

# Contact Centre celebrates decade of community service

On November 15, the North Halton Contact Centre will have given free telephone service to the community and area for nearly 10 years.

The Centre will celebrate its 10th birthday with present and former volunteers renewing acquaintances.

For six months now, the Contact Centre along with six other centres in the province has been funded by the Ministry of Health to obtain statistics for a standardized information system, to identify the needs and facilitate the planning and development of a supportive service

network in the area of each Distress Centre.

There are concerns for the elderly in the communities; the seniors need someone to talk with, and in this respect, the Centre calls out to several elderly daily to check their well-being. As this is also a rural area, there is an isolation problem for many, from transportation for shopping, to the need of young mothers who wish an adult voice to talk over their concerns.

Young males in need of a befriending ear, cannot talk to their parents but find by calling a distress centre,

help is available with referral to a social agency. Suicide related calls frequently come from out of town, Toronto, to name one area and police assistance or ambulance is sent. The interrelationship of social and health factors in the lives of callers is revealed in the large number of calls across the province. If a service is lacking in the community, it is shown in the stats. Information is readily available for the numbers of various agencies, government ministries, service clubs, Red Cross, Meals on Wheels, etc.

Our 24-hour service is confidential

to all who call; the volunteers are a caring group of individuals, some have been with the Centre since its inception.

There are two training programs per year; the fall session begins on October 18 and the Spring session, next April.

For uniformity with other centres in the province, the name is being changed to the North Halton Distress Centre. It will still be known as the Contact Centre, providing the same service to the community and area.

## D and G group home overcomes...

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The children are also raised to be very competitive, said Stanley. They compete against nature, their fellow man and with themselves. They value competition as a way to become good at something. It's when the children are denied that competition they become overly aggressive.

Like the example of the 14-year-old youth slapping around two councillors, one can see why the aggression is there and why that aggression needs a release.

"We play a lot of contact sports like football," said Stanley.

"Heavy competition releases the aggression and we use a lot of physical contact like wrestling or just plain rough housing," he explained.

"We don't coddle these kids and their aggression like the others did," said Summers, and they don't usually have any mental illnesses.

Fortunately for D and G some prominent Indian groups and agencies who understood the problems got wind of what was happening to D and G. Through a lot of discussion, the government realized Indians had their own problems that were best understood and corrected by Indians themselves.

"There aren't any hard feelings anymore," continued Stanley, "it was a misunderstanding between two cultures."

D and G teaches a mixture of both North American and Indian concepts which prepares the children for life both on and off the reservation.

They all take turns feeding the animals, cleaning and cooking which gives them a sense of responsibility, said Movescamp.

A fully qualified Indian teacher instructs the children in reading, writing and mathematics and "most of the 10 youths at the home are doing quite well," said Stanley.

Arts and crafts are encouraged by the staff and the walls of the home are adorned by works that show a great deal of talent.

Several times a year the staff take the children on weekend outings to camp and fish. It teaches them some of their heritage and pits them in competition against nature.

A few times a day the children and staff sit down to talk about their problems and how to solve them.

Movescamp told the children, "when you meet a man on the street you don't treat him with contempt or you will be treated the same way when you meet him again."

Movescamp then went on to explain the importance of respect for one's surroundings and the value of treating every person as an equal.

"God," he said, "created man as an equal to all of nature except for one thing... Man was given a brain that lets him choose between right and wrong and it is left up to each individual to choose the paths of righteousness in the eyes of God."

The staff of D and G are all Indian and while some of them have university degrees in social behaviour and psychology, most important qualification they must have is a good attitude, said Stanley.

Movescamp said he is there because as a youth he lived in a group home.

"I was one of the lucky ones," he said. "I was taken into a home and taught responsibility and respect."

"I'm here to give my knowledge and experience to these kids and if one of them stays out of jail and becomes a responsible adult then I know I have been doing something worthwhile."

Summers said, "I may not have a great education but I've had a great deal of experience working with the government. This, along with the understanding of what these kids are going through, helps a lot to

make this program successful."

Stanley said the reason he is involved with the home is he cares about people and he cares about the children who are sent there.

Stanley and his wife bought the property three years ago and since having been granted a licence have been running the home.

"It takes a lot of patience but it's an extremely rewarding profession," said Stanley.

"The government now supports what we are doing and as a matter of fact want to start up some similar homes."

In fact, the home has been so successful, some of the youngsters sent there don't want to leave when their 12 month or longer rehabilitation period is over.

For the future, though, D and G will continue as they have been and with the hope that more of the same type of home will be set up to help hundreds more troubled Indian youths.



Tickets are going fast for the "Good Brothers" who will be performing at the John Elliott Theatre, 9 Church Street, Georgetown on Friday, October 14th, 1983. Tickets are \$10 and can be picked up at your Recreation Department. For more information call 877-5185, ext. 260.

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**INFORMATION NIGHT ENERGY FROM WASTE**

The Region of Halton is holding an Information Night to review the Energy from Waste Project for Halton, the Draft Work Program and the Criteria for evaluating potential Energy from Waste Customers. A discussion period will follow.

**Wednesday, October 19, 1983**  
7:30 p.m. — 9:00 p.m.  
in the

**Council Chambers Regional Administration Building**  
1151 Bronte Road  
Oakville, Ontario

If you have any questions, please contact Vicky Gibson at Ext. 422.

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