

# Letters, a reader's forum

## MD outlines cautions taken in diphtheria outbreak

To the editor of The Herald:

In view of the recent and somewhat conflicting reports which have been appearing in both the local and national press about the discovery of diphtheria carriers at Oaklands Regional Centre, we feel that the public is entitled to more information about this matter.

Residents who come to Oaklands Regional Centre come from a variety of places. A large number of them have been transferred from the institutions in Orillia and Smith's Falls, and a certain number come from the community. When they arrive at Oaklands, they are health screened and examined in our Health Department, and are carefully observed over the following few weeks. Of the three children found to be diphtheria carriers, two had been transferred from other institutions and one had come from the community. The two who had been transferred from other institutions had throat swabs prior to the time of their arrival at Oaklands Regional Centre, and were found to be

clear. These children were admitted to Oaklands in the months of March, May and August, 1976.

On being informed on March 21 that a teacher who worked at W.H. Morden School had been found to have a positive throat culture of diphtheria, the following precautions were taken:

1. All pupils who attended W.H. Morden School were called back from their midwinter break and when test kits were available on March 23 they had throat swabs done.
2. All other residents of the three houses who were exposed to residents in close contact with the teacher were also throat-swabbed, as were the staff of these houses.
3. On Sunday, March 27, we were advised that three positive carriers had been found, and these children were immediately isolated in our Health Department; all child and adult residents were retained on the premises so that there would be no chance of either further infection being caught from the school or infection spread to school chil-

dren or to other adults in the community workshops attended by our residents.

On the arrival of sufficient testing equipment, the balance of the staff and residents of Oaklands Regional Centre were throat-swabbed and this task was performed by Thursday, March 31.

4. Oaklands residents were kept on the premises until the final results of the testing were received on April 4 and all residents were found to be clear, as were the staff, except for the three initial carriers discovered. On the 4th of April normal activities were resumed.

5. The three original carriers will be kept isolated until throat swabs have been found clear on at least two occasions. They are currently undergoing treatment in isolation.

I am aware of the fact that some diphtheria outbreaks over the last few years have originated from institutions, but it can be seen from the above that it is most unlikely that any of the three carriers that we detected in Oaklands Regional Centre arrived with diphtheria. As no other car-

riers were detected in Oaklands, it is within the realm of possibility that they did acquire the diphtheria organism from an outside source.

It is regrettable that the statements which have appeared in the press recently would lead one to suppose that the Oaklands residents are prone to carry diphtheria and other infectious diseases. Indeed, the residents of Oaklands are tested, inoculated, and supervised as to their health more carefully than is the average student or resident of the municipality.

We feel we must make these points through the columns of your newspaper because Oaklands Regional Centre is attempting to integrate its residents with the community of Oakville so that they may, as is proper, lead the most normal lives possible in relation to their abilities.

We wish to assure the public that extreme care for health and safety measures are taken in achieving this goal.

Yours sincerely,  
D. G. Schoelling, MD  
D.H.W. Bath  
Executive Administrator

## Cancer society's daffodil sale a 'success'

A letter of thanks to Mrs. Sandra Yates, chairman of the Canadian Cancer Society's Daffodil Sale.

Again this year, as in previous years, the Halton Hills members of the Beta Sigma Phi sorority organized and conducted a truly successful sale of daffodils for the Canadian Cancer Society.

Our proceeds from last Saturday's sale netted an impressive sum of \$3,100 which will be used to support vital cancer research.

The members of the Canadian Cancer Society wish to express their sincere thanks and appreciation to the sorority members of Xi Delta Beta, Theta Theta, Zeta Alpha and Zeta Phi for accepting the responsibility of this important event.

In total, fifty members were willing to donate many hours of their time to support these days, and your efforts to help us all to fight and to eventually

find a cure for cancer are admired and greatly appreciated.

The daffodil sale is a very large undertaking, with hours being spent in contacting the businesses in Halton Hills for orders, in the wrapping and delivering of flowers, and then in the actual sale of the flowers.

We also wish to thank all others who assisted in numerous ways to make this year's sale such a splendid success. And of course, a special thank you to everyone who bought the daffodils. We regret that some of the flowers flown to Toronto from Vancouver were exposed to excessive moisture and suffered accordingly but we appreciate your understanding in this matter.

The Canadian Cancer Society's annual expenditures on research have now risen to \$10 million. The problem of cancer can be compared to a giant jigsaw puzzle and the pieces are hard to find—very often it is even difficult for trained

investigators to know what they are looking for. When a piece of the puzzle is found it may not make headlines but progress is being made.

The cost of research is high. The Canadian Cancer Society is the main source of funds for cancer research, and along

with the sale of daffodils in April, we have the commercial industrial, and residential canvassing.

Our donations are vital to the solution of the cancer puzzle. So again, to everyone in the sorority and in Halton Hills the Cancer Society

thanks each and everyone one of you for your generosity and support in fighting the battle against Cancer.

Yours truly,  
Deanna Butwell,  
Publicity Chairman  
Halton Hills Division of the  
Canadian Cancer Society.

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## Anyone for a 25 mile walk to aid world's needy?

To the editor of The Herald:

This year we are holding our eleventh Walk and during the past ten years we have raised over \$400,000.00 all of this money has been distributed by OXFAM, U.N.I.C.E.F. and Y. WORLD SERVICES for aid to the needy to people in all parts of the World including Canada.

We have saved children from starvation. We have taught farmers how to grow food more efficiently.

