

Citizens' forum

Home care needed

Dear Sir,
The only option for parents seeking placement of a handicapped child a decade ago was an institutionalized setting.
Fortunately, other options exist today.
Among them are the Halton Home Care and Halton Shared Care fostering programs, which are funded by the Ministry of Community and Social Services and administered by the Halton C.A.S. The key to their success, however, rests with the community.
Home care strives to provide a full-time foster family setting in Halton Region for children who have special needs that cannot be met in their homes.
Shared Care serves the needs of parents who require more than occasional relief from the demands of caring for their handicapped child. The new Shared Care program allows the handicapped child to spend up to 14 days per month with a foster family in their community.
Program co-ordinator Sharon Hatter is urgently seeking four families to accept children through the Shared Care program and two families to foster children through the Home Care program.

Five of the six families most urgently needing assistance reside in Burlington. The sixth lives in North Halton.
Ms. Hatter notes Shared Care children must be placed with families in the same community, while Home Care children may be placed anywhere in the region. It is of course, preferable to keep all of the children in their own communities to avoid such disruptions as changing schools.
Placing these children has proven to be a tremendous challenge, but Ms. Hatter thinks it's important that members of the community put themselves in the shoes of the parents of the handicapped child.
"These parents are very tired. They've devoted 8, 10 and 15 years to caring for these children at home and they're exhausted. They need some relief so they can spend time with their other children and also so they can have some life of their own," Ms. Hatter says.
In an effort to make the community more aware of the Halton families in need of support, the Halton C.A.S. recently interviewed the parents about the realities of daily life with a handicapped child.
For further information contact Sharon Hatter at 844-8211 or 335-5757.

Summer camps

Dear Sir,
As a young girl, the words "summer school" were synonymous with suffering.
Although I never had to attend, I vividly recall teachers referring to the experience in such threatening tones that I was convinced going to classes in July must be a fate worse than death.
In short, I developed a severe case of "summer schoolphobia".
It wasn't until last summer that I stumbled upon a cure for what ailed me, and I hope you'll pass the remedy along to your readers by way of this letter and/or the enclosed press releases.
The cure is called Summer Campus, a unique chance to combine a summer holiday with the opportunity to do something new and exciting.
Mom, dad and the kids can live right on campus, eat in the cafeterias or campus restaurants and take any of 25 short courses. No beds to make; no meals to prepare - and all at bargain prices!
There's a kindercamp for the small fry and courses and activities for those aged 6 to 16 that run the gamut from sailing and horseback riding to computer camp. Adults can select from courses as varied as French, beekeeping, cartooning, negotiating, and landscape design.
Summer Campus takes place at the University of Guelph, a scenic one-hour drive from Halton Regional Headquarters.
Last summer, I took a fantastic three-day course, entitled "Forks in the Road: Coping with Life's Choices" and a one-day stress management clinic. I'm still trying to make up my mind what to take this year...everything looks so interesting!
The best part of Summer Campus is that you do not have to have any special qualifications to take these courses.
For more information, call or write Kathy Freeburn, Continuing Education Division, University of Guelph, Guelph, Ontario N1G 2W1 (519-824-4120, ext. 3956).
I offer this insight on Summer Campus as a gesture of goodwill to others who would like to holiday on a budget while learning something new!

Sincerely,
Ann Hauprich,
Morrison, Ont.

Keep an open mind

Re: Robertson-Wilcox inquest.
Dear Sir,
As a family we have been devastated by Chris' death. As a family, accompanied by two of her friends, we attended the inquest on June 24th, we found it to be an insensitive and frustrating experience.
Because witnesses were under oath, statements were accepted as fact. We could refute many of these "facts", but because of pending lawsuits, we cannot do so.
We only ask that anyone reading those accounts of the accident keep an open mind; use their common sense; check facts, if possible, and remember the responsible and competent person Chris was.
Nothing we can say or do can bring Chris back to us, but in our hearts and minds we know that Mary Robertson and Chris would be alive today if that stop sign had been facing in the right direction.
The Wilcox family.

Help and support

Dear Sir,
This is to let you know that the recent article on Big Brothers is much appreciated. It was well done and reflected accurately on what Big Brother service is all about.
Also, I enjoyed having the opportunity to meet with you. Help and support from our community newspapers is an important component in keeping the people in the community aware of our services or any changes in this respect.
Again, thank you.
Sincerely,
The Big Brothers Association of Oakville and Milton Incorporated,
Pordis Coakley,
Executive Director.



