

Proposal for Acton day care centre

By ANI PEDERIAN
Herald Staff

If all goes well, Acton will have a day care centre for pre-schoolers by this September.

That's what a 13-member committee established last fall would like to accomplish within the next few months.

Made up of Acton professionals, parents, teachers and service providers, the commit-

tee is working with Georgetown YMCA director Claudette Smith to bring about their goal.

"We found a lot of parents want to use such a centre, but have no choice in Acton. They have to use a private home," the region's Children's Services Manager Karen Chan told The Herald.

She would like to see parents have a choice in where they put their children.



CLAUDETTE SMITH

In January, the group, chaired by Acton High School guidance teacher Sue Burns, approached the YMCA to start up such a program in Acton.

Unanimously, the committee endorsed the Y and asked Mrs. Smith to find a facility suitable for a daycare.

Mrs. Smith said the Y has considerable experience in pre-school day care, running about 22 such programs in Toronto. She herself is direc-

tor of the Y's five year old day care centre in Milton.

Starting up costs are expected to be over \$20,000 and that's why Mrs. Smith had to get the request approved by the Metro Y, which it was.

The actual cost will depend on the facility and whether it needs minor or major renovations to bring it up to provincial licensing standards, she said.

Much of it will go for play, sleeping room and kitchen equipment.

The Y will put up the development funding, and there may be a provincial grant and community fund raising to help the project along financially, Mrs. Smith said.

Pre-schoolers are two and a half to five, years old.

Once a facility has been decided upon, parent surveys will be undertaken to determine what kind of service parents will be wanting from the Centre.

Miss Chan said Acton High School principal Karel Sury would like the day care centre to be located close to the school so that his students can participate in it.

Not only will it be useful to serve as a student placement for Acton High students, but the daycare can also

care for the children of Acton parents who want to take high school courses and perhaps finish their degree.

Rates for the new service haven't been set, but Mrs. Smith said Y rates tend to be about the middle. "We're not the bargain basement, but we're also not the top cost provider," she said.

Daycare at the Milton Centre is \$15.50 per day for each child.

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Wildlife artist

Georgetown's 'Pictures and Presents' is pleased to announce the arrival of two original paintings by Toronto artist Marc Barrie.

Proprietor Judy Wickware describes the young artist as "becoming more and more well known".

The 22 year old, self taught, artist works with wildlife subjects and nature from which he is probably best known for his studies in birds.

His drawings, paintings and limited edition prints (some of which are available at Pictures and Presents) are in collections in Canada, the U.S. and in over 18 countries.

Many of his works have been completed from his studio-home between the Clarendon and Greenwood conservation areas, north-east of Toronto where the studio overlooks a feeding station.

New cab driver

Leslie John Markham of Georgetown has been issued a taxi cab owner's license.

Town councillors approved his application to operate a cab under Halton Hills Taxi.

There are currently 13 taxi cab licenses in operation in town. A town bylaw allows for 25 taxi cab licenses.

Tapestry winner

So who won, you say? Durham Street resident Ethel Harris was the lucky recipient of a Peruvian Tapestry last week. Her ticket number was picked for a draw organized by the YMCA in Georgetown.

The Y was selling tickets to help support their international project in Lima, Peru. In addition, Oct. 1 was the second annual Multi-cultural Evening featuring exhibits, demonstrations, food and dancing from residents representing different nationalities.

Mini-golf proposal

Acton may have a mini-golf course for those who like to putter around on those long summer evenings.

Len and Elly Tuitman of the garden centre off Highway 25 have applied for a development permit for an 18-hole miniature golf course on Lot 24 Concession 3, south of Acton.

The land is under the control of the Niagara Escarpment Commission and the town indicated it had no objections to the proposal, this week.

"Y" art auction

The Georgetown Y have a special treat planned for art lovers.

April 12 has been set aside for their annual art auction presented by Beaux Arts of Toronto.

A variety of paintings, sketches and sculptures will be offered at prices substantially below gallery prices.

The location for the auction is Holy Cross Auditorium and the initial viewing begins at 7 p.m. For more information call 877-6183.

Pinegrove euchre

By KAY WILSON
Herald Correspondent

NORVAL - Pinegrove Community euchre which was postponed because of weather conditions Monday was held Wednesday evening in place of the Norval Women's Institute euchre at Webb's Flowers.

