



STEPHEN SAXON AND ADELA RODRIGUEZ

### Two M.Z. Bennett pupils win speaking contest

Six public school pupils participated in a public speaking contest at Georgetown district high school, Tuesday in a contest sponsored by the Optimist Club.

Stephen Saxon and Adela Rodriguez, both from M.Z. Bennett school won the contest, and will participate in the semi-finals today in Milton. Top prize is a \$500 scholarship.

The topic both pupils covered was the topic of Canada and "Together We Will... we can work together... each doing our own little part... Canada can have a rewarding future. Or we can work apart, each in our own little corner and run the future of the country. Together, and only together, we will hold a strong unity of the provinces and territories for the rest of the generations to come.

In Stephen Saxon's speech he said, "... minority groups have always borne the brunt of fool jokes in our society. The people who are presently being offended are the Pakistanis or anybody else who happens to have

brown skin or vaguely resemble them in any way. There seems to be a silent understanding for misunderstanding... that this kind of humor is harmless. It really isn't hurting anybody... but when the humor turns to hatred and spurs young hoodlums to attack immigrants in crowded subways - just because they don't speak our language - it's not a joke anymore.

The three judges for the contest were Michael Furlong, principal of Georgetown district high school, Julian Reed, MPP and Graeme Grebelle, a chartered accountant in Georgetown.

"It was difficult to judge the speeches, the overall impression of all the speakers was really good," Mr. Reed said.

Larry Sigland, president of the Optimist Club presented the certificates of participation to Evan Siddall, St. Francis school, Gwyneth Gibb, Robert Little school, Monica Kirchmayer, St. Francis school, and Joanne Jefferey, Holy Cross school.

## First names only at Distress Centre

By KAREN WARD  
Herald staff writer

Jack answers the ringing telephone.

A woman he doesn't know and someone he'll never meet tells him she hasn't seen her husband for three days since his payday and there is no food in the house.

Jack records her name and address and immediately uses a hot line to communicate with an emergency social agency for help.

Jack, not his real name, is one of 60 volunteers working shifts at the contact centre in Georgetown. He is proud of the volunteer work.

The centre is combination distress and information centre. There is a community calendar and some people phone in just to find out what is happening in town.

"It is better for the workers to be confidential because they are working with human emotions and feelings," he says. "Therefore they only use first names."

"People from every walk of life phone in, sometimes they are lonely and just want to talk. Teenagers phone in wondering where they can spend the night if they've been kicked out of the house. Lack of communication is the major problem," he says.

Suicide cases are few, but he has handled a few cases - successfully. "We try to calm the person down, rationalizing with them, making them understand someone does care about them and that they have a friend," he said.

At first volunteers are afraid to handle suicide calls, but he believes "people have a right to life and to death - it's the person's choice."

Although sometimes the work is depressing "remembering the ones you can help makes it all worthwhile," he said.

The centre handles between 450 and 500 calls a month, mostly from Halton Hills, but there are a few calls from



Toronto, Hamilton or Burlington.

Since the centre started in 1974, a Youth Home Placement Centre has been developed for teenagers who have been kicked out of their homes. However the program is for kids who have legitimate problems not for those who have left the home in the heat of an argument.

Police and members from a social service screen the kids and those on drugs or booze will not be placed in the program. There are five such homes in North Halton, some just for over-night emergency cases.

Jack said the volunteers in the centre refer a lot of cases to social agencies. Teenagers sometimes phone in for information on venereal disease or advice if the girlfriend becomes pregnant.

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### LEGION LINES

#### Rifle team remains active

By MAC McLEAN

Someone once said "hope spring eternal" and he must have been a member of the Branch Rifle Team because we seem to be challenging teams who have experienced shooters who are "short in the tooth" and who don't give up even when confronted by obviously superior marksmen.

The last shooting trophy that we won (?) was presented by the Halton Regional Police force in recognition of our progress in a shoot-off between the force and the Branch and the trophy can best be described as a "horse (trampant) viewed from the south, while travelling in a northern direction."

On Sunday, March 27 the Branch competed against the team from "C" Coy, The Lorne Scots (P D F H) Regiment in Brampton and when the dust finally cleared the "Lornes" won the O'Keefe and the Henry Shephard trophies.

Our team put up a good showing using the FN rifles to which they were not accustomed to using but after an extremely close first round the Lornes won the second shoot

quite handsly.

Maybe next year we should add a little handicap such as having competitors under forty years of age shoot from a sitting position with their rifles pointed backwards over their left shoulders while sitting through a mirror. If that doesn't work, the next year we could take the mirror away.

Anyway it's worth thinking about.

On Friday night, March 26th, the Imperial Section held their Annual Ladies Elimination Draw and Dance and from all reports it was a huge success.

Winners of prizes were as follows: \$25.00 to May Burns, Letitia Irvin, Betty Sutton, with \$50.00 prizes to Elsie Montgomery, Betty Sandifer and Monica Smith.

Nancy Paterson won the \$100.00 prize and Anne Bourman held the ticket of the last stub drawn and claimed the first prize of \$200.00.

Just a reminder that the Imperial Section is holding an Elimination Stag on April 29th, and tickets are available from any Imperial member.

The coaches and members of the Georgetown Royalettes

Girls Ball Team still have tickets left to their Dance which is to be held in the Legion Auditorium on Saturday night, April 16th.

The Thursday night "Steak Shoot" seems to have caught on but Gib Telford says that he is prepared to offer even better prizes if the attendance improves in the next few weeks.

How about coming out next Thursday night and enjoy an evening in the Branch?

The Branch will be closed on Good Friday but it will be business as usual on Saturday with entertainment in the lounge on Saturday night.

Hope to see you there

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**\$42,000 for HRCA**

Ontario will provide \$42,000 to the Halton Region Conservation Authority (HRCA) for additional development of Rattlesnake Point Conservation Area.

Natural Resources Minister Frank Miller said that the authority plans to carry out an extensive development program which will include grounds improvement, landscaping, new fencing and gates, and woodlot improvement.

New washroom facilities will be constructed, garbage containers, signs and day-use facilities will be provided and roads and parking areas will be improved.

The conservation area comprises 5.9 acres of land within the Town of Milton.

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