

# There's nothing to do! But who's to blame?

Is Georgetown a turkey town? Is there really nothing for the young people to do but hang around the streets and look for trouble?

If there is nothing to do in Georgetown, who is at fault? The town, the parents, or the young people themselves? In the next few weeks, the Herald will be conducting a series of interviews of various groups in Georgetown to find out what can be done about the problem, and whose responsibility it is to see that our youth are kept occupied and off the streets. We will interview town councillors, police, teachers, parents, social service agencies and of course, the kids involved. Since the Contact Centre has focused on youth problems, and the Children's Aid Society are intent on establishing community resources where they are most needed, perhaps this would be a great place to start.

This week we posed the preceding questions to the kids on the street, adding one more question, "What are you doing about it?"

And, believe it or not, we discovered that underneath all that hair there are real people with feelings and needs. Here's what our youth feel and need:

**TRUDY SHOEBRIDGE, 17, 251 Guelph St.:** "We need a drop-in centre where we can have dances and rap sessions, and maybe think up some useful activities. We need a movie theatre but they say it is too small a town to be bothered. Sometimes I think the town is to blame, but a lot of time it is the kids' fault because they don't

co-operate and spoil it for themselves. I think we could run a drop-in centre and organize it for ourselves if we had some support. But the adults don't trust us with responsibility. So all we do is hang around the pool hall and the restaurant and waste our money."

**DAVID THOMS, 17, Stewarttown:** "Can you imagine a bunch of long-haired guys going up to council and saying we want something to do? They'd laugh us right out of the place. Nobody wants to waste money on kids. Even if they did start a drop-in centre, nobody'd go if the cops were there. Why don't they keep the dragstrip open? It was taking the dragging off the streets and putting it where it belongs."

**DON McNIVEN, 17, 20 Albert St.:** There should be a meeting place where we could have dances, and rap sessions, and maybe a pool table and other games where we could play cheaper than 75 cents for 15 minutes.

At Lake Simcoe they have a hall where everybody meets every Friday and Saturday night and they get groups to dance to. It's great. But here the town don't want to be bothered with us. If they had a drop-in centre they'd have to hire a cop and they don't want

to put out money for that. The 'Y' and the Boy Scouts have everything too organized and the activities are too young for us. Why don't they get with it and do something modern?"

**MARY LORUSSO, 17, 44 John St.:** "I went through all that with the brownies and girl guides when I was younger. I outgrew it. Some parents won't let kids bring their friends home because they don't like long-haired weirdos. If we can't have a place to go, why don't they let us hang around Main Street without all the hassle? Other places like Toronto have centres that are really successful. Why don't we go and visit them and find out why it works for them? When they try it here it's a flop. Maybe we need a different kind of centre than the ones they tried before. We need a movie theatre, because we go all the way down to Milton all the time to see a show. A drive-in would be nice. All-year-round roller skating would be great."

**CONNIE HILLIER, 15, 84 River Dr.:** "I stay home a lot, watch TV and do my homework. Then we walk around the street for a while and then go home again. I never really thought about whose fault it was, or that something could be done about it. It just is that way in Georgetown and nobody seems to be bothered about it. I'm all for all-year-round roller skating."

**DON RODGERS, 17, Mill St.:** "I don't think anyone is to blame. They just don't realize there is a problem. They always say there's lots to do in Georgetown if you want to look for it. But we'd be called down by our friends if we volunteered to do any of that square stuff, or if we offered to help somebody. I'd like to see more car rallies and rock concerts. We are always getting kicked out of places because they're elders and they don't understand when kids laugh and have fun. They forget that they were kids, one too."



CONNIE HILLIER



MARY LORUSSO



DON RODGERS



DON McNIVEN

## Snowmos prepare for another winter

Winter can't be far away. The Georgetown Snowmobile Club has already finalized plans for its snowmobile safety clinic to be held in the Georgetown and District High School Cafeteria, Monday, November 18.

### Bomb threat

A false bomb threat in Acton is still being investigated by the Acton OPP reported Cpl. Bob Arbour.

### Missing

Acton OPP received two separate reports of missing wallets, containing large sums of money. The first report was received on Friday, when a man complained that a wallet was taken from his Bower Ave. home. Police found the wallet the next day, minus the money. A second report on Saturday came from a man who said he misplaced his wallet. It was found on Mill Street without any money.

will be dealt with thanks to the co-operation of a number of groups actively involved in promoting snowmobile safety. Acting as emcee for the evening will be former mayor, Bill Smith, himself an active snowmobiler. Doug Carrier, president of

the Georgetown club, will open the evening. Tom Massa of the St. John Ambulance Corps. will present instructions on first aid for snowmobilers. Survival kits, a necessary item for snowmobilers will be explained by Ron Johnson. Snowmobile maintenance will be dealt with as well.

Jason Fields of the Georgetown Police Department will explain local and provincial bylaws dealing with snowmobiles and their use. Mr. Fields was the founder of the safety clinic idea here in Georgetown and was the chief organizer of the first such clinic. A representative from the ministry of the environment

will deal with the affects snowmobiles have upon the environment. Safety films will be shown and there will be a snowmobile display featuring the '75s from two manufacturers. The night will close with remarks by Halton Hills councillor Mike Armstrong.

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DAVID THOMS



TRUDY SHOEBRIDGE

## You can't spend what you haven't got

David Coons, Burlington Regional Councillor, wants region department heads to stop spending money which the region does not have.

