

# Advisory group offers small business help

Owners of small businesses in Halton who need help or advice with their operations can now tap the expertise of retired corporate executives thanks to the newly-formed Halton Small Business Advisory Group.

Noting that 76 per cent of the Region's 7,000 businesses employ fewer than ten people, the group's chairman, Bill McAlister of Burlington, filled council in last week on the organization's plans.

The group, made up of more than a dozen retired executives, will meet Fridays at 9:30 a.m. in a committee room at regional head-

quarters on Hwy. 25 just north of the Queen Elizabeth Way.

"A small business entrepreneur cannot be an expert on all aspects of business nor can his operation afford the luxury of having employees experienced in every field as can large corporations," the group's introductory statement says.

"Often the problem of the single entrepreneur is simply not having skilled and experienced people that can act as a sounding board for his ideas, that can challenge his proposals, that can suggest alternatives, that can make sure he has

done his homework." McAlister noted that the Federal Business Development Bank offers counseling for small business through CASE (Counselling Assistance for Small Enterprises), but does not have a Halton office.

The Halton group, he said, has patterned itself after Toronto's Associated Senior Executives of Canada Ltd., whose members are retired executives often able to resolve given problems at one of their weekly meetings. If not, members are assigned to follow up on the problem.

McAlister explained that the group has

recruited 12 members to offer such a service in Halton and hopes to sign on four or six more.

Regional chairman Pete Pomeroy told council that the Region's Business Development department is taking the group's phone calls (878-8113) as a "token of support."

He and McAlister will together visit each of Halton's four area municipalities to inform local councillors about the new service.

"It's good to see at last that the needs of

small business are finally being addressed," McAlister commented, quoting Prime Minister Brian Mulroney as saying small business is Canada's hope for economic recovery.

"I think there's a great future for this type of advisement. It's action, not just talk. We've come together voluntarily to help out the small companies. You'd be amazed how we, who were used to running big corporations, can bring ourselves down to the level of the small businessman."

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# newsmakers

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Andrew Terrell's father gives his son a big hug inside the hula hoop. Both were attending a streetproofing course against child abusers, Sept. 15. Children, like Andrew, were taught that they have a personal space the size of a hula hoop and nobody is allowed inside unless the child tells them. Andrew lets his father inside the hoop to give him a big hug.

## High abuse stats lead local women to teach children streetproofing

by Cynthia Gamble  
Staff reporter

Say NO, get away and tell someone. It is a maxim which one day may save a child from a sexual abuse attack.

The incidence of child abuse in Halton Hills is on a par with the national statistic that one in four girls and one in 10 boys will be sexually abused before they are an adult, according to statistics compiled by the Halton Region Family Services and the Children's Aid Society, says Janet Still, one of eight Georgetown women trying to lower those figures.

Mrs. Still and seven other women taught children, aged four to 12, from 20 families how to streetproof themselves, Sept. 15. Streetproofing means children are given methods to become aware of child abusers and how to defend themselves.

The women became interested in streetproofing after members of Oshawa Outreach, a child abuse centre, spoke to concerned parents at a local school last February. The women took it a step further and attended Outreach courses to learn streetproofing techniques to teach Georgetown children.

The Sept. 15 session was the first class held in Georgetown by the women with another one tentatively scheduled in November for another 20 families currently on a waiting list. The group is hoping to eventually get all Georgetown families involved in streetproofing, said Maureen Craighead.

The group has no plans yet to set up a class for Acton residents, Mrs. Craighead said, but that interested Acton parents should contact Oshawa Outreach to arrange a public meeting or to take their courses.

"We're just trying to help kids be safe in the streets from sexual abuse, attack, or abduction. It (streetproofing) is meant to be fun and a learning experience for children. Parents are given techniques to reinforce to children on an on-going basis," Mrs. Craighead said.

Parents have been hungering for this kind of education, she said and Ali Sanatgar, a father present at the session agreed. He said every day a child in a big city is abused because the parents did not have the knowledge to help their children. Sanatgar said he is very happy to have the opportunity to learn streetproofing here with his daughter,

It is very necessary, said Karen Taylor-Harrison, a mother also at the session. Most people in a small town are blasé about child abuse, thinking it cannot happen here especially when there is very little information about it in the local media, she said. Parents are rather out of touch with reality if they think this, she added.

"Streetproofing makes us more aware and gives us the tools to fight back," Mrs. Taylor-Harrison says.

All the parents have been very positive about it, Mrs. Craighead says, adding that both parents must attend the session with the children. Parents must first know what the children have learned to reinforce it at home and second, to know how to deal with abuse should it happen.

The streetproofing session centres around four stations. In the first, the children learn the sexual parts of the male and female anatomy and the reason for wearing, or not wearing clothing. The children also sing songs which teach that nobody should touch their bodies without permission. For example, the lyrics to "My Body" by Peter Aslop are "My body's nobody's body but mine, you run your own body, let me run mine."

Another song tells children to scream loudly and kick up a fuss if someone comes too close. Many child abusers do not like noise because it draws attention to them and they run away, Mrs. Craighead says.

These self-defence techniques such as screaming are taught in a second station. Children learn how to use their elbows effectively and how to get out of an unwanted person's grasp. At the same time, children are shown the difference between good touch and bad touch.

A third station has the children play acting in various situations. For example, one boy dressed up as a man who tried to get another boy to help him find his lost dog. In another, a little girl visits her friend's house but nobody is home but the big brother who asks her inside. In either case, the children are asked if they should go with the adults.

A fourth station deals with a book written by two women after a Toronto girl was attacked and murdered last year.

