

# PROFILES

with

Jennifer Barr



Peggy Balkind lives such a busy life it makes me breathless just to talk about it. But talking to the lady is a very relaxing experience. Soft spoken and at ease Peggy mentions her accomplishments as if she's making out a routine shopping list.

At the moment, she is very involved with Halton Women's Place, of which she is founding member and president. It opens this week.

She is also a community legal worker at Georgetown and Acton Legal Clinic; was founding member and chairman of the Contact Centre and she is with the Social Planning Centre on both local and regional levels.

At home in Acton, she is Mrs. Eric Balkind,

wife of a school principal, and mother of four children, two boys, two girls aged 8 to 15.

### Halton Women Place

At the moment, Peggy is most involved with Halton Women's Place and feels a great sense of accomplishment helping get it off the ground. It's been three years since the idea formed. With her long background in social and legal work, it became very apparent to Peggy, Halton needed a hostel for women.

Along with Barbara Weaver, Secretary of State worker; Pat Cook, director of Sheridan Women's Centre; and Karen King Sheridan Information officer, Peggy formed a steering committee in 1977. Their main concern was the lack of a shelter for women in the area.

A feasibility study was done by hired students funded by Young Canada Works program and the Secretary of State.

It became apparent there was a crying need, says Peggy. From there the committee was incorporated into a board of directors and the whole became a charitable organization.

Millon was the place decided upon for the hostel because it was central, close to courts, and just happened to have a suitable building vacated by police.

The region bought the building intending to rent it to Halton Women's Place but the board

actually bought the building recently. Financing proved a problem, although not insurmountable. The organization had to prove they were "stable" before they could borrow the purchase money and the \$40,000 needed for renovation.

A purchase of service agreement was entered into with the region for community care.

The renovated home has five bedrooms containing bunk beds suitable for mothers and their children. As well as kitchen and dining room there's also a playroom, television room, intake office and directors office.

The house will be staffed by six full time members—a director and five counsellors. A staff member will be on hand at all times. A clerical worker will be on call.

Physically or mentally abused women in need of a temporary shelter will be accommodated for up to four weeks. They will be expected to assist with cleaning and meal preparation and to pay for her keep if possible.

By purchase of service agreement the province foots 80 per cent of the \$20.29 per capita per day costs based on full occupation.

Currently 35 women a day need help in Halton and are usually put up in hotels by social services. The hostel will be able to accommodate 18 a day so Peggy has no doubt they will be operating at full capacity most of the time.

Legal Clinic Three is a significant number for Peggy. It was three years ago she started to work with the Legal Clinic as staff community legal worker.

"As a community worker, it ties in with my work on the Women's Centre," she comments.

Her job requires her to be a fill-in between those eligible for legal aid and those who can pay private lawyers. Many people are confused and faced with a problem they are not sure requires legal help, Peggy explains. That's where the legal clinic comes in.

Family problems, unemployment insurance, debtor-creditor problems, consumer and welfare problems are just a few areas where the legal clinic assists without charge.

Working closely with county social services on some cases, Peggy has only good words to say for them.

"Social services are fine, we usually come to an agreement with them, I don't find a problem."

When she's not working for the community, Peggy is home enjoying her family. She likes sewing and says she'll travel at the drop of a hat.

Peggy Balkind is a truly community-minded person and we need more like her.



Peggy Balkind

## 'One li'l bin' ruffles Russ

Councillor Russ Miller has termed a Regional Public Works report on setting up "one little bin" to be used in Acton as a transfer station as "absolutely ridiculous."

Mr. Miller and Halton Hills Council had requested a garbage bin be set up at the Acton Sewage Treatment Plant where it could be used by residents to deposit waste.

But the report to Regional Public Works Committee stated it would cost \$21,000 to put the transfer station in operation and \$40,000 per year to maintain it.

Mr. Miller said he could not understand "all the bureaucracy" necessary, not to mention the staggering cost, and it reflected badly on regional government.

"How can you read a report like that and support regional government?"

"This is what's killing regional government," he said.

Regional Solicitor Dennis Perlin said starting a transfer station "is just not as simple as putting a bin up at the Acton sewage plant and asking the men there to keep an eye on it."

He said a transfer station in Georgetown was causing serious problems, not the least of which is pollutants running from the station at the old dump site into the Credit River.

He said the transfer station would require Ministry of Environment approval; \$10,000 for a fence and entrance; \$1,000 for an operator's station; and \$10,000 for site landscaping as contained in the report from Public Works Director Bob Moore.

If there is to be a transfer station in Acton, Mr. Perlin said, it "must be done in a reasonable and proper manner."

