

**BOUTIQUES SHOW
LATEST SPRING,
SUMMER FASHIONS**



It's a mother-daughter combination with Fran Tishman and her daughter, Randi. Fran is wearing a full-length skirt as a cover up over a maillot bathing suit, and Randi is showing one of the new bikinis. All the fashions in the show, which was presented by the North Halton Association for the Mentally Retarded, are available in the boutiques in the Old Bank building.



Sandy Greig shows one of the stylishly loose-fitting tops which she is wearing with a narrow belt. Accessories are swinging back into fashions, and Sandy has completed her outfit with a smart hat and a disco purse.

Photos by Lori Taylor

Georgetown high school 'drop-ins' recommend commercial course

By MAGGIE HANNAH
Herald staff writer

A few Georgetown homemakers are doing their bit to reverse the trend of an increasing high school dropout rate — they've decided to drop back in.

A commercial course at the Georgetown and District High School is in the process of wrapping up for this year but registration will soon be opening for next year's term.

And the post-teenage students enrolled in the course highly recommend the classes. "I'd recommend the course to anyone who is interested in it regardless of their former education," says Win Cuthbertson. "I wouldn't have missed it for the world."

"They say this is the year of the child but I say this is my year," says Peggy Corrigan. "My husband is so pleased with how it's gone that he wants me to go back next year and get my Grade 13."

The women are among the two dozen housewives who started a special commercial class designed to teach housewives the practical skills needed to enter the work force. Their backgrounds are varied. A couple of them were teach-

ers. Two others were nurses. Still others, like Mrs. Corrigan and Mrs. Cuthbertson, left school at Grade 10 to work in offices. They had one thing in common however, and that was the desire to get back in the swing of things as they are after raising their family.

LEFTSCHOOL
Mrs. Corrigan took her high school training in Nova Scotia and worked there and in Toronto before she left to raise her family.

"I've been out of the work force for 19 years," she says. "Even if I had wanted to work I couldn't. I'd have had no confidence to go back without brushing up on my skills. I didn't come back so much to get a job as to find out about today's world. If I was offered something I enjoyed I'd probably take it but I came back mainly to get my Grade 12 and get in touch with things again."

Mrs. Cuthbertson's reasons for enrolling were slightly different. She tried job hunting and had no luck. She has been at home for 16 years.

"I did office work in England and in Montreal but I never needed typing. Now I found I needed it. I got the impression they didn't want me but I

didn't know whether it was because I was older or because I had been out of the work force for so long.

"When I left school at the end of Grade 10 I had a good job. I was earning my own living at 15," she says. "Now when you go job hunting with just Grade 10 you feel like a high school drop out. I came back to get my typing and my Grade 12."

JOBHUNTING

She says she intends to take the summer off because she needs the rest but she'll definitely be out job hunting by fall.

Of the two dozen women who enrolled in September only two have left and one of those went into exactly the kind of job she wanted in a law office in Georgetown.

"It seemed so far to look ahead when we began," Mrs. Corrigan says, "but it's only nine weeks now and one of those will be a work week."

The women were all put in the same class and a close friendship has developed between all the members. Mrs. Cuthbertson says,

"We're going to miss each other when we leave," she says. "I've even thought we ought to have some sort of get together every so often so we can keep in touch after we graduate."

