

**Mentally handicapped reach for independence**

# 'Friends' are still needed

By CHRIS AAGAARD  
Herald Staff Writer

Can a mentally handicapped adult, living independently from an institution or special home, really be integrated with the rest of society if he or she can't understand what the product labels mean at the corner grocery store?

Asked last Wednesday night at a meeting in the North Halton Association for the Mentally Retarded (NHAMR) offices on Georgetown's Wesleyan Street, the question was pondered by about eight prospective volunteers interested in the Association's "Be A Friend" program.

Much like "Big Brothers" or "Big Sisters", the "Friends" program would provide mentally handicapped adults living on their own with people they can turn to to help them cope with an

often confusing and perhaps less understanding, environment than what they were used to under the care of the Association.

The basic things we do in our daily life—visiting the doctor, cashing cheques at the bank and shopping—can sometimes pose a formidable challenge to the mentally handicapped adult, Sara Kravetz, protective services worker told the group.

"Even going out for a coffee, while it's no big deal for us, it is for them."

Under the program, individual volunteers meet regularly on a "one-to-one" basis with mentally handicapped adults. Often the visits resolve problems which a retarded person is having while living a relatively independent life.

For the 16 residents of the NHAMR's Countryside home near Hornby, the visits

offer the mentally handicapped a chance to relate to a person outside the residence's staff members.

"There's a real need at Countryside for someone other than a counsellor to relate to," NHAMR residential services director Patti Wilson said. "Everyone needs someone to turn to when we're down or have a problem."

Starting in late May, the "Be A Friend" program will conduct a short series of information sessions to help volunteers handle their new roles. Eventually, they will meet with mentally handicapped adults, learn about their problems and generally "break a little ice."

While volunteers will assist with the day-to-day problems most of us take for granted, they will also learn "citizens' advocacy", keeping a close eye out for infringements on

the rights of the retarded.

It's different from being a regular volunteer, Mrs. Wilson said.

"It's much more direct. The crux is on friendship and the kind of things you'd do for a friend."

One of the attractive features about the program from the volunteer's point of view is its flexibility. The information sessions are meant to help, but they're not obligatory to becoming a "friend", since friendship doesn't require much training at all.

Volunteers and their new

"friends" are carefully chosen to match each other's needs and available time. If one arrangement doesn't work out, another one might.

Not surprisingly, often the greatest problem lies in overcoming initial unwarranted fears about meeting handicapped people.

Meanwhile, the "Be A Friend" program is still looking for volunteers to insure its success in the community. If you're interested, contact co-ordinator Barbara Abrey (877-7702) or Patti Wilson at 878-0440.

## Classical quintet in Acton

The Royal Brass Quintet, featuring soloists from the Hamilton Philharmonic Orchestra, performs at the Acton public library this Saturday at 2 p.m. The quintet is currently touring Halton under the sponsorship of the South Central Library System and the ministry of culture and recreation's Outreach programme.

**About the Hills**

**Paper drive for jamboree**  
The Fourth Georgetown Scouts will be holding a paper drive to raise funds for a proposed trip to the Canadian Scouting Jamboree in Alberta. Papers should be bundled and placed at the roadside May 2 at 9 a.m. For further information, call Gord Macleish at 877-9967.

**Glen couple joins festival**  
Christopher and Grace Ball of Glen Williams will be participants in the Fourth Annual Arts Days festival at Sherway Gardens in Etobicoke next Tuesday to Saturday.

**Widows plan smorgasbord**  
The Georgetown Widow's Contact Group will host a smorgasbord supper April 28 at the Mountainview restaurant on Guelph Street. The \$4.50 per plate event begins at 7 p.m. and any widows wishing to join in the fun are invited to call 877-4435. The group recently held a pot luck

# Summer employment office readies for town's eager student job seekers

By CHRIS AAGAARD  
Herald Staff Writer

It's nail-biting time for Canada's student population. Every year, thousands of them, winding up high school or university classes, embark on the "Great Canadian Job Search" rather than face a long hot season "flat busted".