We have educated people. We have dug wells. We have turned deserts into farmlands.

We have made this world a better place to live in.

But most of all we have done this with your help and by doing so have helped our community. For there is no finer thing a person can do than to help someone less fortunate than themselves and all of us in Peel and Halton have shown

we have concern for the plight of others.

This year the need is just as great and our World has just as many problems. We can do our part in helping others by taking part in the 1977 Walk.

Believe me it can be a lot of fun. A Walk in the country through 25 miles of some of Southern Ontario's most scenic springtime countryside and we do all need the exercise. We are also giving prizes to School teams and other

categories of walkers. Youngest, oldest and families, we love to see families taking part. Well known companies are also offering prizes to walkers and gifts along the route of the walk.

Buses and cars will be available once a walker gets too tired to go any further and the route is controlled by St. John's Ambulance Radio Cars and our local and Provincial Police departments.

We are proud of the wonderful success our walk had had over the past ten years and we feel this the start of the next ten years can be just as successful with our help.

On May 7th, come out and join us, make up a picnic lunch Mom and Dad join the kids for a great day in the country and I'm willing to bet that when the day is over it will be one you will not forget. Remember you'll not only be enjoying yourself but helping others.

And to all those who walked ten years ago and in other years come on and do it again as you're never too old to walk a few miles and it's the best spring tonic you can get.

I'm hoping to see our turnout the best ever for our eleventh walk and with your help it will be.

For those who wish to help but would not walk, we can use help at checkpoints please call Mrs. Barbara Wilson at 943-1144.

SHOW A LEG AND JOIN ME ON MAY 7  
Sincerely,  
John Nash,  
Chairman OXFAM  
Peel and Halton

## Better and cheaper to keep youths in Halton: reader

To the editor of The Herald:

I am writing this letter in support of your editorial dated March 30th, 1977; an ounce of prevention is indeed worth a pound of cure.

The Children's Aid Society cannot simply ignore the fact that there are so many more juveniles needing professional help. We must have facilities to care for these youngsters and staff to work with them and their families. If facilities are not available within Halton then the court must place them outside the Region and we must pay 100 per cent of the cost. How much better to provide facilities, let the Province pay 80 per cent of the cost of placement, and not have to send these young people out of their community with all the

accompanying trauma and the lack of follow-up services when they are returned. How much better it would be if we had sufficient social workers that they could step in with advice and assistance before matters got out of control. Does it not seem a shame they must wait for a family situation to deteriorate seriously before they can justify spending time with that family.

With more facilities available for those who have reached such an unhappy state and more workers available to leave time for much more preventative work we may be amazed at how much we save in terms of heartache, time and money.

I would like to add that those of us involved in providing social services in Halton Region realize it takes a great deal

of courage for anyone in a public position to not jump on the "save money" bandwagon. Very few of these people are ever in need of such services or can afford alternatives if they are) and so seemingly find it easy to put them low on their list of priorities. (Per capita expenditures on public "social services" in Halton were the lowest in Ontario for the years 1972-73 although the average family income is second only to Peel among counties and regions in Canada.) We are, therefore, fortunate to have a newspaper willing to risk the ire of politicians and others by advocating an open mind and a thought for the future when looking at the Children's Aid Society's budget.

Your sincerely,  
Peggie Balkind  
Acton.

## Police safety concerns association

Halton police association is concerned with the safety of police who since April 1 have been patrolling North Milton, the former township of Nasagaweya, the police commission was told Monday.

"We're concerned with the safety of the man sitting alone in almost 100 square miles," Al Ruelens, president of the police association said.

For officers in the area, which was previously patrolled by Ontario Provincial Police, response time to a call was almost doubled, Mr. Ruelens said.

The area is patrolled by five constables working out of the Acton and Milton precincts and the last in Halton to come under the protection of the regional police force. The Milton detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police will remain open to patrol the highways.

Mr. Ruelens said the police association had not been informed of the date of implementation of the expanded service.

The commission decided to have the police association meet with senior police officers to try and work out a safer arrangement and asked for a follow-up report.

## Dental poster contest

The last week in April is Dental Health Week and to encourage youngsters to brush their teeth regularly, and the importance of a healthy smile, primary Grades 1 to 4 are encouraged to enter a Poster Contest.

Contestants from Centennial public school, George Kennedy and Harrison public schools will send the best posters to Dr. Dale Miles, an Oakville dentist.

The art work will be displayed in Shoppers World Brampton and in Square One Mississauga," Dr. Miles said. A Smilesathon will be held at Square One on Saturday April 30, from 8:30 until 5 p.m.

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## Red Cross extends thanks

To the editor of The Herald:

On behalf of the Georgetown and District Red Cross Branch I would like to extend congratulations and thanks to all who were concerned with the Red Cross Campaign-for-Funds last month. Special thanks to the rural and Acton organizers and canvassers, who helped make this year's house-to-house campaign more successful.

To those who gave, warmest thanks. You may be assured that what you gave will go to help the many services offered in this area and with national and international disaster and other emergency aid. At this moment we have received \$12,458.00 (including \$1,600.00 from Acton) which is still below our target of \$15,000.00. Monies are still to come in from various industries, business and professional donors. Further contributions to Post Office Box 106, Georgetown, Ontario, L7G 4T1, would ensure that we reach our objective.

We would like to take this opportunity to also thank the various news media for informing the public of the campaign.

Yours very truly,  
John Wickens,  
Chairman Campaign Com.,  
Georgetown and District  
The Canadian Red Cross Society.

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