Coun. Coons presented a motion to the regional administration and finance committee Wednesday to stop departments from spending money on office furniture until after the administration committee studies a detailed report on start-up requests.

"We've already been told we don't have anymore money to spare," he argued. "Let's try to bring some stability back here. I don't want anymore funds spent on furniture until we can study a detailed report."

His motion, which the committee agreed to, was made after a report from Regional Treasurer Don Farmer was presented. It outlined a list of items which were not included in the year's regular budget, but were a part of the special start-up budget.

Earlier this year, the Ontario government decided not to give Halton Region what was requested for start-up purposes, putting the region in a difficult position, said Mr. Farmer.

Included in the list of start-up costs is a regional pedestal

ashtray at \$58 and furniture replacements in the public works department at \$7,000.

Oakville Coun. Carl Erikson said that the \$7,000 was far too much to spend to equip only seven offices. He recommended reducing the amount to \$2,000. Coun. Coons said he could not support the motion because it is not strong enough, and proposed a motion to stop all department head spending for office furniture.

The committee passed two other motions, one to have the Regional Chief Administrative Officer, Ernie Reid, prepare a detailed report on where the money is being spent and a second motion to include the

monthly financial statements for September and October in the report.

"If the department heads were establishing offices in their own business they could do it for a lot less than is listed here," Coun. Coons added. "There's no concern for the dollar in this budget."

Mr. Farmer told the councillors that a majority of the money in some start-up budgets has already been spent by the department heads. He had recommended that money from the regional reserve fund be used to pay the \$478,795 included in the rest of the start-up budgets.

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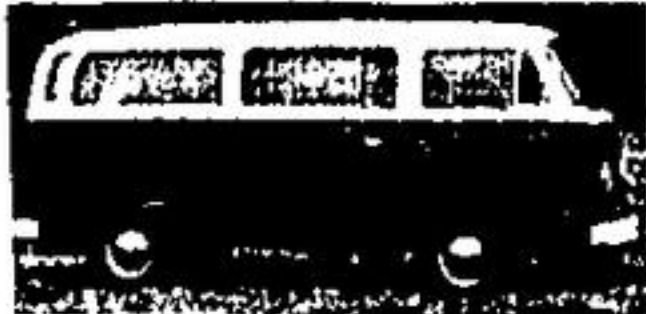


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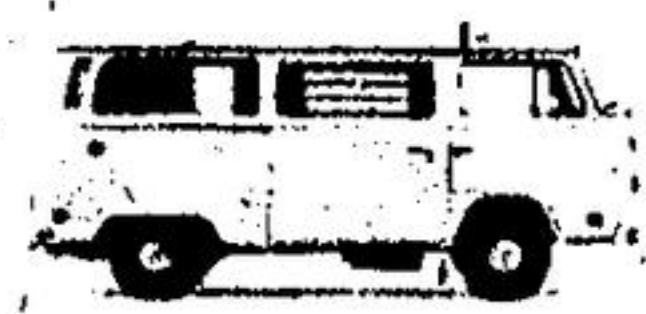


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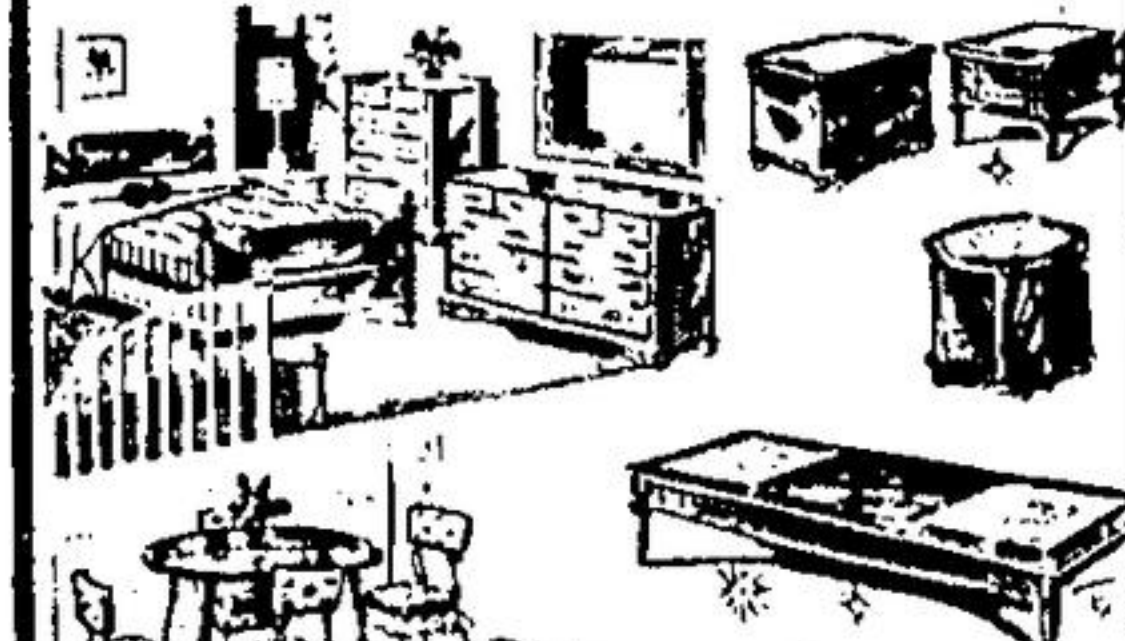
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