

THEY'RE THE BEST



The first group of qualified family support workers received their certification last week from the North Halton Association for the Mentally Retarded training program. Among those who are now able to offer respite care to

client families registered with the Association are: (above) Bunny Russell, Dawn Boyd, Rosemarie Thompson, Iris Delorey, Janet Cummings, Tammy Gower, Pat Mitchell, Sandra Kloosterman, Kippy Grieg,

Colleen Connelly, Barb Kachmar, Doreen Hepburn, Jeanette Fidler, Donna Gumulak, Margo McVittie and Chris Telfer. Missing are Scott Goodwin and Kathleen Lieder. (Herald photo)



Thirty-three teens were the recipients of the annual youth appreciation awards given by the Optimist Club of Georgetown. Candy strippers picking up their certificates at a special dinner held for them by the Optimists were (above) Janine Boomsma, Kelly Brown, Brenda Hamilton, Kim

Howatt, Tanya Hancock, Vanessa Jowett, Kirsty Kermack, Barbara Lovegrove, Lori Mara, Maryanne Moffatt, Toni McClements, Donna McLean, Diana Rosset, Lynn Sheld, Cherie Snow, Raymond Tsui, Kathy Tyrrell, Tina Van Hille and Jennifer Stewart. Missing are Lisa Bradling,

Shannon Burrell, Jodi Dixon, Jennifer French, Jennifer Farragan, Beth Gage, Whitney Grieg, Sheila Hoffmann, Dee Dee Haynes, Melissa Handy, Rhonda Lennie, Jennifer Ramsey, Jana Steele, Jennifer Wanda and co-ordinator Phyllis Dowling. (Herald photo)

Youth centre seeks funding

Three months after their arrival in Oakville, child psychiatrist Dr. Alan Brown and adolescent psychiatrist Dr. Robbie Campbell had a six to eight month waiting list and were working 70 hours weeks.

For the last two years they have continued that pace "and they can't continue to do that," Tim Patterson said.

Mr. Patterson is helping organize an effort to get Halton a treatment centre for children and adolescents in distress. The project, called the Halton Youth Centre was originally an Oakville project but grew as the needs of Halton were uncovered.

A 1981 study shows that 13,308 children between 5 and 19 had problems and needed help. Mr. Patterson said. In Halton Hills the number of children requiring help was estimated to be 1,983. "All kids don't need psychiatric treatment, but we don't know how many do," he added.

Some of the problems children are suffering from include: complex emotional handicaps, depression, anxiety, drug or alcohol abuse, physical or sexual abuse, anorexia or bulimia, autism, hyperactivity, family breakdown, schizophrenia, Mr. Patterson said.

Today there are only eight mental health beds in Halton, Mr. Patterson said. There are 70 Children's Aid Society beds, "but you must have a really bad problem to get one," he added.

The Halton Youth Centre is expected to cost \$3 million. It will have 24 beds and an out-patient department. It

is estimated that over \$1 million will be needed every year to run the facility and pay the staff.

The location of the project has not been picked. Mr. Patterson believes it will be somewhere between Oakville and Milton. He hopes building begins next year. The number of children going through the centre every year is expected to be between 2,000 and 2,500. "Politically, Oakville is the best place to be. The people of the north have got to support it strongly for serve to get to the north," Mr. Patterson said.

The long range goal is to have beds for children at hospitals across the region. The Halton Youth Centre would be the base for treatment and some help would come from there.

Until now the project has been completely funded by the public. Mr. Patterson has been making speeches to groups and service clubs all over the region. Response to their first fund-raiser, Casino Night, on Nov. 5 was good and it continues to be good, he said.

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Elderly have service planner

Christmas Night
While you lie snug and warm
Between your soft white sheets,
A worthier one than you
May have to walk the streets.

Under a freezing sky.
Or through the sleet and snow,
A worthier one than you
May wander to and fro.

Do you deserve to be
Well-housed, well-clothed, well-fed?
A worthier one than you
May search dustbins for bread.

While you lie snug and warm,
While you forget the poor,
Christ, in His mother's arms,
May be outside your door.

people served, which will prevent duplication of services.

To promote public awareness of the services available, information booths will be set up in such places as shopping malls. A public awareness video will be prepared for use of groups or conferences.

A semi-annual planning committee will meet the elderly once a year in each of the five areas to hear their problems and suggestions for solutions.

The sub-committee on Housing and Accommodation is presently faced with the problem of up-grading the facilities of the Halton Centennial Manor. Since transportation is a problem for relatives to visit the Manor, the advisability of designating it for Milton residents only is being

considered.

The Region would then purchase services in private facilities in other areas, rather than move the elderly from their own locality.

Foster Homes for Adults may solve the problem for those elderly who have no family to see that they are adequately cared for.

A housing registry or accommodation available to the elderly will be formed as well as a list of those seniors willing to share their home with another.

The committee on Community Support and Transportation has a mammoth task, especially in the northern areas of the region.

Mrs. O'Hara is anxious to speak to any seniors' club to assess problems and find solutions. Call her at 877-8113.

—Anon.
Recently, Halton Region appointed Mrs. Valerie O'Hara, formerly co-ordinator of Halton Helping Hands, as Co-ordinator of Services to the Elderly. Her duties will be to assist the community implement the recommendations in the recent regional study on the needs of the elderly. The focus will be in the areas of information availability, housing and accommodation and transportation. Sub-committees have been formed to deal with each of these three concerns.
The co-ordinate information on the existing services to the elderly, a central data base is planned and will be available to all agencies who serve the community. There will be complete information on the work done by the various agencies and the number of

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