

Youth Centre for parents and teens

by Mark Holmes

Parents, watch out. When your cute little boy and girl reach their teens you had better be ready to face what could be the toughest part of parenting.

"What parents sometimes fail to recognize is that some children, while going through puberty, change more than just physically," said Sandy Kemp, director of the Youth Services program at the Acton Social Services and Information Centre. "Before the parents realize what's happening their child has become unmanageable and that's why there's Youth Services."

Designed by Carol McMullen a social services agent at the centre and implemented in the fall of 1982, the program has already seen and helped one group of local youths and parents and according to Kemp the program seems to have helped a great deal.

Most of the people in the program have been referred by area schools, said Kemp, but referrals can also come from any other social agency or even the parents themselves.

Of the youths in the program, most haven't been through the court system, but have troubles with attendance in school, antisocial behavior, lack of respect for authority and similar problems. The program is mainly concerned with helping unmanageable children become more manageable through family counselling.

"We don't want just the parents who are having problems," said Kemp. "We'd like to establish a parenting program that will create awareness and development of parenting skills before the problems arise."

Kemp, who is a social services graduate from Sheridan College said families in Acton are really great to work with and because of the success of the program in Acton, a youth service is scheduled to start operating in Milton.

So far the two programs are the only ones like it and because each town has its own identity and needs, each program can be tailored to suit each centre's requirements.



Sandy Kemp, a counsellor at the Acton Social Services Centre is running a program called Youth Services to help parents cope with unmanageable teenagers.

Kemp said the parents and teens meet at the Social Services Building at 115 Mill St. East and she hopes more parents will come in for the free service before problems at home start.

26 killed in 83

Twenty-six people were killed in 24 separate accidents in Halton in 1983 according to Regional Police.

Of these 26, 18 were male and eight were female, statistics revealed by Inspector A. Stansbury and Staff Inspector R. Taylor revealed.

Ten male car drivers were killed and eight female drivers. Also two male motorcycle drivers were killed. In addition, one male motorcycle passenger was killed. Two male and four female passengers of vehicles met their death in accidents last year.

One male bicycle rider was killed, and two male and one female pedestrians were killed.

Of the 24 accidents, 17 involved alcohol and in two cases, the condition of the victim was unknown. Fifteen persons killed had consumed alcohol, but no accident deaths included drugs.

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