

Legal clinic brings basic law to people



Relatively new to the Halton Hills legal clinic, lawyer David Craig (left), intake worker June Wilde, (seated) and community legal worker Karen Thompson-Harry, already have plans to organize a series of lectures or discussions examining the more common legal problems brought to their Wesleyan Street offices. The program, which is expected to be launched in the fall, Ms. Thompson-Harry says, will likely be co-sponsored with the Community Legal Education Ontario organization which holds lectures throughout the province on family law, small claims court procedure, small business law and landlord and tenant law.

Featuring a few new faces these days, the Halton Hills Community Legal Clinic is planning a public advisory program beginning this fall to deal with aspects of the law which most commonly affect local residents. The program could consist of lectures or panel discussions with experts on a particular subject, the clinic's new community worker, Karen Thompson-Harry, explained last week. Ms. Thompson-Harry and June Wilde took over from outgoing Peggy Balkind and Sylvia Oprica (the clinic's former intake worker) earlier this month, joining lawyer David Craig, also a recent arrival, to co-ordinate the clinic's work. The clinic is hoping to co-

sponsor the sessions with Community Legal Education Ontario (CLEO), with a non-profit group which travels throughout the province hosting lecture series on how to get legal aid, or understand consumer and small claims and small business laws. The front office at the Georgetown clinic will probably seat about 25 people and holding the program there, Ms. Thompson-Harry said will hopefully increase the public's awareness that the clinic's staff of three are available to help with puzzling legal problems which the average person is unprepared to face. "People just aren't aware of their rights," she said, indicating the number of CLEO published booklets designed to

simply explain various areas of the law. Of approximately 500 cases handled last year by the clinic in both Acton and Georgetown, most dealt with family law - separation, child custody and financial responsibility - and numerous requests for advice on landlord and tenant disputes. Often, the clinic works to get family benefits for families that, for some reason, are refused when they first apply. "People turned down for family benefits don't realize that we can represent them in some cases," Ms. Thompson-Harry said. "Sometimes they have a defeatist attitude and when they get turned down, they feel there's no point in appealing. They don't realize

that we may be able to help them." Any discussion on landlord and tenant law under the proposed program will probably touch on how tenants should become advised of their rights and those of their landlord. There is already ample information available at, or through, the local legal clinic

to help tenants wishing for example, to refurbish their home understand their responsibilities or to offer advice on how to organize a tenant's committee to guard against unfair rent increases and other grievances. By tapping into the Halton Law Association, a long list of experts for the discussions is available.

Ms. Thompson-Harry explained that she and Mr. Craig will attend a number of CLEO lectures to be held next month at the Oakville public library to see how the Halton Hills program should be structured and what topics would be of most interest here. "It takes awhile to prepare," she said. "It takes time to get

to know the community and what type of cases come up here and how the ones in Halton Hills are different to the ones in Oakville." But there is a great deal of enthusiasm for the proposed program at the clinic and Ms. Thompson-Harry said she hopes to have some concrete plans for an informative series of discussions by February.

Sewer rates 25% increase approved

Continued from page A1 more than its share under regional financing. Fellow Coun. David Lacombe added that if people choose to live in Halton Hills in the first place, they should be prepared to pay the costs attributed. Burlington Coun. Ted MacDonald referred to regional sewer financing as the "cancer that is gnawing at the rate-payers in Burlington".

ASK PROVINCE
"We should plead with Queen's Park," he said, "to show that it is the provincial government that should be the one subsidizing Halton Hills and not the city of Burlington". Mr. Perlin earlier stated that the joint committee studying solutions to the problem would approach the government for additional special assistance grants to subsidize rates under the surcharge system.

Hailing against what he called "municipal communism", Oakville Coun. Gord Reade insisted that Halton Hills, and not the entire region, is responsible for its own expansion. "Let he who creates the costs, pay the costs," he said. However, Halton Hills Mayor Pete Pomeroy argued that analyzing "fairness" at the region is almost impossible and pointed out that Halton Hills supports health care services and a waterfront plan in Oakville which have little bearing on residents in the north.