In all four stations, the maxim to say NO, get away and tell someone is constantly reinforced in the children.

"If that's all they can remember it will

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Oct. 1 begins

## Lungs are for Life Week



Halton Lung Association's annual Lungs are for Life Week will be held October 1 to 7 this year with the theme: "Adult Lung Health Awareness." Lung Associations throughout Ontario will be conducting special programs or events focusing on the importance of healthy lungs. Your Lung Association in Halton will be marking this week with mall displays and radio interviews as well as commencing many winter programs.

One in five Canadians has a respiratory problem. More than half a million suffer from bronchitis and emphysema and approximately 547,000 have asthma. Hayfever and allergy sufferers will not be

surprised to learn that there are two million in Canada feeling miserable during peak allergy times.

In early spring the pollens causing hay fever comes from trees such as ash, beech, oak and poplar. In June and July grass pollens are the villains. In late summer and fall, weeds are the culprit. Ragweed in particular. The Lung Association's Fact Series "Hay Fever and Common Respiratory Allergies" will provide helpful information.

Emphysema and chronic bronchitis are of particular concern to the Lung Association. More than \$550,000 was directed to medical research in 1983 through dona-

tions to the Lung Association. There is no cure for emphysema and more funds are needed if a medical breakthrough is to be accomplished.

"When you have emphysema it's a minute by minute struggle to breathe. The daily tasks most of us take for granted are counted as victories by the emphysema sufferer, says Dr. J.P.W. Cunningham, Medical Director for the Association's Better Breathing Club.

The Lung Association conducts Rehabilitation Programs which help and support those suffering from COPD (Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease) through Better Breathing Clubs.

## Cold weather masks available

The Halton Lung Association announced it will be making face masks available to the public to wear in cold weather for those who experience difficulty in breathing.

Dr. R.W.T. Haddon of Joseph Brant Memorial Hospital, medical director of the family asthma programs and better breathing classes, advised that the Cold Weather Masks were devised to prevent the onset of bronchospasm as a result of breathing very cold air. The patient wears this mask as she leaves home and is able to inhale, through a corrugated tube, the air which has been warmed by his own body.

The use of a one way valve enables the patient to always receive fresh warm air each inhalation as well as eliminate carbon dioxide upon exhalation.

Cold Weather Masks can be obtained from the Halton Lung Association at a cost of \$3.00.

This service is made possible through support of the Christmas Seal Campaign:

## Disarmament issue examined in film

For those who think there is nothing we can do about the threat of nuclear war and those who don't know why we should do anything, a pro-disarmament film, "The Gods of Metal," will be shown at a peace meeting Oct. 21 at Georgetown's St. Andrew's United Church.

Taxpayers are financing the arms race so taxpayers can do something about it, is part of the message the movie conveys.

In the film a group of priests withhold the portion of their income tax that would be contributed to the military budget in protest. Each declared their opposition at the income tax office with the statement, "I'm withholding 40 per cent in the name of the poor (handicapped, disabled, who could be helped with the money)."

The film was previewed by members of

the Halton Hills Action for Nuclear Disarmament (HAND) organization and the interested public in Acton last Tuesday.

Candid scenes of the consequences of the Hiroshima bombing and starving children deliver most of the message without the need of words.

A quote from Pope John Paul (who was quoting from the bible) was the only part of the film that referred to the Russian side of the problem: "Love your enemies."

Peace co-ordinator Joanne Clarke will be special guest at the meeting which is open to the public. A pot luck dinner will be dished up at 6 p.m., and the meeting will begin at 7:30 p.m.

"Must our children receive the arms race as a necessary inheritance?"

## Beatty will introduce taxpayers' bill of rights

by MARK HOLMES  
Staff Reporter

Wellington-Dufferin-Simcoe MP Perrin Beatty this week called his appointment to the head of the federal revenue and taxation department a challenging and exciting development in his career.

The revenue portfolio is the second Cabinet position Beatty has held since he was elected, at age 22, in 1972. His first post was minister of the state for the treasury board in the short-lived Joe Clark government in 1979.

Beatty said it wasn't much of a surprise when he was named to the high profile post. His first job as minister will be to be fully briefed on the Canada Post situation, another responsibility, and get a handle on the crown corporation's deficit.

The revenue portfolio came to Beatty following his work as chairman of the Conservative task force on Revenue Canada. Prior to taking over the task force chair, Beatty was named spokesman on Revenue Canada for the official Opposition in September, 1983.

The task force, which took Beatty across the country to hear citizens' complaints against Revenue Canada, came up with 76 recommendations to improve the administration of the Income Tax Act.

Of those recommendations, Beatty said, "Treating the taxpayer decently and demonstrating that obligation to the taxpayer is the first objective of the department, we must show that if questions are raised on a person's tax records, they are to be innocent until proven guilty, unlike the reverse policy under the Liberals."

"As well," he added, "we have an obligation to make sure everyone pays his or her fair share of taxes so the honest people don't shoulder the burden of the dishonest taxpayers."

One of the first proposals Beatty will present to the House of Commons concerns institution of a taxpayers' bill of rights.

A native of Fergus, Beatty retained his seat by gleaming 29,922 votes out of a possible 43,725 in the Sept. 4 election. His riding includes Erin Township in this area.



PERRIN BEATTY  
Taxpayers' friend



Square dancing keeps Ken Hearn smiling. Hearn, the co-president of Pine Valley Squares said square dancing is all the exercise a person needs. The club held its annual introductory class last Wednesday

night at Stewarttown Hall. Beginner classes are held every Wednesday at the Hall.