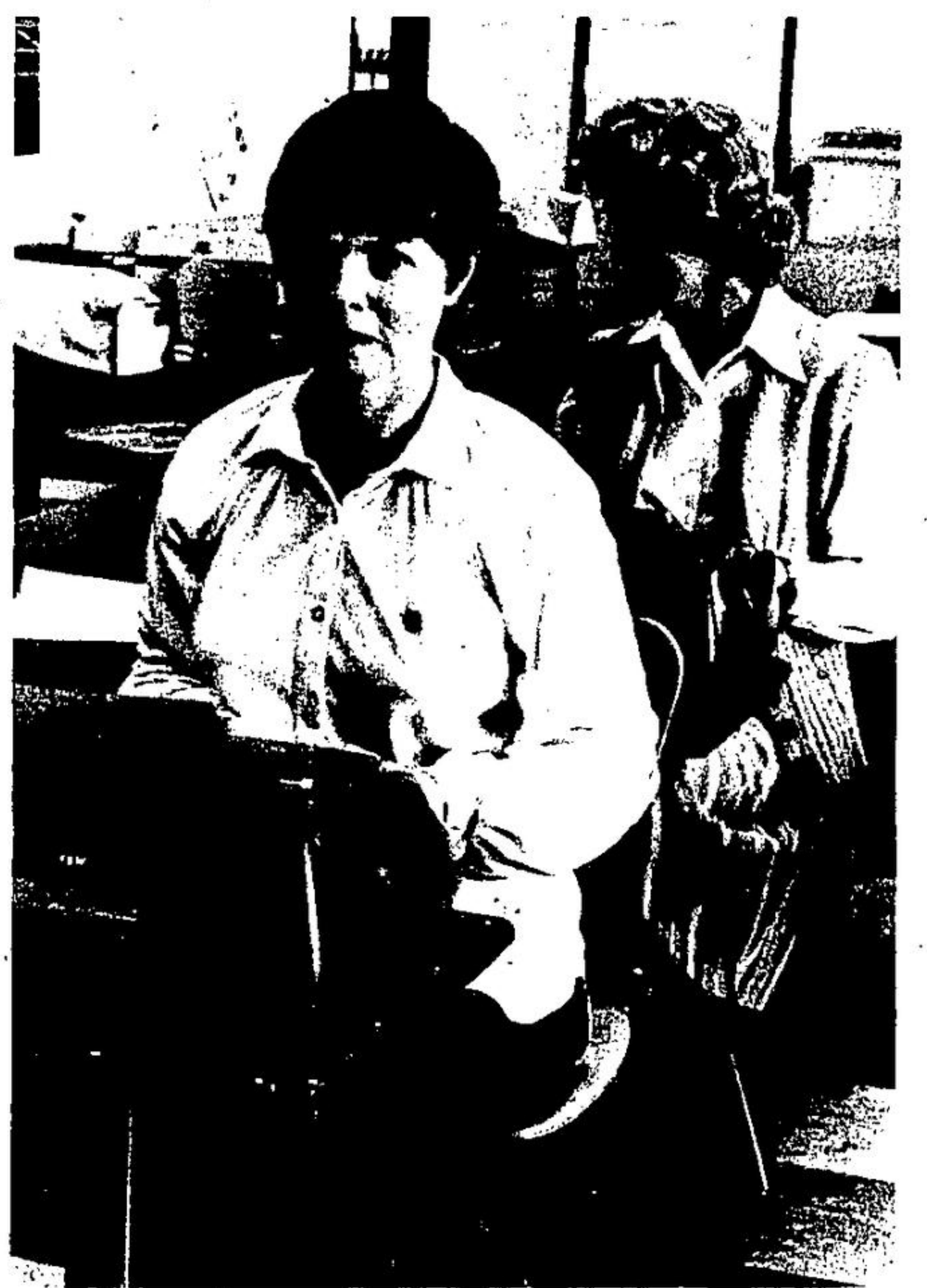
The women have basically studied the same courses although allowances were made for individual needs. The women studied typing, shorthand, accounting, communications, and office practice. Some, like Mrs. Corrigan, already knew shorthand and thus didn't need the course, while others, like Mrs. Cuthbertson took another subject to get the required credits for her Grade 12 diploma.

Mrs. Cuthbertson says entering school in the fall was a "terrifying experience" for her. The students they have mixed with however have been very mature in their acceptance of them and their teachers also have not asked for more than they were capable of giving.

"One of the girls in my law class said one day that she admired us for having the courage to come back to school at our age," she smiles.

