JUVENILE **DIVERSION:**

Pilot project favors community service

over court process

By ANI PEDERIAN Herald Stall Writer

Since the juvenile diversion program began in January, 40 young people caught transgressing the law were spared criminal records in Halton Hills and Milt-

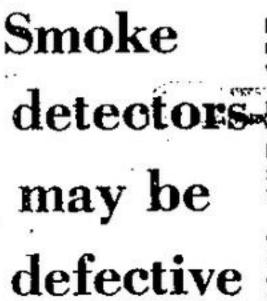
Diverted from the full impact of the criminal justice system, these youngsters are making up for their offences through community service work, restitution or other appropriate solu-

"These kids haven't been involved in dangerous offences like assault or sexual abuse or weapons. Most are minor offences like shoplifting; and it's their first time," juverule diversion co-ordinator Lori Chapman sald.

The program is a one-year pilot project funded with an OCAP grant, and is intended to take some of the work away from the courts.

Recently a youngster shot out the back light It's in step with the and a window of the upcoming implementabuilding with a pellet tion of the Young Offengun. Although it was a matter of \$20, the boy ders' Act in which communities will be was made to apologize required to provide to the manager and community work for replace the light and juveniles who have been window. in trouble with the law.

Working hand in hand with Holton regional police youth bureau sergeant Tom Johnson, Mrs. Chapman meets with the juvenile offender, his parents and the victim to discuss the diversion process. A voluntary program, it is a way of avoiding the formal and costly court process which results in a triminal record.



Juveniles referred to the program by Sgt. Johnson are made to realize that they are responsible for their ac-

"The support of the parents is wonderful," Mrs. Chapman, a petite blonde said. "It's much more effective than

Working out of Milton,

Mrs. Chapman has a

roomy office on Main

Street next to the United

Chapman noted. "After 16, if they haven't done it, 90 per cent of the time, they won't," she said. "Between 13 and 16 are the magical numbers when kids are likely to get involved for the first time." Knowing a lot of

for various organizati-

ons in the community

including the YMCA and

the Acton Legion. Ser-

vice work varies, al-though it can be as high

CRUCIAL

getting tangled up with

the law seems to be 13,

14, 15, and 16, Mrs.

The crucial ages for

as 200 hours.

people in town helps Mrs. Chapman land placements for the youth. However, it's tough to overcome the attitude people have about juvenile offenders. Many are rejuctant to take in the youths and put them to work.

"We do a lot of maintenance help for the seniors in town," Mrs. Chapman said. In some cases a friendship has sparked between the two age groups and carried on after the work term was complet-

Part of the program is victim assistance, but in some cases a victim is reluctant to have the "It wasn't just an 'I'm youngster working for sorry'," Mrs. Chapman said with satisfaction.

Four out of five of the "They had a discussiyouths in the program are male. Most of the The case is typical of girls tend to be how youngsters are runaways or shoplifters, treated through the program for anti-social Mrs. Chapman said.

For more information Since the program about the juvenile diverbegan in January, 40 sion program contact kids have put in time Mrs. Chapman at 878doing volunteer work 4592.

Halton Hills Fire Department advises that Honeywell battery operated smoke detectors, model TC89C and model TC89B have been

voluntarily recalled by the manufacturer.

These detectors were distributed in Canada
between January 1976 and May 1978. The models
TC89C and TC89B, because of the way the circuit board is mounted, may malfunction when smoke is present, though the unit would still alarm if the

test button is pressed. The affected models will be replaced with a comparable model at no charge by returning it to Honeywell. The model numbers and date codes can be found under the smoke detector cover, inside the detector on a piece of gray cardboard. Owners of the TC89C and TC89B are urged to call Honeywell toll free at 1-800-268-5554.





afternoon, taking advantage of the warm weather to compete in a variety of contents and games, Here, Jack Mashinter (front, left) and his put Randy Barrett prepare themselves for an event where they must carry a variety of items in their grasp, including hockey sticks, past the finish line.

(Herald photo)

Women's shelter lacks funds

Halton Women's Place is reaching out for community support. · The three-year old shelter for physically and mentally abused women and their childr-

en needs money. Located in Milton, the residence has 13 beds, and has periodically squeezed in 23 women and children under its

Hanging in financially is a continuing difficulty for the home. Regional funding is

received according to the number of residents. However, as the number of residents fluctuate from week to week. hydro, heat and mortgage expenses don't,

hostel co-ordinator Jo

Davis explained. She's hoping the region will move to block funding, which will mean a set budget for

An annual budget of \$160,000 is being sought, Mrs. Davis said. For more information or donations, call 878-7757.

Lungs Week Oct 2-8

The Halton Lung Association announces "Lungs Are For Life" Week Oct. 2-8. This special week is designed to make the public aware of respiratory disease - how to avoid the problems and how to cope with it when pre-sent. This year's theme

is "Breathe Free"

which is also the name of a record-book with a focus on asthma.

"Breathe Free" is the story of two children with asthma, their experiences and how they learned to cope with their problem. The program was originally funded by Gulf Canada and in order to maintain

it a donation of \$5 is requested.

The Lung Association has re-opened their gym-swim programs for children with asthma in Burlington, Georgetown and Oakville - a better breathing club for adults with respiratory disease in Burlington and is sponsoring "Asthma Awareness"



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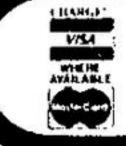
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