There were 11 tables in play. Winners were Florie Alcott, Marie Murray, Chester Early and Wilmer Mason. The lucky draw went to Manley Denamore, Mac Alexander and Joyce Tilson.

Family asthma program

The Halton Lung Association will be starting up their family asthma program at Georgetown District High School April 20.

Puppet show Keeps cruelty away from school yard

By ROBIN BAKEWELL
Herald Staff

With the influx of handicapped and trainable retarded entering the school systems, Benny McLeod would like to give students a better understanding of them.

"Kids on the Block - North Halton", a puppet show delivering the message, will be presented March 23, at 1:30 p.m. at the John Elliott Theatre.

Mrs. McLeod and her committee are asking representatives from north Halton schools to attend the show, the public and any organizations which may be interested.

She is quick to add that with the limited number of seats available only those who really want to see the presentation or who would come out and be supportive and help-

ful would be appreciated.

The bottom line is that the puppet show is not a free invitation for a family afternoon outing.

The program is presented to students by specially trained adults and Mrs. McLeod said the main aim is to give children better understanding and background of disabled people.

"The program takes away from the intimidation and cruelty directed towards disabled children. Children have not always been confronted with the disabled and through the program will learn how to handle it," Mrs. McLeod said.

The puppets, which are about three feet high, wear children's clothes and are comprised of many disabilities with a "norm" puppet to interact.

The reaction of the children is evident through questions which they are invited to ask through the presentation.

Stating the program, which began in the U.S., is now in many Canadian communities Mrs. McLeod said, "It's been very well received and as with any good idea it's just blossomed."

The Kids on the Block - North Halton committee will wait and see the response from the community after the March 23 presentation and is hoping to initiate funding and volunteers from the afternoon.

Mrs. McLeod said she would like to purchase the puppets, which cost \$3,000, by Jan. 1986 with school presentations tentatively beginning in Sept. 1986.

While schools are the main target for the program Mrs. McLeod said churches and other organizations are also worthwhile places for presentations.

Feeling lucky?

Wintario coming to town

By ROBIN BAKEWELL
Herald Staff

Lucky or not, you can't lose when Wintario arrives in town with a bevy of entertainment, March 28.

The project is a joint operation between the Georgetown Kinsmen and Georgetown District High School, where the event will be held.

The draw, which will get underway at 9 p.m., will be preceded by lots of local entertainment scheduled for a 6:30 start.

Confirmed acts for the entertainment segment include the Georgetown High School Alumni Choir, the GDHS Band, singers Debbie Tilson and Edgar Thatcher (who will also be soloing on guitar) and stand-up comic Paul d'Entremont.

Information from many community organizations, including the Chamber of Commerce and town councillor and local historian John McDonald, is now being sorted into a short presentation on the profile of the town for television airing.

"We've got to get 60 minutes of information into one minute," explained Bruce McLean, chairman of the Wintario project for the Georgetown Kinsmen Club.

Mr. McLean said money raised from the 1,000 people expected to be on hand for the event would go into several Kinsmen projects including magnetic hockey nets for Alcott arena, special telephone equipment for the deaf, a hospital project and a donation to the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation.

Tom Hower, who is on the organizing end at GDHS, said rental fees for the school's gymnasium have been waived in exchange for a donation to the school from the Kinsmen.

He said refreshments sold by the students at the event would provide money for CF.

GDHS will have the option of receiving a special temporary license to sell Wintario tickets for the draw which they are considering pending the March 11 deadline.



Salad bar tenders (left to right) Mike Needham, Mark Saultis, Andre Thibault and Eric Labonte seem to be enjoying their duties at Sacre Coeur Church last week. They were helping to prepare salad for the French Canadian meal

Saturday. The dinner to celebrate French Week was cancelled previously because of bad weather. Students participated in the dinner by helping to prepare the food and they acted as waiters and waitresses. (Herald photo)

Board slashes budget to keep increases down

Public school taxes up by 3.4%

By ROBIN BAKEWELL
Herald Staff

After a five week review and a \$3 million slash in expenditures the finance committee presented the Halton Board of Education's proposed budget.

Chairman of the finance committee, trustee Bill Harrison, said with the difficult economy and board position (on the budget), a reduction in the budget meant a reduction in board programs.