COLOR MY WORLD

Boxes and boxes of used and new crayons or marking pencils will be sent to Nicaragua, thanks to the work of the Georgetown Y's International committee. Cheryl Lightowers and Janet Boreen coordinated the collection of used crayons from area schools to be sent to the Central American country. The project is in conjunction with the Central Ontario Lakeshore Y.M.C.A. Seen here are (clockwise from front, left) Bobby Takeuchi, Ami Takeuchi, John Lightowers, Sara Boreen and John Boreen. (Herald photo)

A 'golden' festival for Kirkness couple

Relatives and friends gathered in Stewart Hall, Knox Presbyterian Church, Acton, June 22 to celebrate the golden anniversary of Meryl and Charles Kirkness.
Their daughter Katharine and husband Barrie Brayford of New Liskeard hosted the reception assisted by three granddaughters Arlea, Megan and Jane.
The tables were beautifully decorated with yellow and white roses. The ladies aid of Knox Church served a beautiful wedding brunch. Guests were also treated to tastefully wrapped pieces of the wedding cake, baked by Katharine Brayford.
Mayor Russ Miller and his wife attended and presented the popular couple with a wall plaque and gifts from Halton Hills council.
Congratulations were received from Opposition Leader John Turner, MP Otto Jelinek, MPP Don Knight and MP for Temiskaming, John MacDougall.
Friends and relatives were present from Acton, Brampton, Clarksville, Burlington, Toronto, London, Guelph, New Liskeard, Bracebridge, Gravenhurst, Concord and Los Angeles.
In the evening a family dinner was enjoyed at the Olde Hide House.

Volunteer your time

Do you have some spare time this summer? The North Halton Volunteer Bureau, a program of the Social Planning Council, has various positions open that you might be interested in.
In Acton, volunteers are needed from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. on Monday, Wednesday and Friday and 10:00 a.m. to noon on Saturday to help operate a toy lending library.

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Health Act short falls

A Uniform Mental Health Act is being considered by all the provinces including Ontario. In an effort to insure conformity this legislation is being prepared by the Uniform Law Conference of Canada.
The draft proposal has certain shortcomings. It appears to violate certain rights guaranteed under the Charter of Rights and Freedoms. The Advocacy Resource Centre for the Handicapped (ARCH) has reviewed this draft and has reached some conclusions.
Adopting and modifying many of the Ontario criteria for proposed assessment and commitment the most important difference proposed is the inclusion of "serious emotional harm to another person" resulting from mental disorder as sufficient reason for involuntary assessment and commitment. This would appear to contravene a person's guaranteed right not to be deprived of life, liberty, and security except in accordance with the principles of fundamental justice.
There is no time limit specified within which a review board must respond to an application for review of involuntary commitment. This is unlike to Criminal Code specifying an immediate review and could be challenged under sections 87 and 815 of the Charter.
The draft does not state clearly when it is appropriate to use restraint as a method to control patients and how to distinguish between the use of medication as a restraint or the use of medication as treatment.
Although allowing for discussion on an alternative, the draft proposes to provide a similar mechanism to the Ontario statute which would allow a mentally competent patient or the proxy of an incompetent patient to be overridden with respect to involuntary treatment. No other area of medicine allows treatment over the wishes of a competent patient.
Decisions related to incompetency should be dealt with immediately by an impartial review board. This is not what is proposed as the decision



Against the odds
PAT WOODE

tary out-patients and certificates of leave. The individual then must conform to whatever conditions are set down if he or she wishes to retain their "liberty".
The draft also proposes a broad and encompassing statement that could be used to deny the right of a patient access to their own clinical records. Not only could you be forced to take treatment you don't want, you could be denied knowledge of the results and/or the interpretation of the results.
For more information, contact: Carla McKague at ARCH at (416) 492-8255.

In the hills

Activity van

The Travelling Activity Centre is a van, sponsored by the recreation and parks department, that travels around to local parks and rural communities to provide games, sports, crafts and excitement. The following outlines where and when you can visit our van. This activity centre is free!
July 9, 10 to 11:30 a.m. Limehouse School Park; 1 to 2:30 p.m. Prospect Park (Acton).
July 11, 10:30 to 12 noon, Glen Williams, Park; 1 to 2:30 p.m., St. Francis School.
July 14, 1 to 2:30 p.m., Joseph Gibbons School; 3 to 4 p.m., River Run.
July 16, 10 to 11:30 a.m., Fairgrounds, 1 to 2:30 p.m., Kingham Park (Acton), 3 to 4 p.m., Robert Little School (Acton).
July 18, 11:15 to 12:15 p.m., Bovis Park (Acton).