"She didn't realize how terrified I was of stepping into that class on the first day. It has been a great experience though. Law is mostly discussions and we get very interesting ones going. The Grade 12 students have one opinion and Am (the other housewife in the class) and I have another. We get totally different viewpoints because of our age. Some things, like insurance for example, we know more about than they do because of our own experiences. But the discussions are great. I'm not nearly as shy as I was and that's because of the discussions and the way the kids have accepted us."

TREATED WELL
Mrs. Corrigan agrees that



Win Cuthbertson (left) and Peggy Corrigan found their children quite happily accepted the fact that their mothers are back in school. Mrs. Cuthbertson has one son in Grade 9 and Mrs. Corrigan has six children aged 13 to 20. Other mothers in the class find their children are embarrassed to acknow-

ledge their relationship if they meet in the school but Mrs. Cuthbertson feels this is the youngster's hang up rather than the mother's problem and depends on the youngster's maturity.

(Herald photo)

About the Hills

Arts Council grant

The Halton Hills Arts Council will receive a grant of up to \$325 from the municipality this year, if town council accepts a recommendation of the general committee next year. The committee Monday night learned that town treasurer Ray King inadvertently failed to notify the Arts Council of the need to submit its grant application prior to budget time in April, when all such applications were considered. Mr. King pointed out that council allocated \$763 to a reserve fund to cover any grant applications that were not covered at that time. The Arts Council, he reported, received approximately \$408 from the town in 1978 and this year requested \$317.

Flunky disco

The Mug will hold a Flunky Disco contest on April 28 between 9:30 and 10:30 p.m. during the regular 8 to 12 p.m. hours. Contestants must pre-register and forms are available at Acton, Georgetown and Milton high schools as well as at the Acton Y office. Prizes will be awarded to the winners in various categories.

Bye-Bye tonight

Acton High School students will present Bye Bye Birdie at 8 p.m. tonight, Thursday and Friday.

Fitness events

For readers interested in local fitness-oriented events, the town's general committee Monday night sanctioned two upcoming activities involving walking and running. The area chapter of TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) will be staging a Walk-a-thon May 5 that will follow a route along Mountainview Road South, Five Sideroad, the Eighth Line, through Cedarvale Park, along Maple Avenue and Delrex Boulevard, and back to Mountainview. A rain date is scheduled for May 26. June 24 will witness the first annual Mayor's Road Race, organized by Operation ACTION. Canada Works and the town's recreation department. Joggers and runners are invited to try the 5.5-kilometre route from Gordon Aleott Arena, through the industrial park and along Mountainview Road North.

Historical Society members view mementoes, hear Actonians recall old town's history

By MAGGIE HANNAH
Herald staff writer

A 99-year-old autograph book, a copy of the Acton Free Press's 75th anniversary edition in 1950, a book entitled Acton's Early Days and a house log were among the mementoes Acton residents displayed at the Esqueving historical society meeting Monday evening in the town's Trinity United Church.

Long time Acton residents Laura Dennis, Marguerite Taylor, George Elliott and, Sabra and Bob MacArthur were the guest speakers at the society's special meeting to learn more about Acton's history from its own residents.

Mrs. Dennis showed the group a house log which she had begun on her own Willow Street home. In it she has recorded physical descriptions of her house as well as outlining any renovations or changes that were made to it over the years. The book includes details of all the property's owners. In its 75 years, she said there has only been five owners and one mortgage for \$1,000.

Pictures of the house at various times can be included and also pictures of its owners, and thumbnail sketches of

their family and job. The book must remain on the property at all times and space has been left for future owners to record details about the house and themselves, she said, in the hope that the story of the house will go on no matter who is living in it.

MOTHER'S BOOK

Mrs. Dennis also showed those present an autograph book belonging to her mother. The first entry in it was dated 1880 and one of the entries was made with a quill. Among the entries she quoted was one made by an uncle saying "If you would aspire to heavenly joys, think more of the Lord and less of the boys."