Realizing that not everyone has a job waiting for them in Dad's office or with Uncle Jerry's construction firm, the federal government's employment and immigration department has recruited an army of student placement officers and opened up hundreds of summer employment bureaus. One of them has recently moved into the Halton building on Georgetown's Mill Street.

For students, office supervisor Barry Goodwin told The Herald Friday, the office can put them in touch with almost any field of work they may be interested in doing over the summer break.

Last year's office, located in the Guelphview Square on Guelph Street, helped channel students to about 500 casual and full-time jobs in the area, and this year's team hopes to at least reach the same goal.

Two more trained staffers are shortly expected to join Mr. Goodwin, helping to match industry and registered students satisfying the employment requirements of both.

Through the Brampton area Canada Employment Office, about 400 letters were sent to industries in Halton Hills, introducing the Mill Street employment centre's

program of linking their needs to an eager labor pool.

The most popular jobs involve outdoor work, but Mr. Goodwin says most will "do just about anything".

"I think students are becoming more aware of what the (job) market is like," he explained. "They realize that they won't necessarily come out of school in the summer and be gifted with a job."

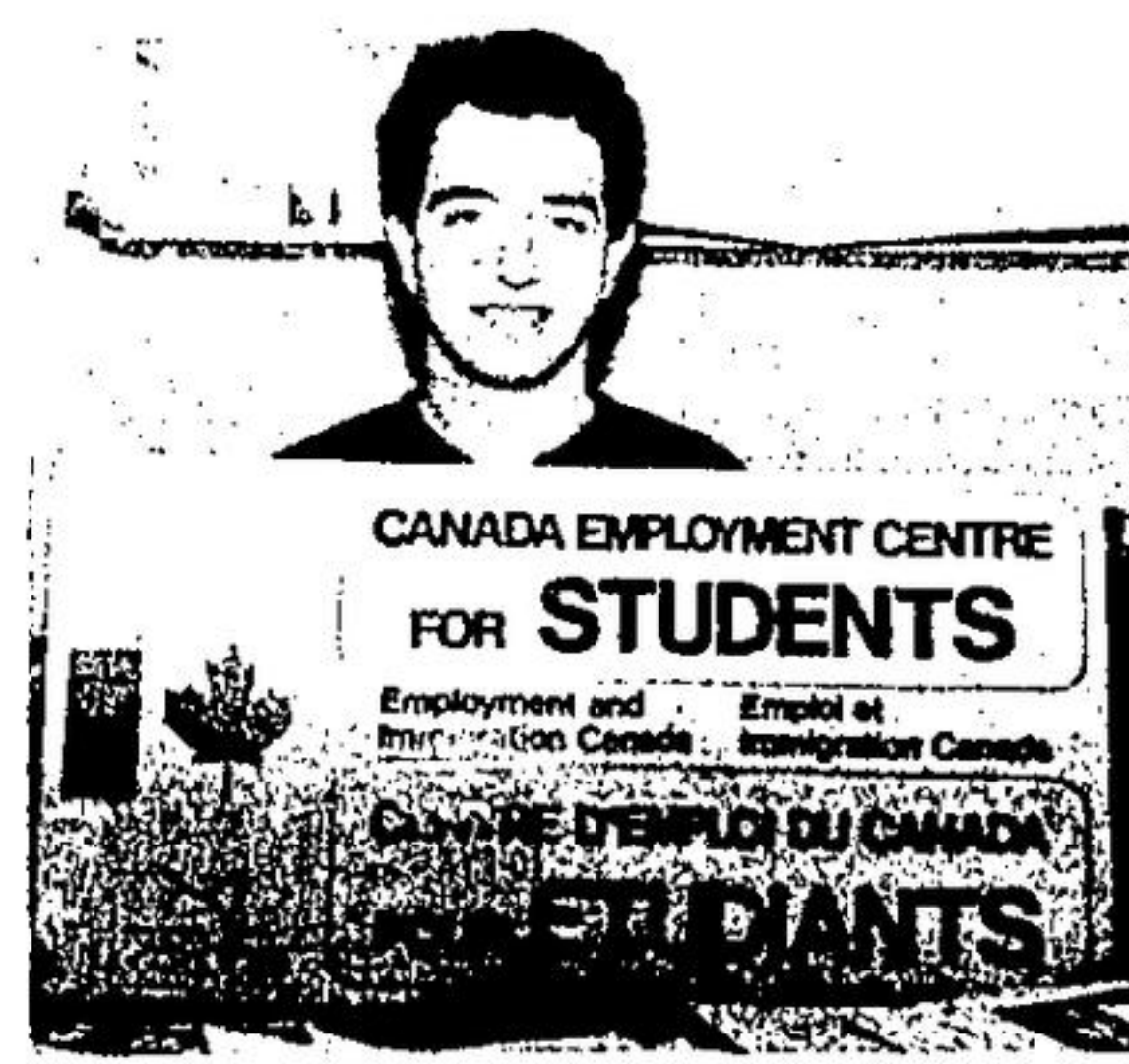
Although there's no real guarantee that the centre can find a job for all its applicants, it usually has a 90 per cent success rate, often placing students within two or three days of their first visit.

