

# Peggy Balkind has a new honor

The co-ordinator of the Acton Social Services and Information Centre was honored Monday night at a dinner in Oakville.

Peggy Balkind was presented with the "Persons Award" by the Women of Halton Action Movement. The newly-instigated award is in honor of the Oct. 18, 1929, decision by the London Privy Council that ruled Canadian women were persons before the law.

Mrs. Balkind, long a volunteer in the community organizations and the founder of several, was lauded for her contributions to improving things for women. Called a positive role model for other women, Mrs. Balkind was rewarded for her efforts to upgrade the status of women, with a collage picture by Halton artist Joanne Dean.

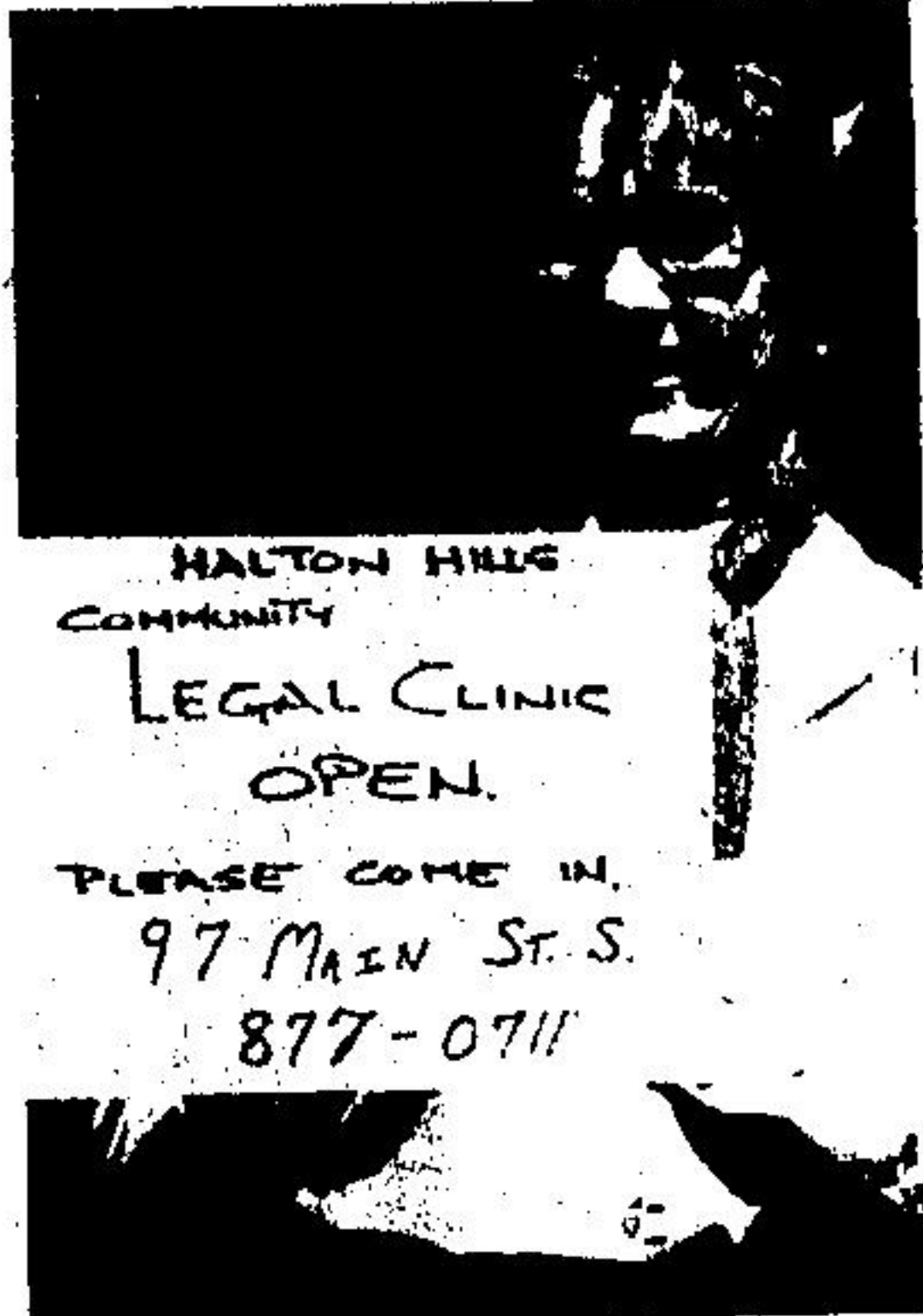
Twenty years ago, Mrs. Balkind began volunteer work with the Georgetown Red Cross and also became a board member of the Georgetown YMCA.

Seeing the need, she founded the 24-hour distress line that grew in 1973 into the North Halton Contact Centre.

In 1973, as well, Mrs. Balkind was the vice president of the local council of women and helped introduce the Block Parent program to Halton Hills.

From 1976 to 1978, she was a board member for Halton Children's Aid Society, and has been a member of the steering committee and board of directors of the Halton Social Planning Council since 1978.

In 1981 she was the first staff member hired for the Halton Hills Community Legal Aid Clinic and since 1980 has been co-



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PEGGY BALKIND

ordinator of the Acton Social Services Information Centre.

Mrs. Balkind was

instrumental in establishing Halton Women's Place, a shelter for battered women and their children.

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# Signing marriage contract

Continued from page 6

Act governs the division of property between spouses who stop living with each other. The Act makes it clear that, normally, there will be an equal division of family assets. A family asset is something that is ordinarily used and enjoyed by both spouses or their children while the spouses live together. The most important family asset is usually the family home.

The Family Law Reform Act states that spouses can indicate, in a marriage contract, that certain things may be designated as non-family assets. For example, if the husband has a valuable book collection, which he

does not wish to be divided, the contract can state that the books are not family assets.

Another example is that a marriage contract might state that the family home is entirely the property of the wife and that the husband has no right to half of the value of the home if the spouses separate.

According to the law, spouses cannot decide in a marriage contract who has the right to live in the family home after separation. If the spouses put in this type of term, it will have no legal effect. Also, spouses can't decide in a marriage contract who will get custody of the children when the couple

separates.

The right to live in the family home, and the right to custody, may only be decided after a separation, either through a separation agreement or by a court.

In order for a marriage contract to be valid, it must be in writing and signed by both the husband and the wife before at least two witnesses. You

don't need a lawyer's advice to make a valid contract but if you plan to enter into a marriage contract with your spouse or future spouse, it is a good idea for each of you to get legal advice.

**LEGALLY SPEAKING** is a regular column written by legally qualified people under the auspices of COMMUNITY LEGAL EDUCATION ONTARIO.

## WHAM meets Sat.

The Women of Halton Acton Movement (WHAM) will be holding their regular monthly meeting at the White Oaks Library in Oakville Oct. 28 at 8 p.m. Everyone is welcome.



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