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# the HERALD

# FAMILY

## SECTION

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### In the hills

**Wills seminar**  
A free seminar will be held on wills and estate planning for families with handicapped members. The North Halton Association for the Mentally Retarded is hosting the Feb. 19 seminar. Rod Walsh, a lawyer with the Ontario Association for the Mentally Retarded, will lead the seminar. For more information call 877-5557.

**Pre-school play**  
There are still many openings for the Acton playshop program offered by the recreation and parks department. From Knox Presbyterian Church in Acton, Children 2½ to 5 years have the opportunity to participate in a fun filled and learning environment. For more information call the recreation and parks department at 877-5165 ext. 260.

**Less travel**  
Acton's developmentally handicapped children won't have to travel as far for help anymore. In January The North Halton Association for the Mentally Handicapped will supply a resource teacher for Acton children. Children enrolled in community day care programs will work daily with the teacher. They will also remain integrated with non-handicapped children. The teacher will work with as many as four handicapped children.

**Apartheid talk**  
The former head of the Anglican Church, Archbishop Scott of Toronto, will be speaking on apartheid Jan. 26 at St. George's Anglican Church. The former archbishop was on the commonwealth committee that investigated apartheid in South Africa and produced a report recommending harsher actions be taken against South Africa.

**Be a volunteer**  
Do you have a day each week you can dedicate to a group of Seniors from your community? Volunteers are required for the Milton Place, New Seniors Day Program, located within Halton Centennial Manor. The program will involve working with the Day Program clients, individually, or in groups. Programming will also include integrated activities with residents of Halton Centennial Manor. Activities will consist of recreational, craft, and spiritual programs for the elderly. If you are interested in helping others and gaining self-satisfaction, please consider this position for yourself. For more information, call the Volunteer Coordinator, 878-4141.

**Summer jobs**  
The recreation and parks department is looking for enthusiastic and responsible individuals who would like to be part of our Summer Playground and Aquatic staff. If you enjoy working with children then pick up an application form at the recreation and parks department office or the Acton Indoor Pool (Acton Blvd.). The deadline for applications is Feb. 6. We will be beginning our pre-selection process in March.

**Babies welcome**  
The La Leche League of Georgetown is continuing a series of informal meetings open to all women interested in breastfeeding. Babies are always welcome. The next meeting will be at 7 Park Avenue, Georgetown, Jan. 20 at 7:30 p.m. For more information call 877-0819.

**Heater trouble**  
A propane heater was malfunctioning Saturday just after midnight, and firefighters went to a Greenore Crescent home to see. There was no damage.

### Ready, set, go!



When the snow is good, children and parents head for the hills for some old-fashioned tobogganing fun. Seen here enjoying the outdoors at North Halton Golf and Country Club are (from left) Meredith Glasse-Davies, 1, Elise Hurvell, 2, Lucia Glasse-Davies, 2, and Rowan Hurvell, 9 months. In the back tending to the youngsters is Vicki Glasse-Davies. (Herald photo)

## Acton's daily reporter shuns Lois Lane image

It wasn't until after Acton native Maggie Hannah became a mother and teacher that she decided to pursue a career in journalism. And she had to persevere. "Somehow, Lois Lane didn't seem like the proper role model of my life," she said of her early school days. During her first job interview for a reporter's position, the newspaper told a woman with a family couldn't "be free enough." But the mother of three proved wrong. Surviving countless night assignments and 20-hour days on Mondays and Tuesdays proved she had both stamina and commitment. Until Friday, Mrs. Hannah was the Acton beat reporter for the Guelph Daily Mercury. She covered news in the Acton area from her home base on 16 Mill Street East for seven years. Previous to that she spent three years at The Herald, a sister paper to the Mercury. She has now accepted a transfer she requested as a city court reporter for the Mercury. Recently remarried, to Vasyil Petrushevsky, but keeping her bylined name at work, she wanted the opportunity to spend more nights and weekends at home. Mrs. Hannah was born and raised in Acton, living on a farm on Highway 7 just east of the town. She went to school with Acton Councillor Norm Elliott and taught Georgetown Councillor John McDonald when she was a teacher at Glen Williams Public School. After living in northern Ontario for five years, she and her husband returned to the area and bought a house on Gibbons Place in Georgetown. She wanted a change from supply



