



THE WET ONES

Dunking their hands into tubs of water, the "mad scientists" learned the principles of "hot and cold" Friday afternoon, under the direction of children's library assistant Carol Buchanan. Patrick Allen, 11, put his hands in the water while his peers watched and did their own thing. The mad scientists program is one of several programs the library is running for youngsters looking for fun. They'll be meeting July 16, 23, and 30. Children must register to attend.

(Herald photo by Ani Pederian)

Making waves with your YMCA

By CHERYL LIGHTOWLERS
YMCA Publicist

On Sunday nights in April, May and June, Y swimmers were performing swimming skills from the actions to "Head and Shoulders, Knees and Toes" to the first dive for many children and adults!

Congratulations to all who celebrated both Mother's Day and Father's Day at the pool!

Tots who swam with a parent were: Kate Cuthbert, Nicholas Ritchie, Tausha Faul, Katy Leask, Lee McKeown and Jamie Draper.

In the Tiny Tots swim class were: Shalon Lewis, Jamie Blair, Sarah and David Carney, Alyson Lewis, Matthew Todd, Sharon Robinson, Krista Peacock, Evren Ozdemir, Connie and Jody Tunney, Simon Fraser and Nadia Kull.

Earning the Otter badge were: Michael Cairns, Kelly Armstrong, Craig Blair, Michael Millar, Almie Hamilton, Shawna Johns, Michael and Wendy Keck and Jayna and Jason Foley.

Laura Cascone, Michael Hancock, James Burt and Amy Leask swim like Seals!

Dolphin badges were earned by James Burt, Emily Ranson, John Waller, Nicole Ferguson and Jon McMurray.

Swimmer badges were earned by Graham and Maureen McNeil, Sarah Broughton, Jill Kankalen, Perri Kudryk and Emily Hamilton.

Participation balloons were given to Susan Kathwaroon, Kristi Draper, Sarah Packer, Dwayne Balancy, Anne Donnelly and Stephen VanKlink.

Sergun Ozdemir earned Star 1 and 2, Lynette Balancy, Scott Hamilton and John Yury completed Star 2, Sara Blair and Adam Broughton have Star 3 and Star 4 was earned by Bonnie Clark, Amanda and Robin Watson, Stephen Delroy, Scott Lightowlers, Bonnie and Jimmie Clark finished Star 5.

Jimmie Clark swam 40 lengths for a 1,000 metre badge. Kim Penna and Melanie Jenkins did 80 lengths for a 2,000 metre badge.

Adults Cheryl Broughton and Bill Lightowlers earned Star 3 badges. Participation diplomas were received by Donald Waller, Brendan Millar, Robert Weston, Heather McNeil, Amy Cooper, Christy Lightowlers and David Mann.

Ombudsman busy

Complaints and information requests to the office of Ontario Ombudsman Donald Morand between April, 1981, and March, 1982, were up by ten per cent over the previous year. It was reported last week. The office also reports that it reduced the number of investigations carried over at year end to 1,457, the lowest carry-over of in-progress cases since the office was established in late 1975. During the above-mentioned period, 10,175 complaints and requests were handled by the office.

Foster care facilities threatened

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can't force people to become foster parents." Children today have many more problems, she said and when people think about having teens with behavioral problems they back out.

Ms. Palomo also blamed the economic climate for changes in home situations making less people come forward to volunteer their aid as foster parents.

A lot of women are going to work, she noted. It's a social problem that is affecting not just the Halton CAS, but others in the province as well, she said.

"Even when husbands are employed, when people start renewing their mortgages at 19 per cent, a lot of families need a second income," she said.

Vice chairman of Halton's health and social services committee, Oakville Coun. Carol Gooding agreed that often both parents are working and they don't have the time or energy required to put

into fostering. "It's been pretty thoroughly shown the kind of voluntary commitment that's necessary on the part of people willing to be foster parents just isn't there anymore," coun. Gooding said. "It has something to do with the rates that we do pay for fostering."

Outside agencies, able to offer more, have been accused by Halton of "pirating" Halton foster homes from the Halton CAS.

Less provincial funding is available at a time when it's most needed, Coun. Gooding said, calling the situation a "misfit of social responsibility."