94th birthday

By WINIFRED SMITH
Herald Correspondent
BALLINAFADA-A very happy occasion took place July 1 at Bud and Evelyn Snows. His mother, Mrs. Phedela Drouillard was celebrating her 94th birthday.
All her family were present, as well as grandchildren and great grandchildren. Her brother Tom Given and his wife Lillie were there, also a special friend and a long time neighbor, Winifred Smith joined along with the rest in the celebration.
Phedela enjoys good health in spite of her advancing years. We hope this esteemed lady enjoys many more happy birthdays.

BARRY D. TIMLECK
Chartered Accountant
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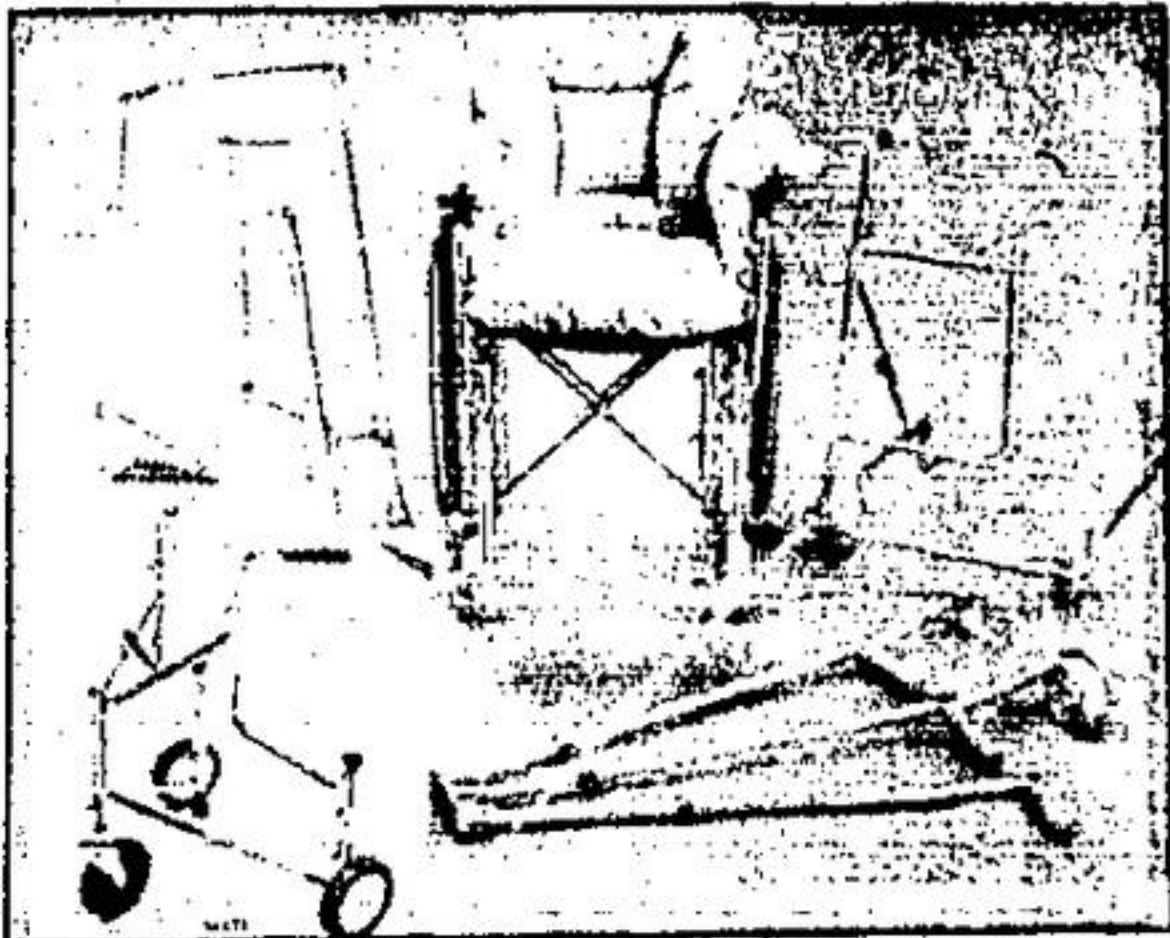
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