Maggie Hannah

teaching. After taking a Sheridan College course in journalism, Mrs. Hannah was hired by The Herald where she eventually won an award for her writing. She placed first in the Ontario Community Newspapers Association category for writing the best agricultural story. She then began working in Acton for the "Mercury" in the office she knew as a child as Wiles Bus Depot and ice cream parlour. "The cops used to think I lived there," she said. "It's a fact of life that news happens and you don't schedule your life around it," she said. Mrs. Hannah feels she is working in an interesting field. "There's no more fascinating creature than man," she said. Reporters are fortunate they are able to meet and talk with so many interesting people, she said. There have been some trying moments on the job, she admits. The old teletype was a challenge. The electric current was disturbed by high winds and storms and the impulses sometimes came up gibberish to the Guelph-based editors. "You should try sending a story in a

thunderstorm," she said, laughing. On one assignment, Mrs. Hannah covered a fire where 150 pigs were trapped in a barn. "From the nose, you would have thought there were humans inside," she said. One of the sows broke loose and chased her up the nearest tree. She laughs about another incident in the country covering a fire. She overheard the fire chief's paper go off at the mayor's inauguration. "I was walking in the dark, I couldn't see the lane, I was terrified of the dogs, tripping and swearing," she said. Mrs. Hannah landed in a manure pile in her high heels. "Being a country girl, I knew exactly where I was," she said. Travelling an average of 700 kilometres per month on the job, Mrs. Hannah hasn't had a Monday night off in 10 years, she said. As a district reporter, she covers council meetings for Erin, Hillsburgh, Halton Hills, and monitors Rockwood and Milton council meetings. She's responsible for board of education meetings in Burlington for Halton and covers regional council meetings. She also writes features, covers fires, police news and court cases. While on the job she's been threatened, received anonymous calls, and even one time a paper boy's face was slapped for something she wrote. But it's satisfying to research a story well enough that someone feels motivated to threaten her, she said. Now a grandmother (her husband has two, she has one), Mrs. Hannah just has her son left to be married. In the meantime, she'll continue to send out news of the day to anxious editors from her new "beat" at the Guelph courtroom.

## Women spurning volunteer work as firefighters

By SANDY CAMPBELL, Herald Staff  
Only two things stop a woman from joining volunteer fire departments: desire to apply and good health. Despite the lack of barriers, only one woman has applied to the Georgetown volunteer fire department but she didn't show up for her interview, said Fire Prevention Officer Bob Meads. No woman has ever applied to the Acton volunteer department as far as Deputy Chief Bob Hyde knows. This apparent lack of local interest does not represent what is happening in Ontario. One of the 27 firefighters of the Hillsburgh and District Fire Department is a woman. She is a registered nurse who has been with the department since the fall, said Hillsburgh Fire Chief Bob Cheyne. Fire Chief Cheyne believes there are as many as 70 female volunteer firefighters in Ontario. There are at least three full-time firefighters in Ontario, he said. One is in Ottawa. The others are in Windsor and North Toronto.



NOT JUST FOR MEN-It's not that women are being rejected from becoming volunteers for the fire department. It's just that there is a lack of interest among the female population in fighting fires. The Halton Hills fire department does not have a woman firefighter. But if the proper candidate came along, she would be accepted. (Herald file photo)