Sabra MacArthur showed those at the meeting a book entitled Acton's Early Days which was first published in book form in 1939. It was compiled from an anonymous column carried by the Acton Free Press entitled "The Old Man in the Clock Tower".

In the column the writer began talking about many of the town's older homes and gave accounts of each street and its buildings at that time, she said. The columns covered the environs of the town as far as the Fourth Line of Esqueving township and north along

the Second Line. The book was out of print for many years but she has heard it is now available again.

Mrs. MacArthur also showed a copy of the Free Press's 75th anniversary issue printed in 1950. In it there are pictures of many of the town's older buildings. Some of those, like the old post office, have since been demolished, she noted.

GAVE HISTORY

The anniversary issue gave a history of the Beardmore tannery from which she read excerpts. The industry began about 142 years ago when there was very little cleared land in the area. Abraham Nellis was the founder. Ed and Henry Smith took it over from him and sold it to Coleman and McIntyre in 1852. When G.L. Beardmore took it over in 1865 it had been lying idle for some time, the paper said.

Mr. and Mrs. MacArthur both spoke about the radial line which ran through Acton from the middle of World War I until the early 1930s. It carried both passengers and freight between Guelph and Toronto and stopped at numerous towns and villages enroute. The trip from Acton to Toronto took about two hours. One member of the audience

said the driver and crew of the train knew all the passengers and would wait for them if he saw their family running to catch the train. It cost 15 cents to ride to Dolly Varden, she said and 25 cents to go to Limehouse. Passengers could flag the train down anywhere. All they had to do was stick out their hand so the driver knew they wanted to catch the train and he'd stop for them. The old cars from the line are in the railway museum at Rockwood the group was told.

The MacArthurs said the station was the second house down from the corner of Church and Main Streets in what is now a double house. The station was originally a house on Willow Street but it was moved to the Church-Main corner to become the station. When the line closed around 1932 it again became a private residence. The freight sheds and livestock pens were behind the station. Mr. MacArthur said to ship stock to the stockyards in Toronto.

Society member Jean Ruddell asked if any of the speakers knew anyone who might have information concerning Acton residents who went to the Klondike in the 1800s. She said one of her uncles, Robert

Huddell, was killed in a snow-slide there in 1867 and records show that four Acton men testified at the inquest into the accident but she has no idea of their identity.

Miss Ruddell said she understands her uncle went out in 1862. He apparently went by boat around Cape Horn and up the west coast with a group of travellers. When they ran out of money they stopped and worked at their trade. Her uncle was a carpenter, Miss Ruddell said and was reputed to have been able to earn \$12 an hour.

Mr. MacArthur explained how the cemetery behind Knox Presbyterian Church had been cleaned up and a cairn erected to the memory of those buried there between 1830 and 1886 when the burial ground was moved to the present Fairview Cemetery. Knox trustees who were responsible for the project were R.N. Brown, W.L. Davidson, W.A. Lasby, W.J. McDonald, Dunc McDougall and Jack McGregor. Of the group only Mr. Davidson is still alive.

George Elliott, head of the committee trying to raise funds to preserve the old Acton town hall, gave a slide presentation on the building outlining

its history and explaining the present structural problems which the restoration committee must correct in order to keep the building.

He noted that the bell which stands in the cairn on the north side of the building was cast in Troy, New York in 1882 and cost a considerable sum of money. Council disputed when the bell should be rung after it was installed. Some wanted it rung to begin and end the working day while another group felt it should also be rung at 6 a.m. to waken residents in time for work at 7 o'clock. Pure economics settled the question, however, since council couldn't afford to hire a bell ringer for the earlier hour and the bell was tolled at 7 a.m. noon, 1 p.m. and 6 p.m.

Mr. Elliott also noted that the deflection in the floor of the second story around the stage was thought to show a problem in the floor when the first reports were made. Further investigation of what restoration would be required revealed that the deflection was built in. Since the architect couldn't slope the floor of the auditorium to make it easier to see what was happening on stage he sloped the stage floor instead.