

Area parents band together at first Toughlove seminar

At least 19 couples are reaching out to Toughlove for help in coping with their children, following a two hour seminar with the Canadian organizers of the program, Jeri and Tom Elliott.

An estimated 165 people jammed into Limehouse school gym Monday night to learn about the wide-spreading self-help group aimed at helping parents cope with negative or destructive behavior in their children.

Following the fast paced evening, Elliott explained that of the parents signed up to go to a founding meeting of a local group next Monday night at the same school, many more are probably interested who do not want to write their name down, but will show up at the meeting.

Elliott has a masters degree in counselling and guidance and is on staff with the Toronto Board of Education. Jeri has a degree in social work. A third person on hand, Sheryl Ederman has her masters in adult education.

Also introduced during the evening were Murray and Pat Wood, family education consultants. They explained their job involved the preventative end of problems, getting to parents before they need Toughlove.

The evening was put on by Halton Hills' representatives on the Board of Education, Arlene Bruce, Betty Fisher, and Betty Walker. Irene McCauley, trustee for Halton Separate School Board, also sat in on the seminar.

With the help of case histories, role playing, video tapes and audience participation, parents learned how Toughlove works, and learned a starting point in coping with their own children.

Toughlove is not just for parents of teenagers, Elliott stressed. The youngest child involved was two-years-old, the oldest was 56-years-old.

Children must learn the consequences of their actions, the Elliotts stressed. If a child is told to be home by midnight, and is not, then a note is left on the door telling them to go to the YMCA, or to a neighbor's (prearranged of course). Eventually that child will learn Mom and Dad mean what they say when they want the teenager (or whoever) to be home at a certain time.

If a child goes out and earns extra money by cutting grass, Elliott said, the parent should not then take that money away from him. They should be

able to enjoy the consequences of a positive action. However, he continued, if that child then goes and runs his bicycle over Mrs. Jones flower bed, he should spend that money to replace the flowers. Every act has a consequence, Elliott says.

The Achilles heel of every parent is embarrassment, the speaker said. Toughlove aims to overcome that embarrassment and become in control of the situation.

He cited the example of a teenager locked out of the house because of missing curfew. If the child pounds on the doors and screams so the neighbors can hear, the parent should go to the neighbor and explain the situation. Point out they are not beating their child, just being boss. Then, he continued, they should ask for that neighbor's support to sit with the parent for the next scene. If the teenager comes home at 3 a.m. and a neighbor answers the door and says his parents don't want him to come home that night, the child will soon get the message.

Peer group pressure is more powerful than it ever has been in history, Elliott told the interested parents. Parents cannot be blamed for all their children's ills, he said.

Elliott pointed out that parents take the blame for the one wayward child, wondering where they went wrong. But, he said, they never take the credit for the other three or four children who never cause trouble.

Elliott explained parents always feel they are the worst parents in the world. By being involved in a Toughlove group, they discover they are not alone and by helping others with their problems, maybe their problems will be helped.

Toughlove members can call upon other members for help in disciplining themselves to discipline their children. If they just cannot stop the child from taking the family car, they have a neighbor or a Toughlove member park his car behind the family vehicle. Or have members stand by every door in the house to stop that child from leaving the house. Eventually, Elliott says, the child will get the message.

Elliott estimated 99.9 per cent of Toughlove cases have worked with parents who have the strength. Toughlove means laying down the law.

"It is so rewarding," Elliott says. "I have never met a kid yet who wasn't worth it."



Joel Pink cooks bacon at the Knox Presbyterian Church Young People's group breakfast Saturday morning.



Ian Keith

Town hires head planner

Halton Hills has a new planning director, Ian Keith, 48, has taken over the job held by Mario Venditti, who is now planning director in Guelph. Keith graduated from Western University in 1977, and the Canadian Institute of Planning in 1978.

He comes here from the Lehndorf Group, Toronto, and before that was a planner with Kleinfeldt Planning Consultants, Brampton.

Prior to his work with private industry, Keith was planning director in Etobicoke from 1967 to 1970, with Markham from '65 to '67, and with Metropolitan Toronto Planning Board from '68 to '65.

