



Dale Verheagen, 3, goes over the top.

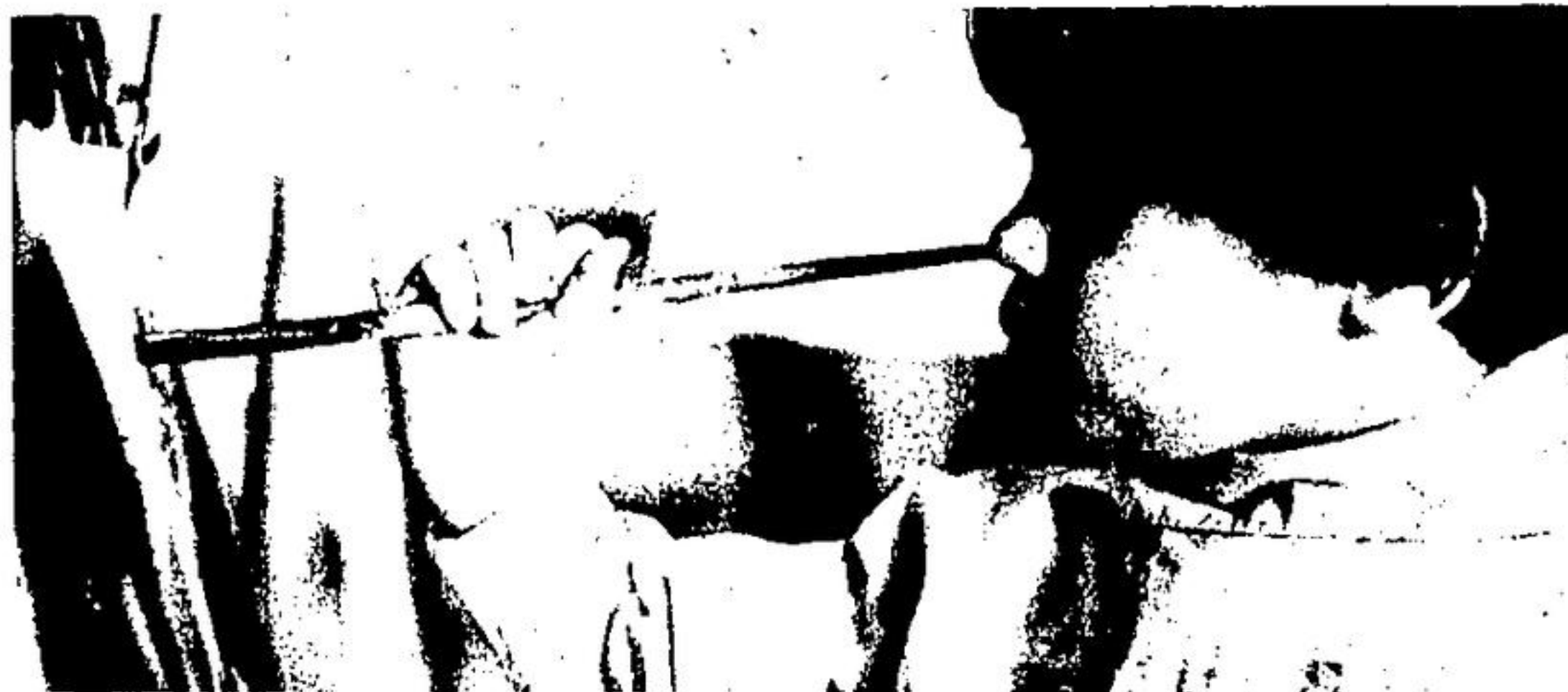
## Mental Health Week May 8-14

North Halton Association for the Mentally Retarded is asking for public support in its Flowers of Hope campaign during National Week on Mental Retardation, May 8 to 14.

All funds are used in North Halton to support Tinkerbell Nursery School and Halton

Developmental Centre in Milton and ARC Industries and the adult residence, Countryside, in Hornby.

All the services are available to residents in Acton, Georgetown, Norval, Milton, Campbellville and surrounding rural areas. Transportation is provided to all facilities.



Stephen Tellier paints with a firm hand.

## Common questions about Tinkerbell Nursery

Do you have some questions about Tinkerbell Nursery school? The school's staff have anticipated some of your likely questions and provided some answers.

**How does your child grow?** Every child grows and develops at his or her own individual pace. However, if you

feel your child seems to lag in some area of development, perhaps the stimulating educational and enjoyable program of the nursery is for your child.

**Who comes to Tinkerbell?** Tinkerbell, while primarily in operation for mentally handicapped children, also

considers others with a variety of disabilities. These may be speech communication difficulties, motor problems resulting from accidents, spinal bifida or cerebral palsy, vision or hearing handicaps, epilepsy, meningitis, hyperactivity, social emotional or behavioural dif-

ficulties, Down's syndrome or other genetic abnormalities or environmental deprivation.