The request will go to council with a recommendation the station be placed in the 1981 operating budget for consideration.



Vandals bent over three stops signs on Churchill Road South Thursday morning. Halton Regional Police are investigating. Damage caused amounts to \$225.

## Nielsen appeals to Bennett

Cedar Road Development Ltd. hopes to save Halton from an Ontario Municipal Board hearing by a direct appeal to Ontario Housing Minister Claude Bennett.

Cedar Road Development President Paul Nielsen wrote the provincial government minister with a request for an audience in the wake of Halton Region's refusal last week on Nielsen's Acton housing proposal.

"It is my belief that I was not given a fair and proper hearing before (Regional) Council and therefore, Mr. Minister, I respectfully request an audience with yourself and your staff to plead my case," wrote Nielsen.

Halton Region's Council voted to deny permission for the housing project near the high school, to go ahead.

Cedar Road Development is situated just over a boundary line, which was drawn several years ago as a tentative urban border for the town. A region committee is reviewing those borders.

If an exception is made for the Nielsen project than other developments, including a shopping plaza, would ask for equal treatment, according to Burlington Councillor Joan Allingham.

That is an argument Nielsen cannot understand. The plaza proposed for Acton's east end, by Jerry Sprackman, received no official plan amendment from Halton Hills. It has no services, such as Cedar Road Development has, allocated to it by the Town.

Nielsen indicated his total investment on the property plus studies amounts to \$100,000. "My company has spent considerable monies and if we have to wait two or three years as it may take to resolve minor boundary problems, my company cannot survive the financial strain," Nielsen wrote.

"It seems to me that to compare a regional size shopping centre with a small infill residential development is totally unrealistic approach," Nielsen wrote Regional Council.

"I cannot comprehend there's no question of costs being a factor in whether or not he keeps them. He does find showing more costly."

"Twenty dollars for gas, \$20 for entry fees and then your supper"—he comments.

All in all, it appears the equine business is safe for a few more years. People may grumble about high costs but recreation in general, and horses in particular, are still on the priority lists of most Acton residents.

Equestrian . . .

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## Drug abuse is topic

The Addiction Research Foundation (ARF) will be at Acton's High School tomorrow night to present its recent findings concerning drug and alcohol use in Halton schools.

ARF representatives Marlene Swarbrick and Dick O'Brien will put the foundation's recent survey into the perspective of the school. The meeting starts at 7:30 p.m.

The foundation conducted a survey of an Oakville high school last year and the findings can be applied across other Halton schools.

The following are some of examples of the survey's findings in terms of percentages of the 1,310 completed questionnaires.

Twenty-nine per cent of the students were drunk in the month prior to the survey. Many said their parents did not know how much they drank.

For 91 alcohol was easily accessible and 68 indicated no difficulty in obtaining cannabis.

The peak years for boys to experiment with cannabis were between ten and 14.

## Third World hunger fed

More than \$2,300 has been collected for Third World countries by Trinity United Church through the Love Loaf program.

During the summer, Trinity Minister Rev. Chuck Beaton handed out small loaf shaped banks to be filled with dimes and dollars to help assuage world hunger.

The filled banks were dedicated on World Communion Sunday and last count revealed the congregation had outdone themselves with better than \$2,300 worth of change. Members are still rolling nickels!

The Mission and Service Fund of the United Church of Canada will receive 60 per cent of the funds while World Vision of Canada, originators of the program, will receive the remainder.

### Hotel sold

The site of the old Dominion Hotel went under the hammer for \$88,000 Saturday.

About 60 onlookers saw Roman Kassian, of Toronto, and Doug Fread, of Acton, place the winning bid with auctioneer Norm Jacobs of Trans-Canada Liquidations Ltd.

Bidding went on between three parties for about 20 minutes.

Fread hinted that there are plans for the half-acre property, however, they are not finished.

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Proctor & Gamble 6 lit. pkg. **Tide detergent 3.59**

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Betty Crocker asst. flav. **Snackin' Cake 14 oz. .89**  
Rise n Shine orange flav. **crystals 4's 3 1/2 oz. .89**  
Quaker asst. flav. muffin & **cookie mix 900 g. 1.49**  
Carnation asst. var. 10g **hot chocolate 1.58**  
McCain frozen Fiesta **Cake 21 oz. 1.89**

Chef Boy Ar Doe 2's cheese **pizza 28 1/2 oz. 1.79**  
Chef Boy Ar Doe asst. **pastas 15 oz. .78**  
fabric softener 3 L. **Downy 3.79**  
Del Monte golden **raisins 375 g. 1.59**

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