

CAS avoids deficit, expands programs

1985 was seen as a turn-around year for the Halton Children's Aid Society.

It was the first time in a decade the Society has not experienced financial difficulties, said President David Patterson.

The CAS held their annual general meeting April 2. By solving their financial difficulties, the Society can turn its attention to developing more preventative services and work towards reorganizing the Family Service Department, Mr Patterson

said.

In one year, the CAS went from an operating deficit of \$85,329 (in 1984) to a surplus of \$107,271 last year.

The president acknowledged the support of Halton Region and the Ministry of Community and Social Services for their funding support.

The relatively new Child and Family Services Act increases the public accountability of those who provide services through the CAS, Mr. Patterson said. Rights of those who are served are explicitly noted

in the Act, he said. "Services are more costly under the new Act. We sincerely hope the lives of children will be greatly improved because of it," he said.

Executive Director Ron Coupland outlined some of the highlights of 1985 taken from the annual report. The following are a sampling of the 'highlights'.

A new emphasis on the re-integration of their children to their natural families has led to a decrease in the number of children

admitted to the Society's care.

A belief that the number of adolescents admitted to the care of the Society was reduced because of the work of the new Crisis Unit.

Child sexual abuse cases increased by more than 56 per cent while physical abuse cases declined.

A Child Abuse Team introduced in 1985 affords new and improved level of service to this unfortunate situation.

Funding by the CAS supported the work of the Halton Child Abuse

Council and a part-time co-ordinator was hired.

A Teen-Parent Program was introduced to support teenage parents. A program to help women who are pregnant decide whether to raise their child or to place the child for adoption was expanded.

149 volunteers served the Society in a variety of roles.

In 1985, 175 children lived for some days or months in the homes of 65 foster parents. Foster parents for teenagers are still urgently needed.



Above is a graph which shows the increase of sexual abuse investigations taken on by the Children's Aid Society. The graph also indicates the decrease in the amount of physical abuse investigations.

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FAMILY SECTION

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Jack TANNERS
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One thing about clowning around - it's always in season. The Georgetown and Acton Libraries sponsored a clown face-painting program, which included making hats and drawings, Saturday. Seen here putting on some finishing touches in Lincoln Best, 5, is student page Kim Wright. (Herald photo)

Paint me a happy face

Escapism in acting for GLT performer



Ashley Windsor

You have to want to be a bit of an exhibitionist to get up on stage at all, says an amateur performer with the Georgetown Little Theatre.

A 35-year-old father of three, Ashley Windsor is playing Bob Phillips in the forthcoming British comedy "How the Other Half Loves".

Rehearsals are a grueling Monday, Wednesday and Friday nights and all day Sundays.

A veteran of the Little Theatre's "Murder Mistaken", "The Importance of Being Earnest" and "Our Town", the rehearsal schedule isn't anything new or unexpected for Mr Windsor.

However, he's been away from the stage for three years, because of his job which entails a fair bit of travelling.

Mr Windsor is an advertising display representative with The Financial Post. He's responsible for the New England States and Texas, and frequently he is in the U.S. for a week at a time.

"I like being somebody else. At work you can get into a bit of a rut, have to do certain things all the time. For me, acting is a form of escapism," Mr Windsor said. "It certainly fills in a lot of time. Holy shoot, you're busy!"

Ashley was living in a hotel, work

ing in Ocean Falls, a paper mill town 350 miles north of Vancouver when he met his wife Leanne. There used to be 11,000 men living in that hotel and less than a dozen eligible young women, Mr Windsor said, conceding his luck at wooing one of the ladies.

There were stunts of working for No-Nonsense Pantyhose and for Nveya in Montreal before teachers' strikes brought the Windsor family to Georgetown in 1976.

It was here he picked up his hobby of acting, something he hadn't done since his school days.

As Bob Phillips, Mr. Windsor plays an independent fellow who enjoys his drink and is having an affair with his boss' wife. An alibi gets him into trouble with his wife during a dinner party.

"It's probably one of the hardest plays I've ever been in, I think," Mr. Windsor said. The hard part is coping with a set that represents two separate homes at the same time, with the actors pretending not to see or hear what's going on on the other half of the stage.

"If we do it all right, it should be funny," he said. "I hope the people laugh with us and not at us."

Just as Ashley would get nervous as a teenage actor, he gets nervous now.

"Oh hell, even now I'm pacing up and down," he said. "It's quite scary, when people have paid money to come see something, even though they make allowances because you're not professional."

Knowing his lines is important, but so is having the words actually sink in with their meaning so that Mr. Windsor starts to act like Bob Phillips would.

"How the Other Half Loves" is playing April 18, 19, 21, 23, 25 and 26. For ticket information call 877-3700.

Hazardous materials concern firefighters

By ANI PEDERIAN
Herald Staff

The last big industrial fire was in 1977, at a book warehousing company on Todd Road, Georgetown. The fire burned the Bookdale building right down to the ground, and losses were over \$1 million.

In the nine years since, Halton Hills hasn't had any large industrial fires, and the town's fire prevention officer says we've been fortunate.

"Industrial fires, if they get going, tend to be really big," Bob Meads said. "Obviously the potential is a lot greater when it's an industrial fire."

There's the loss of expensive machinery that may be irreplaceable and the potential for many employee deaths. Compared to the damages wreaked by a factory fire, most house fires are minimal in value, the fire prevention officer said.