Assistant superintendent Ron Warren said with a mill rate increase of 9.5 per cent there would be an increase of \$65 for a residence with an assessed value of \$7,000.

Mr. Warren said the taxes this year would be \$739 if the provincial grant increase is less than one per cent which is expected to be verified next week.

No expansion of central or area office staff is planned for 1985 and positions presently in the budget have been eliminated.

A speech pathologist, social worker, two computer services staff and nine auxiliary staff positions have been eliminated.

A freeze on hiring central and area office personnel will come into effect and the staff there will be reduced by 20 per cent over a two year period by attrition and reassignment.

Controllable supplies and services for all school accounts will be held at the 1984 expenditure level and will be less ten per cent over last year for the central and area offices.

Other reductions include the number of special education teachers from ten to five, the elimination of telephone

service expansion, a reduction in supply teachers accounts, and reductions in secretarial assistance budgets and board committee expenditures.

After a summary of the budget presented by superintendent of business services Jerry Jenkins, Mr. Harrison went on to say with the limited budget increase the mill rate would not increase over ten per cent.

The percentage increase for the proposed budget, at 3.47 per cent, is the least in the past five years and represents about half of the budget increase of last year's 6.99 per cent.

A revised 1985 budget proposal, presented at Thursday's board meeting, sets the budget at \$155,555,000.

In the budget summary Jerry Jenkins said it was no secret salaries

and benefits made up the majority of the increase. Approximately 70 per cent represents payments to teachers and staff.

Mr. Jenkins explained that dental and workmen's compensation payments had increased and cited the whole fringe benefit plan as increasing by approximately eleven per cent.

Another large increase in transportation costs totalling almost \$400,000 or about a nine per cent increase was attributed to the addition of three new routes for the 1984-85 school year.

In preparing the budget the board was faced with such problems as a minimal increase in grant support from the Ministry of Education, no significant increase in assessment, declining enrolment, and a \$1.9 million deficit

David Banks, GDHS in top decathlon form



It may be only a six man team, but the Georgetown District High School students competing in the March 2 Academic Decathlon had lots of support, behind them. Representing GDHS were Vicki Champ, David Banks, Charlie Gibbs, Andrea

Norgate, Dan Stewart and Neil Sivertson. Teachers who acted in various capacities as coaches were Isabel Thompson, Betty Tamas, Judith Gooding, Kathy Bowman, Sheena Kewley, Bob Kee, Tim Lightfoot, Penny Ridley and Verna Linnev.

Herald Special

Georgetown's David Banks took the top score in the second Canadian Academic Decathlon held March 2.

Mr. Banks paced the Georgetown District High School six-man team to a second place finish against schools from Halton, Hamilton and Alberta.

Students gathered at Lester B. Pearson High School in Burlington to compete in 10 academic events.

This year, the scope of the Canadian Academic Decathlon, in which students compete in ten academic events, was widened to include high schools from Halton County, Hamilton and Alberta.

Next year, Alberta plans to host a Western Canadian event and bring winners to com-

pete with the eastern champions. An Academic Grey Cup is in the making.

Individual team members from GDHS won 15 medals in the events. Gold medal winners were: Vicki Champ, David Banks and Charlie Gibbs; silver medal winners were: Dan Stewart, Vicki Champ, Charlie Gibbs, David Banks and Andrea Norgate; bronze medal winners were: Nick Parker, David Banks, 2, Dan Stewart, 2, Neil Sivertson and Andrea Norgate. David Banks achieved the highest individual score of all students participating.

Coaches, Mrs. Bowman, Mrs. Kewley, Mrs. Gooding, Mr. Kee, Mr. Lightfoot, Mrs. Linnev, Mrs. Tamas, Mrs. Ridley and Mrs. Thomp-

son were delighted with the team's performance.

The Academic Decathlon is a competition consisting of ten academic events in which a six man team competes.

The teams are composed of two A students, two B students and two C students and alternates in the three areas.

Students must write an essay, deliver a prepared and an impromptu speech and be interviewed by a panel of judges. Then they write forty minute examinations in mathematics, science, English literature and grammar, social science, fine arts, economics, and a super quiz (a multi-discipline test).

The International Academic Decathlon meets every four years in the Olympic city. The next one will be held in Seoul, Korea.