

877 5213

FOBERT
H. Fobert Real Estate Ltd.
Realtor

EXCELLENCE AWARD
"IN CUSTOMER RELATIONS"

the HERALD

Home Newspaper of Halton Hills — Since 1866

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 1981

**DOWNTOWN
GEORGETOWN**

No need to roam....
It's right here at home

All the shops and services you need

There are 106 good reasons
to shop Downtown Georgetown

FREE PARKING

Georgetown father fights support discrimination

By ANI PEDERIAN
Herald Staff Writer

Are male single parents being discriminated against by provincial and municipal governments?

Barry Bryant, 32, father of Kristoffer, thinks so. He staged a one-man demonstration Monday before the Halton social services office on Main Street in Georgetown.

Mr. Bryant is raising Kristoffer who is a little over two years old, alone. Separated from his common-law wife, he feels a father should be able to stay home and look after his child.

Mr. Bryant's tangle with municipal and provincial governments began last April when he applied for welfare and mother's allowance.

He applied for welfare and was told he had to put Kristoffer in a day care centre and start looking for work.

"I put Kristoffer in the day care home, but my son isn't ready for it. He didn't eat his lunch, and when I got him home he cried out in his sleep during his noon nap, and he wouldn't eat his supper either," said Mr. Bryant.

"I won't put my son through that kind of emotional trauma. He's not ready for it yet."

Mr. Bryant said Kristoffer

was physically abused when he was a baby and has been a slow developing child because of emotional problems.

He wants to get his child toilet-trained and talking before he puts him in a centre. He's asked for financial assistance from welfare for one year.

"They're telling me I'm physically fit and able to work so I'm not eligible for welfare," he said. "You give me a job where I can take my son with me and I will work." At present he's got a job painting a house, but since he has to work around Kristoffer's meal and nap times, he can only work a few hours a day.

The municipal government encourages self-sufficiency rather than dependence on the system, said David Swarc, supervisor of the Halton social services office.

Karen Thompson-Harry of the Georgetown Legal Clinic has been working with Mr. Bryant and said there are many women who have children in school all day and they receive welfare.

"It is blatant discrimination," she said. "We have many women clients who receive welfare and the issue is never even raised about them going out to work." She

said this is the first case of its kind in Halton.

She said there is no legislation that says single-parent men aren't allowed to collect welfare if they choose to raise their child.

"Only the director says he's discriminating in applying the legislation," said Mrs. Thompson-Harry.

Mr. Swarc said the general welfare act limits the length of time a man can stay home and take care of his children to six months. Local municipalities can issue financial support for a maximum of six months, but only the director of income maintenance for the federal ministry of social services can extend that time limit. He said the 1976 act doesn't limit female single parents that way.

"It would appear that it is discriminatory against men," he said.

Mr. Bryant has appealed to the social assistance review board with the ministry of community and social services regarding the welfare decision. They had a hearing at the end of July, and Sept. 9 were informed that their appeal had been denied.

They are now appealing the welfare decision to the Supreme Court of Ontario. It

takes up to a year to get a hearing, Mrs. Thompson-Harry said.

Mr. Bryant also applied for mother's allowance six months ago.

"All I've gotten is red tape. They'd like to help me but they can't because of the rules," he said.

The provincial legislation states only women can receive mother's allowance, which is 60 per cent provincially funded, and 40 per cent federally.

"There are single fathers receiving mother's allowance," Mrs. Thompson-Harry said. "Most of them are finishing their schooling."

She said other men in similar positions have appealed to the human rights commission regarding receiving mother's allowance and been successful.

"The only reason we're not taking it to the human rights commission is that it takes too long—about two years," she said.

Mr. Bryant is appealing the provincial decision denying him mother's allowance to the social assistance review board, Oct. 7.

Mrs. Thompson-Harry says they don't have much hope of succeeding. She said the board hasn't overturned a director's decision in seven years.



A LONG GLANCE

British freelance and author Helen Long (centre) shares her autobiographical book "Change into Uniform" with Chris Macewan (left), vice-president of the University Women's Club and daughter Rosemary Oliver. Mrs. Long talked about her experiences as a freelancer in London Thursday. She said writing is the "jam" on her "bread and butter". An

enthusiastic woman with colorful language she advised her audience to write for London magazines as they are interested in what's going on in other parts of the world.

(Herald photo by Ani Pedorian)

He's feathering his nest with movies too!