**Who recommends a child to Tinkerbell?** Many services and persons are aware of Tinkerbell and the advantages the program can offer some children. Some of them

are the family physician or pediatrician, Hospital for Sick Children, Crippled Children's Centre, public health nurses, prekindergarten check up results, therapists, other nursery schools and concerned parents and friends.

**What happens at Tinkerbell Nursery?** At the nursery the full development of the child is encouraged in all areas such as language, motor, cognition, socialization and self-help. Staff assisted by capable volunteers are able to provide an individual program on a one to one basis.

**How about when my child is not at the nursery?** To complement the morning

program at Tinkerbell a home-base program, which began this year, is in operation. A teacher is available at the child's home one afternoon a week. She demonstrates a skill for the child to accomplish at home during the week.

**Where do I go from Tinkerbell?** Children, after age five or before if ready, transfer to a variety of service in North Halton. They go either to regular nursery school, kindergarten, centre for developmentally handicapped children or trainable mentally handicapped classes at Sunshine or Park Schools.

**Transportation is provided to Tinkerbell from all areas in North Halton.**

## Routine stresses skills learning experience

When a child gets off the bus or taxi every morning at Tinkerbell Nursery school and meets the volunteer who works with him, everything he does until he leaves is a learning experience, says the school's director, Jenny Kuiken.

The learning experience begins with the child taking off his or her outer clothes and hanging them up in a closet with the child's name on it. That's just part of the self-help skills which also includes keeping himself clean.

There are five different categories and the child does the one, with the help of a volunteer and under staff supervision, that he needs the most, says Mrs. Kuiken. What the school tries to do is teach the child acceptable behavior and to extend the attention span.

The day begins with an activity called "morning circle." All the children and the volunteer workers form in a circle for speech and socialization, games and greetings. Next is gross motor development either on a small trampoline or in a large room fitted with slides, tunnels, monkey bars, rocking panels and other stuff designed to develop coordination and muscle develop-

ment.

By this time, the children are ready for a snack, usually fruit juice and cookies or doughnuts but also foods of different textures - mushy crunchy or slippery - that they must eat with a spoon or spear with a fork. The point of the activity is to teach them to feed themselves and develop their fine motor development.

Then follows a period of supervised free play when the volunteers get a chance for a coffee break of their own.

Some of the children have a tendency to wander aimlessly and in this case the volunteer initiates some play activity.

The children also have a program of task analysis

followed by arts and crafts or sand and water play. Finally there is a goodbye circle, the children clean themselves up and its back by bus or taxi to their homes.

The six-year-old nursery school is funded by the region's community and social services committee and the North Halton Association for the Mentally Retarded.

A new program begun just this year is home management. A staff person goes into the child's home once a week and does a task analysis with the child and the mother. The mother then charts the child's activity. The mother gets more involved with the child, Mrs. Kuiken said. "She sees the success and learns how to work with the child."

However, parents can be their own worst enemies in the case of a handicapped child, she said. Often the child is inadvertently rewarded for bad behaviour. "Parents can undo everything we do in the morning."



Mayor Tom Hill plants Flowers of Hope seeds outside the Trafalgar Road town offices. Helping is Audrey Hillman, president of the Georgetown auxiliary while Edythe Davis, president of the Milton, and Gayle Ferguson, president of the Acton auxiliaries look on.

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF  
**HALTON HILLS**



Todd Wickham can dress himself.

## Herald photos By George Evashuk

### Nursery needs volunteers

Tinkerbell Nursery school, which is located at the E.C. Drury school for the Deaf in Milton, is looking for volunteers.

Volunteers need no special qualities other than understanding and patience says

the school's director Jenny Kuiken. They work on a one-to-one basis with the children once a week, each time with the same child.

For further information call the school at 878-7656 or Frank Fenton at 877-5607.



Jeremy Crocker, 4, matches a sock to a shoe.



Marcie Hale, 5, enjoys the trampoline.

## Herald columnist talks at father-son dinner

Bob Ollivier, well-known local sportsman, was the guest speaker at the annual Father and Son Banquet for the Fourth Georgetown Cubs and Scouts last Wednesday.

Although he has an interest in many outdoor sports and activities Mr. Ollivier centred his comments on fishing and the opening of the trout season on Saturday.

He reminded the boys that while chubb and suckers may be caught earlier, trout fishing before Saturday was illegal and they faced stiff penalties for breaking the law.

He stressed good manners and common sense as part of a fisherman's routine and suggested that the young anglers

ask permission before entering private property. Even where there are no trespassing signs he said, property owners often permit fishing if the fisherman asks permission first rather than just barging in.

In addition to offering a few suggestions on where fish can be found in the area, Mr. Ollivier advised his audience not to use sinkers or bobbers and to use a light line. Worms, he said, make good bait for trout.

Mr. Ollivier also brought along prizes for two draws. Scout Tom Gillanders won a Zebco rod and reel set while Cub Patrick Hipp came away with a conservation book called The Dynamics of Ecology.

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AT CANADA TRUST

More about WAM on page 5

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