"The region has always been very supportive of the Children's Aid and we will continue to go to bat for them before the ministry," Coun. Gooding maintained.

Anybody interested in becoming a foster parent is asked to call the Halton CAS at 878-2375. The Society accepts single parents as well.

Men eligible for mother's allowance

Bryant awaits funds

By ANI PEDERIAN
Herald Staff Writer

A year and three months after he applied for financial assistance from welfare and mother's allowance, Georgetown's single father, Barry Bryant, has been told to expect a cheque in the mail.

Mr. Bryant, 32, separated from his common-law wife and raising his three-year old son, Kristoffer alone, has been fighting for financial sup-

port with regional and provincial governments since April 1981.

With the recent announcement by provincial minister of community and social services Frank Drea making men eligible for mother's allowance as of July 1, changes have followed at the regional level.

Halton social services supervisor David Szwarc told The Herald that fathers applying for mother's allowance who appear to be eligible for it will also

now be eligible for welfare, "just the way that women are while waiting for their mother's allowance to come through."

Previously, single parents who were men were turned down when they applied for welfare assistance, Mr. Szwarc explained that the region's policy is that unless there is a valid medical reason, single parents are expected to be looking for work.

He said an exemption clause in the policy excluded single parents from looking for work if they had applied for mother's allowance, as welfare support is not intended to be longterm.

Because provincial legislation stated that only women could receive mother's allowance, single parents who were men became therefore ineligible for welfare assistance, Mr. Szwarc said.

Now that men are eligible, Halton region is willing to grant them welfare assistance until their mother's allowance cheques come through.

Ministry of community and social services administrator for Halton and Brant regions, David Vice said complaints from men influenced the provincial government to change its policy.

However, he doesn't expect to get many men applying for mother's allowance.

"There will be some, but I don't think we're going to see an onslaught," Mr. Vice said. "We'll be granting one case in the month of July in Halton."

Previously, single fathers received mother's allowance only in special circumstances: when orders-in-council were issued.

It may cost the province \$28 million more if fathers are allowed the

same benefits. In 1979, Ontario paid out \$425 million in benefits to 48,133 single mothers.

The effects of the new legislation aren't likely to be visible for another six to eight months.

"It's too early to tell just what the impact will be of this," Mr. Szwarc said. So far only one single father has applied for welfare assistance from Halton and a second one has shown some interest in the program.

He said welfare assistance varies according to family size. A father with one child under nine years living in an accommodation where heat and hydro are included and rent is over \$250 a month would get \$446 a month in welfare assistance, Mr. Szwarc said. Mother's allowance pays approximately ten per cent more than welfare does.

Although Mr. Bryant was told last week he would be receiving a cheque from Halton's social services, he's skeptical about the changes in provincial and regional policies.

"The legislation has changed, I'd like to see it, I'm very skeptical about the whole damned thing," he told The Herald. "I won't back off until I'm SURE other fathers will receive it too, without having to fight for it for a year like me."

He said he's taking Halton social services to court Sept. 8 with the help of the Halton Hills Legal Aid Clinic.

Community Legal worker with the clinic, Karen Thompson-Harry said Mr. Bryant will be disputing the reasons denying him welfare last year, in the Ontario Supreme Court.

"We think their policy last year was wrong," she said. "We're going ahead mainly as a matter of principle. We think the region and the review board used wrong tests and made a wrong decision."

Mr. Bryant will be appealing the social assistance review board decision that denied him welfare last September, following a July hearing.

COUNCIL NOTES

No campaign for Walter

With about four months to go before Halton Hills voters head for the polls in the province's municipal and school board elections, one local councillor has already announced that he won't seek re-election this year. Coun. Walter Biehn mentioned in the course of a debate on councillors' salaries, that he would not run for another term in Ward 3 Georgetown. A Queen Street resident, Coun. Biehn has served his constituents for six years and, along with fellow Ward 3 rep John McDonald has provided a link between the town's administration and the Georgetown Business Improvement Area. He is currently secretary of the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce.

Silence please!