The bulk of the fire calls fielded by Halton Hills firefighters are house fires, and most of them are minor fires with little property loss and no injuries or deaths resulting.

Recently, the firefighters held a training session on handling hazardous materials.

"We've done it before, but we're getting into it more and more and this is the first time we'll be having two sessions in one year," Mr. Meads said. "Obviously, hazardous materials are becoming more and more of a concern, but we're trying to cope with them and training to deal with them."

The greatest danger for firefighters are the buildings with a high turnover of material, such as warehouses where the material is here today and gone tomorrow, and they store everything and anything, the fire prevention officer said.

"If we know what a place manufactures, then we have a really good idea of what they use in the process," Mr. Meads said. As an example, he said firefighters going to a business that manufactures fiberglass would anticipate finding various component resins there and fight the fire accordingly.

However, asking businessmen operating warehouses to keep the fire department up-to-date on what's in their storage buildings is unrealistic, Mr. Meads said.

"It's just no possible for them to keep us up-to-date, they'd be calling us every day," he said. Not knowing what's inside the building is one of the greatest dangers for firefighters when hazardous materials are stored on the premises, especially if firefighters don't suspect their presence.

"It's like being out in the dark. You can't see the unknown," Mr. Meads said.

The federal government has been legislating one foot square placarding on vehicles and three inch square labelling on containers that contain hazardous materials and the fire prevention officer says that makes the job easier for firefighters.

"In a real serious fire situation, there's a good chance the placards would be destroyed, but it's a step in the right direction," Mr. Meads acknowledged. The legislation covers compressed gas cylinders, radioactive materials, corrosive materials, and poisons.

His only complaint about the placards is that they're too small and firefighters have to be pretty

close to the hazardous material to be able to read them. The fire truck is stocked with binoculars as a result.

Firefighters have hazardous materials books and reference guides in the first fire truck on the scene, Mr. Meads said.

"The information isn't on all the hazardous materials, because they invent to more every day, but they have a lot of information in them. They tell you how to deal with the materials in a fire situation, what type of protective clothing is necessary and if the material is dangerous if ingested or inhaled," he said.

As well, firefighters have access to a 24-hour hot line on hazardous materials called Can-tech, and many large companies, like Dupont, have resource people that can be called upon during a hazardous situation.

"There's a lot of co-operation in the industries now to help make it safer," Mr. Meads said. Sometimes, chemicals pose no danger to firefighters, until they mix.

"It's difficult to know how chemicals will react when intermixed. That's a problem in a building with many chemicals in it or in the transporting of them," Mr. Meads said.



Firefighters (left to right) Bob Paul and Roger Brown wait to see if a fire is completely extinguished before heading back to their normal

Father Murray lands posting

Father Murray Kroetsch was once an associate pastor in Georgetown and will soon be the director of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops Liturgy Office, English Sector.

His appointment is in Ottawa and begins August 1, 1986. Until then, Father Kroetsch will continue working in Hamilton where he has been since 1981.

"I am pleased that our Diocese is able to offer the services of such a good and talented priest to the entire Church in Canada. I join with the priests and people of our Diocese in wishing well to Father Kroetsch and in assuring him of our prayers and support," said Bishop Anthony Tommas of the Diocese of Hamilton.

One of Father Kroetsch's duties as director will be promoting the celebration of the sacraments across Canada. Other duties given to the father include working with regional, national and international liturgical organizations.

Father Kroetsch will be bringing a little music to Ottawa. He is a church musician and had 10 years experience as a music co-ordinator before his 1978 ordination.

He also has an M.A. in Liturgical Studies from the University of Notre Dame, which he completed in 1985.

IN THE HILLS

Godspell

"Godspell" is coming to E.C. Drury High School. The cast is made up of the hearing and hearing impaired. The musical plays May 8, 9 and 10 at 8 p.m., E.C. Drury High School is in Milton at 215 Ontario Street South. The \$5 tickets are available at The School Box Office and at the door.

Breathe easier

The Halton Lung Association will be sponsoring an Adult Asthma Seminar at the Burlington Holiday Inn on Saturday, April 19, from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. The registration fee, which will include lunch, coffee break and participant folder, is \$20. Anyone interested in registering may call the Halton Lung Association at 632-8499. Registration is limited.

Downtown car permits

Monthly parking permits on the three town-owned and operated metered lots are going to be tried out in Georgetown.

A \$20 permit will let you park all day (9 a.m. to 9 p.m.) in these lots, for the monthly fee.

Acton will also have monthly parking permit fees of \$20, but it'll be for overnight (midnight to 9 a.m.) parking at the Church and Willow Streets parking lot.

Overnight parking in Georgetown will be tried on Back Street in the Mill and Main Streets areas, with a permit system, again \$20 a month.

Land of tea

Did you know that half the doctors and lawyers in Sri Lanka are women? GDHS grad Sheila Macdonald visited the "land of tea" under the World Youth Exchange last year, and will talk about development, the role of women, religion, and her own experiences there on Tuesday April 22, 8 p.m. at St. John's United Church. A presentation of the local "10 Days" group and St. John's young women's group.

Human relations

A Human Relations and Interpersonal Communication Course will start at Georgetown District High School April 29 at 7 p.m. The aim of the course is to increase skills which may help to prevent family breakdown, depression and relieve stress. Call the continuing education department at 878-8451 or C. Bertelson at 1-519-837-3882.

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