



Assistant Cubmaster Hans Tremblay and others are seen here helping his Cubs make woggles at the annual craft workshop Jan. 23 sponsored by the North Halton District, Scouts Canada. The

workshop was held at St. John's United Church and Cubs attended from Acton, Georgetown, Glen Williams, Hornby and Limehouse. (Photo by Jean Layman)



Scouters Club Co-ordinator Terry Colter, middle, is seen here with guest speakers Murray Harrison (left) and Elaine Williamson (right) at the North Halton District Scouters Club. Elaine Williamson of The Willos Associates spoke about how

to get Leaders and keep them, as well as getting instructors to set goals. Murray Harrison of Acton also spoke briefly to the gathering. He is with the Red Cross Society and talked about emergency services. (Photo by Jean Layman)



During the regular monthly meeting of the Scouters Club, District Commissioner Elaine Hannah invited Art McReavy and Brian Sheppard to serve on the

district service team for the north Halton district. Seen here are (left to right) Art McReavy, Brian Sheppard and Elaine Hannah. (Photo by Jean Layman)

Project focuses on high school drop-outs

By CHERYL MOODER
Herald Staff

Every year a new crop of students enter the world of high school. And yet for every 100 of these Grade nine students, 62 taking the general level course and 14 taking the advanced level course never see graduation day.

During the fall 1987 Throne Speech the provincial Liberal government committed itself to decreasing the drop-out level in Ontario schools by one-third within five years.

To achieve this goal, the Ministry of Education set aside \$50,000 to fund projects aimed at reducing the drop-out rate.

The Halton Board of Education was chosen as one of 12 projects, selected from a total of 75 proposed projects, and received \$50,000 to help address this issue.

The Student Retention Project will study 60 elementary students in all parts of the region, said Superintendent of Curriculum Services Pauline Laing.

It will profile students in Grade six and eight who are most likely to be drop-outs. In this way, teachers can identify the characteristics of children most likely to leave school early and move in and help that

child at a young age before it is too late.

Ms. Laing feels there is a problem in the attitude children have towards school. The project, which will be implemented in the fall, will help students "develop good feelings towards school," she said.

If at an early age children feel successful at school, Ms. Laing said, "they are more likely to carry on until they receive a graduation diploma. They will feel positive towards education."

By the end of January the Halton Board of Education will have hired a project leader who will prepare material for the teachers and coordinate the year-long project.

Ms. Laing is not sure how many schools will be involved with the project but, she said, at least six schools from all over the region will be selected. There will be one designated school from east Burlington, west Burlington, east Oakville, west Oakville, Milton and Georgetown.

The superintendent is convinced that Halton Region is significantly below the provincial average of drop-out students. "We keep more students than average," she said.

But Ms. Laing added, every stu-

dent is important and if one drops out before graduation, that is one student too many.

Why do so many students leave school early? One reason is students set unrealistic goals and when they find they can not achieve them they give up, said John Todd, head of special education at the Georgetown District High School. They have little self-esteem and confidence, he said. They have an attitude built in from preschool that they can't do well in school.

Through peer pressure, teenagers cut classes. "You can not cut class and keep your marks up," said Principal Barbara Singleton.

The curriculum may not be appropriate for them, said Carl Colbran, head of guidance and counselling at the high school. They do not experience success and become frustrated and angry. Or, if the support is lost at home, students have nothing to motivate them, he said.

Students may not achieve high grades because of issues at home, learning disabilities and health reasons, said Ms. Singleton.

"It has got to help," the principal said of the Student Retention Project. For the moment there are already a number of programs to

help keep students in school or help in the transition from school life to work.

A special co-op program run by Mr. Todd prepares students for leaving school. It works on a half-time field placement coupled with school work. In the program, the student will achieve five to six credits.

The Supervised Alternative Learning for Excused Pupils allows students, who are not experiencing success in school, to leave and take a job, Ms. Singleton said. A committee reviews the students' school history and makes the decision as to whether or not leaving school would benefit the student.

Among other such programs the Georgetown District High School has a support team composed of seven to eight people including social workers, guidance counsellors, the principal, and teachers, who sit and discuss what can be done for a student experiencing difficulty.

The group does anything from changing student timetables to putting students in a class with a different teacher, Ms. Singleton said. They do absolutely everything to look for alternatives and solve that student's problem.

Canola seed facility perfects its product

By MARION HUNTER
Herald Special

ASHGROVE-Jan. 19 was the Canadian Industries meeting for Ashgrove Women's Institute.

The program convenor, Mrs. Muriel Nurse, arranged for the members to tour the Allelix Inc. Greenhouses at Allon Farms on the N.E. corner of Mississauga and Mayfield Rds. The members arrived at the greenhouses at 10:30 a.m. and received a guided tour of the facilities.