Bob Meads suggested that 70 may be a conservative number. Some isolated towns, where the men work far from the town, have volunteer departments made up mainly of women, he said. Two of the important factors determining who gets on the Acton and Georgetown departments are good health and availability. Firefighters must live close enough, so they can leave their work or homes to answer calls. A doctor determines if an applicant's health is good enough to join the department, Mr. Meads said. Size is not an important consideration. "In some cases a smaller person has an advantage for rescues in confined areas," Mr. Meads said. The Hillsburgh department is pleased with its female firefighter. She is still on her six-month probation period and on her way to becoming a full-time member of the department, Mr. Cheyne said. "It's great having someone who has experience and knowledge," Mr. Cheyne said of her medical experience as a nurse. Good health and a reasonable amount of strength are important qualifications to have when getting on the Hillsburgh department. "We don't need a big ox of a woman who throws men out of the way," Mr. Cheyne said. Mr. Meads speculated that more women are not volunteer firefighters because "it's not the kind of job they find attractive. It's a messy job. Why aren't more women auto mechanics?" An advantage of women firefighters is that they might be better at consoling a victim because people have faith in firefighters, male or female, this would not be a great advantage, Mr. Meads said. There are 80 volunteer firefighters in Halton Hills, 45 in Georgetown and 35 in Acton. If women joined the departments, it would not create a need for renovations.

## VON makes 49,188 visits

The traditional role of the Victorian Order of Nurses - the Visiting Nursing Program - provides nursing care services enabling patients to remain in their homes. The service operates seven days a week, 24 hours a day. In Halton, the VON Halton Branch has a permanent staff of 20 plus 30 relief nurses. Last year, 49,188 visits were made to patients in homes across the region involving 49,870 hours. Under this program, VON nurses provide many critical medical services: -Assessing nursing needs of patients, -Instructing patients about healthy lifestyles including diet and exercise;

-Planning and teaching care with family members, -Monitoring medications, -Monitoring blood pressures, -Providing special treatments (changing dressings, enemas and others), -Lending assistance with personal care, -Assisting with dialysis, -Respiration therapy. According to VON Halton Branch Executive Director, Margaret Macleod, most patients qualify for government funded programs which provide a low-cost alternative to hospital care. The cost of 96 per cent of the nursing program visits is covered by funding provided by the Ontario Ministry of Health.

For others, the fee for service is adjustable according to the patient's ability to pay or is often covered by private insurance plans. Specified contributions from the United Ways of Oakville, Burlington, Hamilton-Wentworth, Halton Hills, and Milton help cover for patients who receive assistance on a sliding scale. Since government funding is slipping behind current needs, the VON Halton Branch is launching a membership/fundraising drive. This program coincides with the national celebration of VON Week across Canada, January 25 to 31, marking the 90th anniversary of the founding of VON in Canada.

## The town will demolish if the law not obeyed

If a slum landlord fails to make repairs or demolish a building when asked to by the town's property standards officers, then the town will go ahead and have the work done, councillors decided Monday. Work up to \$5,000 will be carried out by the town in such a situation, councillors agreed. Bylaw Enforcement Officer Bob Ustrycki said the bill for the work done will then be levied against the land tax roll of the property owner if he fails to reimburse the municipality.

"We've been lucky in the past three years, people have been conforming to the orders," Mr. Ustrycki said. "We're quickly approaching the situation where someone isn't going to conform and repairs will have to be done by the municipality." Councillors delegated the authority to demolish or repair where the work is under \$5,000, to the bylaw enforcement officer. If the work is to cost more, council approval must be obtained.

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1984 GRAN PRIX, 8 Cyl., Auto, PS/IB, Stereo, Air	SIK 96109	\$232.32
1984 BUICK SKYHAWK, 4 Cyl., 4 Spd., PS/IB, Stereo	SIK 96110	\$189.40
1984 TEMPO GL, 2 Dr., 4 Cyl., Auto, PS/IB, Air	SIK 96108	\$170.22
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1983 FIREBIRD, 6 Cyl., Auto, PS/IB, Stereo, Air	SIK 96107	\$249.38
1983 MUSTANG, 2 Dr., 4 Cyl., Auto, PS/IB	SIK 96120	\$170.22
1979 BUICK LeSABRE, 2 Dr., 8 Cyl., Auto, PS/IB, Air	SIK 96115A	\$129.04
1984 DODGE CARAVAN, 4 Cyl., Auto, PS/IB, Stereo	SIK 96119	\$282.89
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