from Guelph and grandmother from Acton. Guests attended from New Brunswick, British Columbia, Toronto, Guelph, Georgetown, Acton and Beardmore.

The bride was the guest at four showers prior to the wedding. Friend of the bride Joy Musselle held a shower. The bride's aunt, Mrs. Fred Allen, Carolyn Artem and JoAnn Duval, friends of the bride and Jean Kirby and fellow employees of the bride all held showers.

A stag for the groom was held at the Acton Legion.

The newlyweds are now living in the Maria Street apartments.

## Trustees recall Gary Dawkins

A minute's silence and a long tribute marked the memory of the late Acton principal Gary Dawkins for Halton Board of Education trustees and staff last Thursday at Burlington.

Everyone stood in silence for the McKenzie-Smith Middle School principal who died suddenly this summer. Thursday was the first meeting of the board since Mr. Dawkins' death.

A friend of the Dawkins family, Tom Gibson, principal of Joseph Gibbons school at Georgetown read a three-page tribute which

summarized Mr. Dawkins' career and achievements.

In education, in community service and politics Mr. Dawkins "was willingly giving of himself."

"All people who have been fortunate enough to come in contact with Gary are aware that he realized that people are human and should be treated with deep concern, understanding and tender loving care. He kept saying that he was in a 'people business' and we would all agree that he certainly excelled there and will be sorely missed by all."

# Abuse must be reported under new child law

Reporting of suspected child abuse cases, previously believed to be a moral obligation, has become a legal responsibility under new provincial legislation.

Heather Goulden, family service supervisor for the Halton Children's Aid Society, says although suspicions of child abuse were supposed to be reported to the society or the crown attorney, the law had no weight. "The big change in the new Act is now there is some penalty for failing to report. This gives the act more weight," she said.

Changes to the Child Welfare Act, specifically dealing with child abuse, were made June 15, 1979 by the Provincial Government. The new law now threatens a penalty fine of up to \$1,000 for failing to report. Goulden said the new law also puts a heavier obligation on professionals.

Under the new law the Children's Aid Society is hoping for more calls and input by the public regarding suspected cases. Professionals, especially in the medical and educational fields, should be working closer with the society reporting any suspicions they have regarding abuse.

Goulden said another advantage of the new law is the definition of abuse which has been provided. Abuse is now defined as physical harm, severe malnutrition or mental ill health, which if not remedied will cause harm to mental growth, or possibly the death of a

child. The third area is sexual abuse of children. Goulden said the society tries to protect the anonymity of the person reporting the suspect.

"We are careful to protect the identity of the public. However, we are less sympathetic towards other professionals. We like to keep them anonymous but the professionals are in this together with us trying to protect the welfare of the child."

Goulden said the law encourages the reporting of cases of abuse, therefore increasing the work load for the Children's Aid Society. "This new law means the Children's aid has to be in a position to respond to the increased number of calls in a professional manner. However, the financial position of the society makes it difficult.

## Defuse parent anger

Halton Board of Education moved to defuse potential parent resentment towards teachers who report cases of suspected child abuse.

Halton trustees voted to endorse a motion from the separate school board in London and Middlesex County which asks the province to publicize the obligations on teachers produced under the new Child Welfare Act.

cial help from Queen's Park it will be very difficult for us to respond at the level the law is stating."

The government has increased the staff by one worker in Halton to deal with the increased work load.

Is child abuse on the increase in Halton? It's hard to say, according to Goulden. "There is an increase in the number of cases reported but this doesn't necessarily reflect such a drastic increase in numbers being abused, just those reported."

Goulden said last year nine deaths in Ontario were the result of abuse. In Halton, Goulden said the Children's Aid will be working with an average of 400 families at any one time. "Up to 50 per cent of these are high risk situations. Not abuse cases, but the potential for abuse is there. If we can get in there during a high risk situation then we can stop the chance of abuse taking place. About 10 per cent of these result in actual abuse."

Goulden said the region, which amounts for 20 per cent of the society's budget is very supportive. The provincial

government provides the other 80 per cent.

"The new act should help us to be more informed about suspected cases of abuse, but we need the money to hire

manpower to cover these cases effectively. If we don't get the funds more than 10 per cent of the high risk situations may become abuse statistics," Goulden said.



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