Town council Monday night endorsed a liquor application forwarded by the Montenegro Cultural Society regarding a picnic planned for the Canadian-Yugoslavian recreational centre south of Acton July 18. However, noting that noise concerns which have been raised by the centre's neighbors over the last year remain unresolved, council tempered its approval stating that no public address system may be used during the celebrations. The festivities' organizers must also hire off-duty police officers to ensure that order is maintained throughout the day. Gerry Brockelsby, a resident living near the centre, reminded councillors that "90 per cent" of the noise during weekend celebrations hosted by the Yugoslavian associations is caused by the centre's use of amplifiers and public address systems. He said that residents might consider tolerating occasional parties, using the systems, but maintained that they shouldn't have to put with noise at the centre every weekend.

Croatian tourney

A special council meeting will have to be held tomorrow night (Thursday) to decide whether or not council should endorse a liquor license application for June 4 at the Croation Centre south of Norval. Council declined Monday night to endorse the application until councillors have met with residents in the area as they continue to mediate ongoing complaints about problems from weekend festivities at the centre. The liquor license is sought for a men's soccer tournament, hosted by the Veleit Soccer Club of Oakville. Club president Victor Sordic assured councillors that loudspeakers would only be used to call the teams to the different soccer fields. Major festivities, he added, are planned for a Toronto hotel. Council decided that it would be unfair to support the liquor application until it has met with residents and pointed out that it has already discussed problems at the centre with centre administrators.

Take one!

Last week, youngsters participating in the rec department's Dramatic Arts summer program toured Halton Cable Television's Acton studios where the group taped a rather unusual and exciting broadcast entitled "That's Remarkable!". The show was televised on Cable 4 last night (Tuesday) but you can catch all the action again next Wednesday at 6:15 p.m. The summer program's co-ordinators wish to thank Halton Cable TV program manager John Olivier for his assistance setting up the taping.

RDOP ends with advice

By CHRIS AAGAARD
Herald Staff Writer

Halton's municipal administrators were reminded last week that there is still more room for rural representation in the region's decision-making process.

The message was included in recommendations made by Guelph University's Rural Development Outreach Program (RDOP) last week as it concluded six years of research into rural issues in Ontario with a presentation to regional council.

Noting that rural and urban issues clash particularly in Halton, RDOP researchers have suggested that the regional government needs a rural advisory committee, a more omnibus organization than the farm-centred Halton Agricultural Advisory Committee.

Valerie Gilmour, RDOP's assistant director, told regional councillors the new advisory committee would be "a mechanism by which the voice of ALL rural Halton can be heard".

She added that this body would not only gather interest on rural issues but would initiate public participation in the decision making for the rural area. The program's final report also urged that annual public forums held to discuss rural issues continue.

Started in 1976, the RDOP studied two other rural areas besides Halton, initiating several projects in Huron County and northern Ontario. A large chunk of its funding came from the Kellogg Foundation in Battle Creek, Michigan.

The Halton Community Pulse Group was formed to co-operate with researchers from the program. While the program reaped volumes of useful information from Huron and northern Ontario for the university's own use, the report acknowledged that there was not as much information here.

Projects initiated here under RDOP's auspices were of greater use to the rural community than the university, the report notes, "a perfectly acceptable result".

Councillors were shown a video presentation on what RDOP has done in Halton and other areas, including a segment featuring pulse group rep and Halton Hills local councillor Pam Sheldon who described "Ruralities", a brochure published as one RDOP project.

Farmers and RDOP reps also collaborated on another publication entitled "The Invisible Giant", describing Halton's agricultural production and threats to the region's farming future.

Meanwhile, the report noted, RDOP has encouraged the university to establish a school of rural planning and development. The program opened last September.

RDOP director Tony Fuller stressed that Halton should continue to use the university's research whenever it can and said he's looking "down the road for another co-operative adventure".



AMY'S A WINNER

It's got gears and hand brakes. Seven-year old Amy Cane of Orangeville pointed out the new bike she won to the president of Varian's recreation club Monday afternoon. Amy won a bike in the free draw at the company picnic Sunday in Meadowdale. Amy's dad Chris is Varian's sales manager for the electron device group.

(Herald photo)

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