As job opportunities in the area open up, they are carded and placed on a display board in the centre's front office. As students register, they can check over the jobs on the board, indicate a preference and spend five to 10 minutes chatting about the prospects with one of the placement officers.

Further appointments with the officers or with a potential employer may be necessary. And, since many applicants have had little practice in preparing for an involved job search, the centre will periodically conduct short, free courses on how to prepare for an interview and writing resumes.

Besides directly fitting students to available jobs, the centre can put them in touch with a number of other exciting job programs sponsored by the federal and provincial governments.

Students looking for some-



Barry Goodwin will head a three-man student team helping to find summer jobs for young people in Halton Hills this year. The Canada Employment Centre for Students at 70 Mill Street in Georgetown will feature a full complement of staffers by mid-month and boasts an impressive record in past years of placing students in a variety of working environments. The service is free and offers information on a number of "work" programs sponsored by the federal and provincial governments. (Herald photo)

thing more in line with their career goals can learn about the federal "Career Oriented Summer Program" and "Ontario's Career Action Program" — a special service for university grads.

Experience 81 programs and Summer Canada projects (previously known as the Young Canada Works) will be getting underway shortly, needing students for varying lengths of time. The centre also taps into the farm labor pool and offers information to enterprising students who want to operate their own business during the summer using Student Venture Capital loans.

The loan gives the students \$1,000 to start their own business during the summer, on condition that they pay it back, interest free, by Oct. 31. Other opportunities include casual work cutting lawns, painting houses and making general household repairs.

The Mill Street office is currently open from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

## Come to Church

<p><b>GEORGETOWN ALLIANCE CHURCH</b> Sunday, April 19, 1981. Sunday School 9:45 a.m. Morning Worship 11 a.m. Come and Make Our Church Your Church Everyone Welcome</p> <p>P. RALPH 877-9816 853-3923</p>	<p><b>MAPLE AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH</b> PASTOR EDWIN H. MITCHELL 877-8665; 877-0320</p> <p>Sunday, April 19, 1981. Every Sunday 9:45 a.m. Family Bible School 11 a.m. &amp; 6:30 p.m. Biblical Preaching, Praise and Fellowship</p> <p>Weekly Boys &amp; Girls Clubs, Youth Activities, Ladies Coffee Hour, Recreation &amp; Prayer Meeting</p> <p>Monthly Jolly Seniors — Missions Fellowship Visitors Always Welcome</p> <p>25 Years and Growing</p>
<p><b>ST. GEORGE'S CHURCH ANGLICAN</b> Sunday, April 19, 1981</p> <p>8 a.m. HOLY EUCHARIST 9 a.m. HOLY EUCHARIST Jr. Church &amp; Nursery 11 a.m. HOLY EUCHARIST (First, Third &amp; Fourth Sundays) MATTINS (Second &amp; Fourth Sundays)</p>	<p><b>IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH</b> Windsor Road at Carole St. PASTOR: REV. DR. J.M. DRICKAMER</p> <p>Sunday, April 19, 1981. 8:45 a.m. Church Service 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Church Service Church of the Lutheran Hour.</p>

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