ONE YEAR
"But we're going to support it anyway," he said, "because that's the way it is under the regional system." Mayor Pomeroy also warned council that switching back to a chargeback system after only one year under surcharge

will seriously undermine the region's credibility. While fellow rookies Mayor Gord Krantz and Coun. Brad Clements of Milton and Oakville's Keith Bird argued that the surcharge system should stay at least until the joint committee is ready with some suggestions, Oakville Coun. Ann Mulvale said that dealing with the deficit is the real problem facing council, and strongly supported the recommendation to raise rates under the surcharge system.

NUMBER ONE
"The number one issue is that we must get the books in balance," she stressed in her first address to council. She insisted that her victory over former regional rep Ron Planche had nothing to do with a voter backlash against the surcharge system, blaming, instead, a general lack of confidence in the region's ability to mind its accounting.

Meanwhile, increases in sewer and water rates will not appear until February for residents billed on a monthly basis. Homeowners who get their sewer and water bills every two months will first notice higher rates in March. Although Thursday's approval of the increases ensures higher rates for 1981, there is little doubt the debate will again surface on council agendas from time to time throughout the year.

Preliminary reports from the joint committee should appear next spring and Mr. Perlin said it could be ready to present proposed changes to the Regional Act (allowing area municipalities to collect sewer revenues however they please) by the provincial legislature's fall session.

Budget appointees

Town council will soon consider budget recommendations submitted by the town's various department heads. At Monday night's meeting councilors Harry Levy, Terry Grubbe, George Malby and John McDonald were appointed to the committee which will review the 1981 budget.



'ANNE'S' A HIT

"Raggedy Anne" dropped into the Optimists' children's Christmas Party held Saturday afternoon in the St. Andrew's United Church on Mountsview Road South. Those red shocks of hair proved especially popular with the kids and her loose-limbed antics made for a lively party. Posing with "Anne" (left to right) are Chi Lieu, Chan Lieu, Joanne Totten and Craig Totten. (Herald photo)

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 - 28 WATTS x 2 RMS
 - H-I/O FILTERS
- MC 9025
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 - FULLY AUTOMATIC
 - SHURE CARTRIDGE
- MC 2000
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- Portable AM/FM Stereo Cassette Tape Recorder LOADED DECK* with Song Finder*, Auto-Repeat, One Touch Recording and Editing Switch with Mic. Mix.

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GIFT IDEAS FROM PIONEER

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- SE-205 STEREO HEADPHONES..... 30⁰⁰
- SE-450 STEREO HEADPHONES..... 48⁰⁰
- CT-F550 CASSETTE DECK..... 299⁹⁵
- CT-F850 CASSETTE DECK..... 479⁹⁵
- TX-6800 TUNER..... 199⁹⁵
- PL-200 TURNTABLE w/cartridge... 199⁹⁵
- PL-400 TURNTABLE w/cartridge... 249⁹⁵
- SX-3400 RECEIVER..... 199⁹⁵
- KP-1500 AUTO STEREO..... 149⁹⁵
- KP-2500 AUTO STEREO..... 169⁹⁵
- AD-30 AUTO EQUALIZER..... 159⁹⁵

GIFT SUGGESTIONS

- CASSETTE CASES..... 4⁹⁵ to 35⁴⁹
- RECORD STORAGE CABINETS..... 49⁹⁵ to 59⁹⁵
- STEREO COMPONENT CABINETS..... 49⁹⁵ to 199⁹⁵
- BLANK CASSETTE TAPES..... 1⁹⁵ to 18⁷⁵
- AUTO DIGITAL CLOCKS..... 28⁰⁰
- CAR STEREO SPEAKERS (Pairs) 18⁹⁵ to 199⁹⁵
- MICROPHONES..... 6⁰⁰ to 42⁹⁵
- AM/FM CLOCK RADIOS..... 35⁰⁰ to 199⁹⁵
- PORTABLE CASSETTE RECORDERS..... 44⁹⁵ to 79⁹⁵
- PORTABLE AM/FM RADIOS..... 29⁹⁵ to 299⁹⁵
- RECORDS & CASSETTE TAPES
- RECORD CLEANING KITS..... 1⁷⁹ to 29⁰⁰

G/S TELEVISION

CHRISTMAS SHOPPING HOURS: MONDAY to FRIDAY - 9:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m. SATURDAY - 9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

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