Ronnie's visit highlights gala cultural centre opening



Look out, Halton Hills, Rompin' Ronnie Hawkins is comin' at ya! The Hawk, an Arkansas native who's made Canada his home for over 20 years, will perform two shows Oct. 20 at the town's new library-cultural centre. Ronnie's visit will be one of the highlights of the centre's gala two-week opening ceremony, which may feature several top performers still to be announced. Ticket information — and you're urged to act promptly — is available from the town office, 877-5185.

(Quality Records Photo)

Activan six months later

Halton Hills' engineering department has released its first report on the town's Activan transit system for the physically disabled, noting that the service is "dependable, comfortable and economical, and is being appreciated."

Launched in May, Activan has completed six months of service, making a total of 760 trips so far, the report, presented to the town's general committee Monday night says. The heaviest use of the service was in July while vacations and rainy weather in August may have caused the drop in use.

Most of the users are senior citizens with the remaining 25 per cent spread evenly among all age groups. About half of the Activan's trips are for medical purposes, transporting passengers to the Georgetown and District Hospital and other points for physiotherapy. The service is operated by the Tyler Transport Ltd. in Acton

and administered by the ActiVan Advisory Committee (AAC).

Actonians using the service find it handy for getting them to the community's Friends-In-Deed Club Swim Sunday mornings. A special arrangement with Tyler Transport will solve one Centennial Middle School student's daily travel problems to and from school.

There are an average of nine trips per day each week, the report notes. The AAC, while concerned about tying up the vehicle for extended trips, may broaden the scope of the Activan's service to beyond the town's boundaries, enabling passengers to reach points in Brampton, Guelph or Milton.

Activan is currently operating on a one-year trial period which ends in April. Whether or not the service is continued in 1982 will likely depend on town council's appraisal of its costs compared to its use. The report acknowledges

that Activan, like other public transit systems, is operating at a deficit at about \$10 per trip. It is estimated that it will cost \$36,000 to keep Activan rolling to the end of the trial period, half of this coming from the provincial ministry of community and social affairs and the balance from public fundraising efforts.

A substantial amount (\$13,000) of the public contribution was raised earlier this spring when the Levi Strauss Foundation, based in San Francisco, answered a call for funds from Halton Helping Hands and Levi's own employees at the Stony Creek, Ontario plant.

Riders subscribe to the service paying a 50 cent fare each trip. The report says that of Activan's 61 registered users, 32 live in Georgetown, 20 in Acton and nine in surrounding Esquesing township. Three quarters of the users are women.

Pull-on your stompin' boots, 'cause Ronnie Hawkins, Mr. "A Legend in His Spare Time", is coming to Halton Hills Oct. 20 to help open our new Library-Cultural Centre.

More commonly known as "The Hawk" by his two generations of rock and roll fans, Ronnie, 46, will perform two shows during his brief stay in town, one at 7:30 p.m. and the other two hours later. His act is among 20 events planned for the gala two-week opening ceremony at the centre beginning Oct. 14.

During a press conference at the North Halton Golf and Country Club in Georgetown last Wednesday, Ronnie was generous in his praise of the facilities he and his band will use in a few weeks.

"That's nice, that's real nice," he said in his characteristic Arkansas drawl. "That's 'bout as high class as you can get. After I saw the facilities, I asked if I could just move right in. What a record! Somehow avoiding "super nova" stardom (flaring briefly and then burning out all together), Ronnie became a legend through his music even while staying in Canada, a country which often refuses to believe that its up and coming musicians have an inkling of greatness in them, despite Ronnie's efforts to give them a boost wherever possible.

He's been somewhat of an oracle to other legends who have left milestones in rock history: The late John Lennon and Elvis Presley to name only a couple.

When Ronnie rumbles into Halton Hills, he'll bring with him the kind of show that has brought hundreds of thousands of people to their feet demanding more of his unmistakably "Hawklish" country-flavored rock shuffles. Currently, Ronnie is riding another wave of popularity which began, he says, about three years ago and brings in 16 year olds to clubs already filled with followers old enough to be their older brothers and sisters or even their parents.

Having been chased out of seedy, "Redneck" juke joints in the southern U.S. when his career was just beginning back in the late fifties, Ronnie thinks that the 267-seat auditorium in the library-cultural centre here offers a compromise between the laid-back, easy atmosphere of a club and the comfort of a theatre.

But he wants to see people have a good time, the same type of rollicking good humor he appears to radiate every-time he steps on stage. Ronnie told councillors, town officials and members of the press last week that he wants to play whatever the audience wants.

