

the HERALD
Home Newspaper of Halton Hills

ACTON NEWS

Services centre report shows acceptance

Six months of operation have shown that Acton Community Services Centre "is starting to provide this area of Halton with a stronger preventative treatment system than has ever before been available to the area," says the centre's first semi-annual report.

Since Jan. 1 this year, 177 persons have turned to the centre for help and counselling in marriage and family relationships, money management, psychiatric assessment, children's aid, addiction problems and other areas as well, the report of ACSC chairman Gail Malby says.

The centre's small counselling room has been used approximately 120 times by regional and provincial staff, which "suggests potential dollar savings to the regional and provincial facilities budgets, now and in the future," the report notes.

By the end of August the centre had spent \$4,294.92 and had \$3,263.68 left to meet the rest of the year. The centre was funded by a \$4,000 start up grant from Halton Region and a \$3,000 grant from Halton Hills.

The report notes that Murray Memorial YMCA, where

the centre is located, charges no rent, that volunteers provided renovations, furniture and equipment free and that co-ordinator Judy McLin "agreed to work for approximately 65 per cent of her salary level this year."

A fundraising campaign will be conducted this fall, says the report.

It observed: "Most clients seeking our (the centre's) help did indicate... a very limited understanding of what services are available in the region and a strong reluctance to call a regional phone number and share a personal problem with a strange receptionist."

Numerous persons in the area had received help from the centre "thereby hopefully minimizing (at a later more critical stage) the possible need for long term, costly treatment," notes Malby's report.

The centre has been instrumental in developing volunteer groups in Acton for the Block Parent program, home care for physically handicapped and assisted in the formation of a local Alcoholics Anonymous chapter, the report says.



ISOBEL WATSON AND FAMILY FOLLOWING THE DINNER HELD FRIDAY

Library room named for citizen of year

Isobel Watson, who for half a century has been a librarian in Acton, learned at a dinner Friday honoring her as the Acton Chamber of Commerce Citizen of the Year, that a room in the library will be named after her and contain a commissioned portrait of her.

The distinction was one of several Mrs. Watson received at dinner of which extra tables had to be set to accommodate 122 persons.

Premier William Davis sent a congratulatory telegram and a plaque which were read and presented by MPP Julian Iteed who said he "hoped all would realize the influence one person could have on a community by dedication and love of one's task."

Chamber of Commerce president Louis Charlebois read telegrams from MP Dr. Frank Philbrook, who was absent from the country, and from Acton residents also absent.

The announcement that the meeting room in the basement will be called the Isobel Watson Room in which will

hang a portrait of her was made by Norman Elliot of the Halton Hills Library Board.

Mrs. Watson, who had her son Tom and daughter Rene at the head table with her and about a dozen other family members in the audience, said in a brief address that she had enjoyed working with the library board and that board member George Lee, who was in attendance, "has been a pillar of strength" for her.

Working in the library for 50 years and from which she retires at the end of this year, "has been a real joy," Mrs. Watson said, tears in her eyes.

Other presentations of gifts of flowers were made by George Gray, president of the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce, Mrs. Helen Jacques, regent of the Lakeside chapter of the International Order of Daughters of the Empire of under which Mrs. Watson is a charter member, Flo Charlebois and Eileen New.

The most moving address was that of Mrs. Watson's lifelong friend, Miss Esther

Taylor who said in reviewing her friend's story: "Our Citizen of the Year never does things by half...She has always gone the second mile."

Other needs expressed during BIA debate

Two Acton businessmen expressed concern that other major problems in downtown Acton needed attention in conjunction with the proposed business improvement area plan.

At a merchants meeting Tuesday, Bert Bigelow of Acton Billiards suggested stronger policing to deter vandals from damaging downtown furniture, such as decorative street lights, signs and planters.

Police Superintendent Floyd Schwartz said in a telephone interview, that if Acton merchants have suggestions or complaints about enforcement or manpower, they should contact the police commission.

Mike Kinal of Acton Hardware advocated establishing

an alternate route for trucks to decrease truck traffic on Mill Street, which is the extension of Highway 7 where most Acton retailers are situated.

Ministry of industry and tourism official Bob Pollock said all matters related to parking, including the construction of parking lots and the elimination of off-street parking, are under the jurisdiction of the parking authority.

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