He and his wife and two children live in Willowdale, but hope to move to Georgetown area as soon as possible.



Exchange student Jodie McFarlane drew the Actario tickets Saturday.

Actario winners

Dave Manes Jr. of Guelph was the winner of the weekly Actario draw for \$350.

Ed and Sally Leatherland, 112 Acton Blvd., won the super shopper of vouchers from Nielsen's, Acton Photo and Camera, Ed's In 'N Out, Acton Family Cleaners, Jug City, and Acton Bowling Lanes. Helen Murray, 55 Greenore Cres., won vouchers from IGA, Home Hardware and Acton Family Restaurant, while L.R. Sherry and L. Ruse of Acton won vouchers from Stedman's, Acton Pharmacy and Family Cleaners.

Tenders let for storm sewer job

Tenders have gone out for the reconstruction of storm sewers in Glenlea subdivision.

Last week Halton Hills general committee approved the tendering of the job which involves Longfield Road from Queen Street to Meadvale Road and Mowbray Place. New storm sewers will be installed on Longfield and Mowbray and the northerly and southerly sections of Mowbray will be excavated and reconstructed. The remaining areas will be resurfaced and widened. A sidewalk is proposed on the east side of Longfield over its full length with Phase 1 Lines. Some limited sanitary sewer replacement on Mowbray will be included in the works on behalf of the region.

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Rent jumps at Diplomat Apt., but not as much as requested

The Landlord for the Diplomat Apartments on Church St. East has received a hefty rent hike from the Residential Tenancy Commission, but not as high as he'd requested.

Previous rents for the 40 one bedroom apartments in the building had ranged from \$243 to \$275 a month and the landlord was after \$385 to \$370 a month.

The hearing officer, Dixie Heller, ruled one bedroom rents can be \$305 and \$309 a month and will take effect on various units from the start of April through to December. Rents for two bedroom apartments were from \$273 to \$325 a month and the landlord was asking for a range of \$400 to \$405 but had to settle for \$334 to \$338. Rent increases on the 18 two-bedroom units will take effect between March

and December.

A hearing was held in March for the rent hikes in the building and the same day a hearing was held for the Maria St. apartments, which are owned by the same person. However, the commission says while the report for the Noble Towers had been completed it hasn't been released yet.

Among the highlights of the hearing officer's report is disclosure that rents put into effect in 1981 for five Diplomat units were too high or charged too early and they have been adjusted.

The landlord had wanted the building to produce \$21,860 in rent per month but the commission is only allowing an increase to \$18,242 from \$15,517.

Town hall backers fight back

Supporters of town hall restoration are fighting back and their solicitors have prepared a draft of an objection to lifting the historical designation on the building.

Spokesman for the various groups, Ted Tyler of Actario, said large ads have been taken out in Halton Hills papers explaining their side of the story, including some facts and observations. They

Zenith number be on MP's mailings

Halton MP Otto Jelinek has promised that his next mailing to constituents will have his Zenith telephone number listed on it.

Lorna Clarke attended councillors' drop-in Friday and pointed out to Jelinek that his pamphlets have his Oakville number listed, but not his free line. Not everyone is aware he has the toll free number, she said.

Senior Citizens' Week

Senior Citizens' Week will be from June 20 to 26, Halton Hills declared Monday night.

are also publishing the councillors' phone numbers and town office numbers and address urging people call or write the town fathers and mothers voicing their views on the decision to demolish the building and put in a parking lot.

Tyler said there were some people who objected to restoration, but most simply didn't want tax dollars put into the hall, they don't mind if the interest groups take on the restoration.

The groups' proposal for saving the hall wouldn't have cost tax dollars unless donated, but council wanted assurances the work would be completed in nine months and that wasn't fair, Tyler declared. He noted council couldn't make up its mind on the issue through five years and yet wouldn't allow community restoration to be a long term, ongoing project.

He said supporters don't feel they were "treated fairly" by some Acton and Esqueping councillors who have no Acton heritage or investment in the town hall. "The town hall is ours, not theirs. We have the right to demand preservation."

Tyler noted Acton councillors and people supported the library-cultural centre for Georgetown, but haven't received reciprocal support.

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