Continued on Page 2

Ambitious Leathertown Association prepares tourist boost for Acton

"Ultimately, our goals are good and we will achieve them," an effervescent Chip Petrillo told members of town council and Halton-Burlington MPP Julian Reed Friday as he announced the formation of Acton's new Leathertown Association.

Speaking at the Acton Drop-in Centre, Mr. Petrillo, the association's chairman, said that local residents are very excited about the community's potential to become a major historic and tourist attraction in southwestern Ontario.

"We've got a lot of good projects," he said, "what we need is the funding to carry them through."

Barely four days old when Mr. Petrillo made his enthusiastic appeal to Mayor Pete Pomeroy and councillors, Terry Grubbe, Dave Whiting and Russ Miller, the association has already received Mr. Reed's hearty support.

"I'm sure the two of us together can launch an effort to get Acton designated (by the province) as a tourist area,"

Mr. Reed said. "The government...has never considered that this area ever has been or could be a tourist attraction."

The association was formed when the Leathertown Committee was dissolved as a branch of the community's chamber of commerce Monday night. It was immediately reborn as a separate and financially independent body dedicated to promote Acton's rather unique leather-history beyond the town's borders.

"We want to make sure that people in town realize that we aren't allied with one specific group," Mr. Petrillo said, adding that some of the association's goals are farther reaching than can be envisioned under the chamber's charter or budget.

Bearing Leathertown into the dens and living rooms of residents across the province is one way the association is hoping to bring people to Acton, boosting the community's image and commerce. Anxiously awaiting

word from the province, Leathertown directors are hoping to bring Wintario here, complete with a local variety night.

In fact, Mr. Petrillo promptly extended an invitation to Mr. Reed and Peel regional chairman Frank Bean to come and perform at the gala entertainment program planned in

conjunction with the Lottery. Mr. Reed is locally renowned as a banjo player, while Mr. Bean is a talented pianist.

In addition, Mr. Petrillo said, Acton organizers will be asked if they can move their weekly draw from Saturday to Thursday night.

A major Leathertown attraction is planned for May.

too, he said. Leathertown directors hope to hold a giant Acton reunion at the local arena to coincide with the annual Monte Carlo night.

The extended weekend of Leathertown-related celebrations May 14, 15 and 16 may also include a market day and a huge ecumenical service in

Continued on Page 2

Tie a yellow ribbon around our oak tree

A 20-year-old oak tree will grace the entrance to the new Halton Hills Library and Cultural Centre.

The oak, which is being donated by Sheridan Nurseries, will replace the old maple that stood in the same spot before the bulldozers moved in last fall.

Mayor Pomeroy estimated the value of the gift to the centre to be more than \$1,000. Mr. Pokluda has also volunteered to provide shrubbery for the much-needed landscaping of the facility.

Architect Keith Wagland was delighted to hear about the Sheridan donation.

"It was never my intention to have the old maple removed," he said. "I always envisaged it as part of my overall design."

Mayor Pomeroy explained that the decision to remove the maple was made after it was realized that the old tree would be unlikely to survive because of its extremely close proximity to the main construction site.

"It was another way in which we cut costs — taking it out in the beginning and thereby not hampering construction," he said. "Now with the Sheridan Nurseries oak the entrance-way will begin to look



And the town's library-cultural centre fund-raising drive mounts more and more. Mayor Pete Pomeroy (left) accepted a cheque worth \$3,332 from Halton Hills Arts Council treasurer Ron Dayles Monday. The money, raised from the Old Tyme Music Hall in June and merris which surrounded the construction site of the centre last winter, brings the amount received from the council to \$12,000. It has pledged to raise \$20,000 for the centre.

(Herald photo)

as it was intended. The race continues to raise the necessary public and corporate funds to put the 18-month long campaign for \$230,000 over the top.

Response to the special "action" team's appeal to the industrial and corporate sector for donations and pledges has been somewhat discouraging despite personal visits and follow-up letters. Nevertheless, the campaign thermometer edged up appreciably this week with donations totalling \$15,840, the majority from anonymous sources.

One group which came forward voluntarily was the Halton Hills Independent Insurance Agents and Brokers Association. Each of its members — Dunlop Insurance, Glen Magnuson Ltd., Armstrong Insurance Agency, Barber and Henley and Rick West Insurance — contributed \$100.

Brenda Sissett, who is heading the last-minute drive, said she hopes other professional-business groups would follow suit.

In other developments this week, Ron Davies, Halton Hills

Continued on Page 2