



Clare Large of Oakville, left, and Tami White of Burlington, two students at the Credit Valley Treatment Centre, play a game resembling Chinese Checkers after school while waiting for their rides home. Looking on is Lynn Coskery, community relations co-ordinator.

Starting its fifth season, the centre is looking to raise \$140,000 from individuals, service organizations and businesses to maintain its level of service to physically disabled children.

\$140,000 campaign mounted for Credit Valley Centre

By WILMA BLOKHUIS
The Credit Valley Treatment Centre, an educational facility for physically disabled children in Mississauga, will be blitzing Halton and Peel to raise \$140,000.

The money will be used by the centre, run by the Credit Valley Association for Handicapped Children, to maintain its present level of services and to purchase assistive devices as they are needed.

As its fifth year of operation begins, the Credit Valley Treatment Centre faces a quadrupled caseload since opening in the fall of 1979, and government funding seems to be lagging behind the centre's rapid growth.

Over the five years, the centre has managed to control its costs to just below \$3,000 annually per child, spending 83 per cent of its 1983-84 budget of \$1.2 million on its caseload.

Government funding comes from the ministries of Health, and Community and Social Services.

The centre serves 400 children as out-patients, who come once or twice weekly for therapy, from Halton and Peel, says Lynn Coskery, community relations co-ordinator.

It also, in co-operation with the Peel Board of Education, operates a school program for 20 students who come daily; plus another 36 are in a nursery program.

Of this total, about a dozen are Oakville residents. The nursery accepts children aged two to five years, and school students are aged six to 21.

As its criteria for admission for its therapy school and nursery programs is a physical disability, the centre caseload largely consists of children with cerebral palsy, spinal bifida, muscular dystrophy and accident victims. However, some also have a mental disability, she said.

In order to facilitate instruction and encourage independent learning, as each student functions at a different level, the centre supplies assistive devices—computers, wheelchair attachments, headsticks and a microphone which can be used to dial a telephone or open doors, just by the touch of the tongue. These items are not included in the provincial government's funding, thus the centre appeals to the community for additional financial support. Community funding also pays for recreational programs and transportation.

The Credit Valley Treatment Centre will continue its requests from service clubs, hoping to raise \$42,000 from these groups; and private donations and other fund-raising efforts may bring in \$32,000.

The largest component of the campaign will be to raise \$70,000 from its newly instituted corporate mailing

to 7,000 firms in Halton and Peel. Each firm will receive an individual letter, brochure reply card and stamped return envelope.

Costs covered by government funding are educational materials for academic subjects, plus staff salaries.

The Credit Valley Treatment Centre employs 50 full and part-time people, including six school and five nursery teachers.

The pupil-teacher ratio is four students to every teacher. In addition, the centre has three therapy departments—physio, occupational and speech, psychological—social services for families, and a medical director.

"Each child is assigned a case management team.

"This includes a therapist who helps in the classroom," she said.

The goal of the centre's program is to integrate its students into regular schools and even universities and colleges that are accessible to the disabled.

Any individuals, organizations and businesses interested in sending a donation may make cheques payable to the Credit Valley Treatment Centre, 2777 South Millway, Mississauga, Ont. L5L 2M5. And, more information may be obtained by calling fund-raising co-ordinator Sandy Schimmelpennick at 820-7111.

Currie to seek nomination

By JANE MULLER
Staff Writer

Although the woodwork is still housing potential opponents, a Campbellville woman has announced she will attempt to secure the federal liberal nomination in Halton.

Oriana Currie will seek the nomination to represent the Halton Federal Liberal Association in the next federal election.

A novice to the political arena, Mrs. Currie explained she has received some support from those in her area.

She refers to the past year as a learning period during which she has taken many steps to increase her knowledge in the area of politics.

In the past, her dealings have been with various levels of government concerning "problems which had to be taken to the top."

Her announcement comes after a "gradual progression" toward politics.

"It's a progressive thing and you know when you are ready. Some tend to look after others while others are the ones who are looked after,"

she explained.

The prospective politician admits she is the former.

"I want to solve some problems and possibly I can look after that better than someone else," she said.

The owner of Currie Amusements and Distributors suggested in a recent telephone interview a nomination meeting may be held within the next six months.

As for a federal election she said, "We know it has to come sooner or later."

"It's going to be exciting," said Mrs. Currie.

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