

# Concern at home: an alternative to drugs

There is a solution to the growing problem of drug and alcohol abuse, according to Peter Marks, a volunteer representative of the Drug Addiction and Research Foundation.

In a presentation last Wednesday evening, Mr. Marks addressed a group of concerned parents, members of the North Halton Contact Centre and various community leaders, regarding drug and alcohol abuse.

"There is a reason why drugs are available. They fulfill a need that is not met elsewhere. Drugs can temporarily cover the feelings of insecurity and helplessness that many children go through and cannot discuss at home."

Being a parent is more than just providing a pay-check at the end of each week and attending the annual father-and-son banquet, he said. "If more people would learn to 'parent' there would be less drug abuse," added Mr. Marks.

Drug and alcohol abuse affects not only the children from broken homes with meager incomes but those that have no financial worries and good backgrounds. Lifestyles vary but the problem is the same—the lack of communications in the family unit.

"There were no drugs when I was young," noted one of the members of the audience.

"At that time everyone was working. Drugs were not available then and, because everyone was working as a family, the feeling of understanding was always there," explained Mr. Marks.

The difference in children of today and of the war era is the result of affluence and automation. There is more time to spend relaxing, more time for problems to grow. There is also more money with which to buy drugs or alcohol

to cover these problems.

The problem of over-protective parents also adds to the increased use of drugs.

"Children must learn to make decisions for themselves. At one time in their life they must decide whether or not drugs have a place in their lives."

With no decision-making experience a child can make the wrong decision because of the inability to weigh the factors before jumping into a much larger problem than he anticipated.

The scare tactics used by the ministry of health to reach younger children have a diminishing effect as the child grows older and emotional needs begin to dominate, Mr. Marks said.

"Logic doesn't always work and the experiences of others can serve to dictate the final choice a child may make when it comes down to a choice between to use or not to use drugs," he added.

The LeDaine Commission report cited seven causes of drug abuse: mental illness; fun, pleasure and excitement; affluence; can't live up to expectations; withdraw; ego (boosting confidence; and naivety).

"Some of these uses," Mr. Marks said, can be avoided if we as parents take the time to be good parents and enjoy life with our children and not program them to live our dreams."

Setting reasonable expectations that are easily attainable is one of the major concerns in being a good parent. By sharing the inadequacies as well as the virtues of life it is possible to strengthen the family and gain reassurance.

Continued use of drugs and alcohol can cause a physical and psychological dependency



Peter Marks

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## Halton farmers weigh Manure versus fertilizer

Some 40 Halton and Peel farmers met on Tuesday, April 15 at Maple Leaf Mills Research Farm, RR2 Georgetown to discuss the question of manure handling and value.

Henry Stanley, agricultural representative for Halton, acted as chairman of the seminar. He suggested that manure has attained much more status now due to the high cost of fertilizer. The manure from each hog marketed is worth some \$4.30 at the current price of 25c per pound for Nitrogen, 25c for Phosphate and 8c for Potash.

Jim Myslik, extension engineering specialist, discussed the revised Agricultural Code of Practice which sets out distances from livestock operations required for non-farm homes as well as the distances that farmers must stay away from rural, non-farm homes if they are renovating their buildings or putting up new buildings. In the past the non-farm resident owners did not have to respect these distances in most cases.

Larry Ritchie, associate agricultural representative from Peel, stated that manure differs in fertility value according to the breed of livestock, age of animal and type of feed which is fed to the animal. A high portion of the feed passes through the animal and contains a high proportion of the nutrients—some 75 percent of the Nitrogen, 80 percent of the Phosphate and 85 percent of the Potash. Close to one-half of the manure value is in the liquid portion, thus farmers should try to retain this for use on their crops rather than allowing it to run off and be wasted.

Paul Fish, soils and crops specialist from Newmarket, felt that fertilizer costs are going to remain high for the future, thus the farmer with livestock must try to make the best use of his manure. Nitrogen is the element in the manure which is most likely to be lost through the air of ground water. Very little Phosphate or Potash is lost

## Museum

James Snow, minister of government services, announced last Friday that a \$639,409 contract has been awarded to F. Greco and Sons Ltd., Rexdale, for construction of the remainder of the Milton Agricultural Museum project, stage 3, for the ministry of agriculture and food.

The contract covers provision of basic utilities and services to the 92-acre site, including underground electrical, telephone and fire alarm systems, watermains and fire hydrants, additional roads, walks and parking areas, storm drainage and landscaping.

Designed by associate architects Hallford and Wilson of Oakville, work on the contract will start within a week and is expected to be complete about the end of September 1975.

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<p><b>75 PLYMOUTH DUSTER CUSTOM 2 DR. SPT. CPE. BRAND NEW</b></p> <p>Serial No. 5B-140006, Lucerne blue metallic, parchment vinyl bench with C.A.R., ER 78x14 WSW steel belted radials basic group—am radio, 3 sp. wipers, remote mirror, prismatic mirror, deluxe wheel covers, roadability package—front sway bar, boom damper, fold down rear seat, automatic transmission, engine 318 cu. in. 8 cyl., 2 BBL, electric heated rear window, white body side tape stripe, power steering, parchment canopy roof.</p> <p style="text-align: right; font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em;">\$4562<sup>00</sup></p>	<p><b>75 DODGE CHARGER S.E. 2 DR. SPECIAL BRAND NEW</b></p> <p>Serial No. X522K5R163944, Rallye Red White and black vinyl buckets GR70 x 15 RWL steel belted radia, light package, console, automatic transmission, std., engine 360 cu. in. 2 BBL std., electric heated rear window, mirrors-dual remote painted, RA, White hood &amp; deck stripe, black vinyl side moulding, std., push button AM radio 2 watt single RR seat speaker, tough sports strg. wheel, vinyl roof white.</p> <p style="text-align: right; font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em;">\$5695<sup>00</sup></p>
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