

Interest shown in co-operative nursery school

By MAGGIE HANNAH
Herald staff writer

Acton residents will be holding their second meeting in less than a month on May 3 to discuss the community's need for a co-operative nursery school.

A meeting held last week at the Acton library to discuss the issue resulted in numerous interested phone calls to the Acton Community Services Centre according to director Terry Grubbe.

"We felt the number of calls we get indicated there was a need for some type of day care facility", Mrs. Grubbe said, "so we set up a meeting and turned it over to the public to discuss and reach a decision about it. That's our function. To see a need and take it to the public for action on it if they feel it's necessary."

NURSERY EASIER
Mrs. Grubbe said the suggestion was for a co-operative nursery rather than a regional day care centre since the nursery would be easier to get going.

Wendy McKee, president of the Shoreline Council to which all the co-operative nursery schools in Halton belong, outlined benefits parents will receive from their participation in a co-operative school which would not be theirs if their children attended a conventional day care program where

parents dropped them off at a specific hour and picked them up as scheduled.

Marsha Beaver, director of the Milton Co-operative nursery school, gave details on requirements for staffing a co-operative. The school's director must have at least a

degree in early childhood education and one staff member is required for every five to six youngsters in the nursery.

Since a parent is considered equivalent to half a staff member a good number of parents can be involved in such a

venture, she said.

USE CLASSROOMS
Mrs. Grubbe said that the possibility exists of using an empty classroom in one of the public schools for the nursery. This would be ideal, she said, since it would meet government standards for such things

as fire safety. It would also make a nice transition for the youngsters once they were ready to enter kindergarten if they had already attended nursery school in the building.

Further discussion of such

matters as fund-raising fees and the formation of a board of directors will take place May 3 at the Acton library when other resource people will be present to answer the group's questions on forming a co-operative nursery.

New psychiatric program approved

Three new health care projects, including a psychiatric treatment program for north Halton, have been approved by Halton regional council for implementation this year.

The provincial ministry of health offered last week to finance the new programs and subsidize salaries for administrative staff, thus resolving a concern that had become the chief obstacle facing approval of the programs.

As well as the daytime psychiatric treatment program planned for north Halton, approval was granted for a behavioral training program for young children and a community pediatric program for handicapped children.

Halton District Health Council chairman Terry Baines of Georgetown urged the region's health and social services committee last week to accept the province's offer of funding

so that Halton residents can enjoy the same services as those found in neighboring regions.

INITIAL YEAR
A ministry official assured the committee that the province will pay the programs' costs

for their initial year of operation and then assess the success of the programs to determine whether they should be continued. Committee members ascertained that any decision to cancel the programs after the first year would be announced

by the ministry, rather than the region, finance the programs itself or else make the politically unpopular decision to terminate them.

The committee voted to exempt staff positions that must be created for the programs

from the region's new policy which froze the staff complement at 664 workers last month. Some consideration was given to lifting the freeze, but strong opposition to such a move was offered by regional chairman Jack Rafalis, among others.

Local police have new boss

The Halton Regional Police force has appointed Staff Inspector Alex Terrell district commander in District 1, which covers Acton, Georgetown and Milton.

Staff Inspector Terrell has taken over the position from Acting Superintendent Roy Taylor, who is now in charge of District 2, which is Oakville. These appointments are part of a re-organizing process following the Ontario Police Commission report on the Halton force.

Stan Raika, an advisor from the Ontario Police Commission, who is assisting the force with its re-organization, said the report is not being implemented as is.

"I've looked at the report, and I'm trying to reconcile it with local conditions and circumstances," he said. One of the changes being

made is the appointment of an officer with the rank of staff inspector as a district commander. In the past, this position has been held by an officer with the rank of superintendent. Mr. Raika said the force is looking now at designating the job by function and not by rank.

Staff Inspector Terrell has been a police officer for 29 years, starting with the OPP January 1, 1950. He left the OPP in 1954 to join the former Trafalgar Township police force, which amalgamated with the Oakville police force in 1962. Oakville became part of the regional force in 1974.

Staff Inspector Terrell is married, with three grown children. He and his wife live in Oakville, and he has no immediate plans to move closer to the Georgetown area.

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Summer travels for local scholar

Joyce D. Lock, of Georgetown, was the winner of the T. Russell Wilkins Memorial Scholarship of \$3,000 from McMaster University in Hamilton. In Honours Biochemistry, Miss Lock intends to travel through Holland, Germany, Austria, Italy, Switzerland and France, primarily to observe people and get a taste of cultural differences and a feel for social movements. Miss Lock will also visit historical places such as churches, castles and museums. During July to mid-August she will take a French immersion course, possibly at the Sorbonne, in Paris.

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