These greenhouses are used for research purposes and will be selling seed to meet specified requirements. At present most of the research is being done on spring and winter canola and wheat to find weather, disease, insect and herbicide tolerant species for different areas.

Propagation is mainly by cuttings but also by seed and cells. This pro-

Seniors use sign language to call 'help'

Senior citizens and handicapped people now have a way to ask passersby for help if their car breaks down on the road.

New "Send Help" cards were introduced to Halton Region Jan. 20 by Halton Regional Police Deputy Chief John Barrett.

The cards can be placed in the window of a car if it breaks down on the road, Mr. Barrett told Regional councillors.

The cards feature big blue letters on a white background. Halton Police Chief picked up on the idea after he saw a similar program on a recent visit to Fairfax, Virginia.

The cards will be distributed to senior citizens and handicapped people through the crime prevention officer, said Mr. Barrett.

gram was originally set up by the Ontario government but is now a privately owned and operated company.

Following the tour the members travelled to the Chateau Restaurant in Georgetown for lunch then returned to Hillcrest Church for the balance of the meeting. Mrs. Elizabeth Trevisanus was the hostess.

The roll call was answered by "If you got a new start what profession or vocation would you choose?" Answers included accountants, interior designer, tennis pro and school teachers of various grades and subjects.

The motto "The trouble with opportunity is it always looks bigger going than coming - let's reverse this viewpoint," was well given by Mrs. Ismay Bird. Mrs. Waverly Haist gave the convenor's report on International Affairs and asked everyone to remember that the Olympics are not just a sports event but a cultural exchange among people of all nations. Muriel Nurse gave a report from the Equipping Historical Society and told of the tour through Dominion Seed House.



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Couple weds

NORVAL-Leanne Wilson, daughter of John and Ria Wilson of RR2 Norwood married Bill McConnell of Markdale, son of Doug and Marilyn McConnell of Lambeth, Ontario Nov. 28, 1987 at 4 p.m.

The wedding took place in Norwood Presbyterian Church. Several showers and presentations were held in honor of the young couple. Herb and Joyce Van Arkel of Cheltenham held the Van Arkel family shower.

The Wilson shower, including Leanne's former neighbors, was held at her grandparents' home, Spencer and Kay Wilson. Assisting in hosting the afternoon were Marjorie Wilson, Jean Wilson and Marilyn Reeve. Mac and Ruth Hyatt of Brampton entertained the Hyatt family and Judy and Julie Quinlan of Indian River and Sandra Hubble of Peterborough entertained friends and neighbors at the Quinlan home.

All were miscellaneous showers. A Jack and Jill party was held at the Delaware Sportsman's Club hosted by the groom's brothers Kippen of London and Peter McConnell of St. Thomas.

A plumbing and electrical shower was held at the groom's parents' home at Lambeth, with Joanne and Kathy McConnell entertaining. Mr. and Mrs. Alan Hill of Markdale hosted a party for friends and neighbors of the bride and groom.

Following their wedding, the couple have taken up residence at their farm at RR2, Markdale.



Pinegrove euchre

NORVAL-Pinegrove euchre members had seven tables active last Monday. The winners were Isobel Carney, Florence Reed, Spencer Wilson and Tom Gibens. The lucky draw was won by Bill Brander, courtesy of Webbs Flowers. Committee hosts were Vera Thatcher and Chester Early.

96th birthday

NORVAL-Congratulations and best wishes to Mrs. Joey Haines of Huttonville, who celebrated her 96th birthday Jan. 15.

A party was held at the home of Bill and Reta Deenik of RR2 Norval Saturday evening. Attending were Roy and Shirley Abrams, Arthur and Eva Burton and Mike and Isobel Fairmond.

Tragic accident

NORVAL-Huttonville residents were shocked to learn of the tragic death of 40-year-old Ross Reid of Brampton. Ross was the son of Jim and Margaret (Ostrander) Reid.

His mother was a Huttonville girl, born and raised on the Ostrander farmstead, at RR2 Norval, on Mississauga Road North.

The car accident happened Jan. 15 at Oshawa on Highway 401, when a tractor trailer going west went out of control and crossed the median into the eastbound lane. The Reid car careened off the highway, through two wire fences before coming to a stop.

Ross was pronounced dead at the scene. His wife and two young sons were not injured. As well as his parents he is survived by a brother Harvey and sister Carol Bowman.

Farmed 60 years

NORVAL-Neighbors and friends were saddened to hear of the death of Earl McClure, who passed away at Peel Memorial Hospital Jan. 17 in his 85th year.

Earl is survived by nieces and nephews Margaret French, Janet Goy, Bob McClure and David McClure.

Funeral service was from the J.S. Jones and Son Funeral Home, Georgetown Jan. 20 at 2 p.m. Interment was in Hillcrest Cemetery, Norval.

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