

You're never too old to go back to school

EDITH

She feared fear more than classes

BALLINAFAID - It used to be that whenever Edith McLean, 51, applied for a job she had to "forget" her glasses so she wouldn't have to fill out the application form in front of the employer.

Edith had a problem writing.

"As long as I could talk my way through I was fine. But when it came to writing..." she said.

Edith left school at 15 after Grade 8.

For a while she was happy in her job as a Red Cross homemaker for the elderly and the terminally ill. Then a back injury struck and she had to consider a career change.

She applied for social work and soon found out how important it was to be able to write.

diminishing fast. In the middle of the night I thought of Georgetown District High School (GDHS).

A chat with principal Don Baker the next day got her started.

"The minute Mr. Baker shook my hand some kind of confidence seeped through. He told me age didn't matter; that learning today is different and I'd be surprised."

And surprised she was.

Her initial fears were immense.

"I was so scared because when I went to school it was a degrading situation for me. I was frightened I'd never be able to handle high school," she said.

But now Edith spends two hours a day in Room 101 getting individual help in a specially-designed program.

She has finished Grade 9 maths and is in Grade 10 maths and getting very good marks in Grade 11 advanced English.



It's never too late to go back to school and pick up the skills you never appreciated when you were a teenager. That's the message of two Georgetown District High School students, Carol Galliford, 38, (seated, left) and Edith McLean, 51, (seated, right). The two are getting their three Rs spruced up with the help of teachers Rev. Mascola (left) and Beth Worrall. (Herald photo)

CAROL

She always planned to finish schooling

LIMEHOUSE - Carol Galliford's husband calls her "Smartie" nowadays.

Last November Carol, 38, went back to high school after 20 years to work on her Grade 12 diploma.

She heard about the special education program at GDHS, plucked up her courage and enrolled in an individualized program.

She has told her husband that as soon as her children were in school she wanted to go back and she made up her mind to do so.

Carol was one of a family of eight children born in Streetsville and she quit school in Grade 8 and worked with her sister on a farm until she was 19 when she returned to Streetsville for a job in a factory.

She married at 19 and raised two children, the oldest of whom is now completing Grade 12.

Her son found out he can't get a driver's licence until he passes Grade 12, Carol says. After so many years

without that qualification she is well aware of its importance.

It was only three years ago that she got her own licence. She had flunked the written examination.

Now she spends two to three hours a day working on spelling, grammar and maths at GDHS as one of two students in Room 101 on an individualized program.

This month she started a typing course in a regular classroom.

"I wish I'd done it sooner. I'm more confident about myself. I go home and do homework whereas before, when I was going to school, I didn't care if I got it done."

Carol says other aspects of her life have gained from the school discipline. She has more self-control with her children and is a lot calmer in dealing with them when they do something wrong.

"They're realizing my going back to school is helping me."

Need grade 10? Don't despair Willard can help

There's no problem getting business and technical courses for adults off the ground at Georgetown District High School, but when it comes to academic courses, the Halton Board of Education barely gets five or six students enrolling per course.

That's the word from the board's continuing education director Willard Price, who's trying to fatten the numbers in academic courses in the north.

Summer school back at GDHS

After a five year hiatus, there'll be summer school at Georgetown District High School (GDHS) this July.

Halong Board of Education continuing education director Willard Price said the board is hoping to make GDHS a satellite school with 100-150 summer students this year.

Usually there are 30-40 summer school students in the north. Mr. Price said, and surveys each school year haven't shown the numbers sufficient to warrant holding classes in Georgetown.

"We know they're there," Mr. Price said Thursday. "The biggest problem is getting the word out and being accessible to them so they'll talk to us."

The board has a number of new programs for high school dropouts, ranging from basic education upgrading to credits for graduation diplomas.

Mr. Price said he was surprised that the majority of students are over 30.

"This year we're making an effort because I know they're there," he said.

In the past, students have had to take buses to Oakville for summer school, making for a long day because of the travel involved. Students would catch the bus at 7 a.m. and get home by 1:30 p.m. he said.

Summer school starts July 3 and ends Aug. 3, with classes only in the mornings. Course selection will depend on enrolments, Mr. Price said.

Halton landfill plans cast shadow on region

By CHRIS AAGAARD Staff Writer

Plans by Halton Hills to expand a landfill site in Burlington have cast a long shadow over the region's upcoming 10th anniversary celebrations.

So says Burlington Coun. Walter Mulke- wick at the meeting of the region's finance and administration committee last week.

He said "I don't believe the region has anything to celebrate until that issue is cleared."

The site is the only one open for the region's garbage and, because of its boundaries, will be filled with trash later this summer, years before a new dump site is opened.

Area residents are strongly opposed to expansion of the present site.

PLANS Anniversary plans were on the agenda for the committee and members will ask council to set aside \$20,000 for the celebration when preparing the 1984 budget.

BIG booths going fast

The Georgetown Chamber of Commerce has about 35 booths left for the Business in Georgetown (BIG) Celebration for June 15, 16, 17.

Some 100 businesses have said they will participate in the three-day exhibit at the Gordon Alcott Area featuring, displays, music, food and celebrities.

Almost every business imaginable is represented for the weekend exhibit in celebration of Georgetown's 120th anniversary. Here's a sampling of what to expect: Real estate, insurance, professionals, fast food outlets, fashion retailers, hardware, supermarkets, service stations, financial institutions, drug stores and the police department.

BIG administrator Margaret Vint says any business that might not want to participate could sponsor a charity with a booth. The booth would have a sign representing the business, but groups representing charities like cystic fibrosis or diabetes could man the booth and publicize their work.

Mrs. Vint says she's heard many interesting ideas from the businesses planning exhibits.

Look to see perhaps a racing car, video shows of a historical nature, a sports celebrity and many free samples and gifts.

If you're an entertainment buff, the arena area will be filled with the sounds of a number of musical acts as well as a fashion show planned by local merchants.

Local lawyers elected

Two Georgetown lawyers have been elected to the executive of the Halton County Law Association.

Jack Bellegham QC and Allan Kogon were made executive members at the Feb. 15 annual meeting in Milton.

President for the new year is Ronald Flanagan of Milton, with William Kerr of Oakville vice president.

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