

Fighting against sexual abuse

Safe and Happy Kit spells it out

By DONNA KELL
Herald Staff

For anyone who remembers the old adage "never talk to strangers," a new twist has been added for the 1990s.

Halton Region Children's Services received a kit called the Safe and Happy Kit, designed to inform day care-aged children of their rights when it comes to sexual abuse. The kit explains the difference between "good strangers" and "bad strangers."

"A good stranger may be the postman or the mailman... people that help other people (but) a bad stranger could be anyone on the street," says Sue Porter, vice president of the Halton chapter of the Association for Early Childhood Development of Ontario (AECEO).

The Safe and Happy Kit contains 14 brightly-colored illustrations of a generic child, whose sex is determined by the youngsters in class. The child is seen in different situations, including suffering the embarrassment and frustration of being sexually abused by an adult.

"People are becoming more and more aware that this is happening. Abuse has always been taking place. But now prevention methods are more readily available," said Mrs. Porter.

Mrs. Porter adds that most abuse cases involve an adult familiar to the child - a relative, or a close family friend. And often, a child's complaints of being abused are ignored, with parents "disregarding it, hoping the problem will go away," says Mrs. Porter.

But "children don't usually lie. They've gathered information from somewhere," she says.

"It's important (children) know that they don't have to keep secrets."

Mrs. Porter has been in the child care field for five years, and says

the time is ripe for abuse prevention.

The Safe and Happy Kit will be presented to children under six years of age in a classroom setting. "The purpose of the kit is to help protect children and to familiarize them with safety prevention," said Mrs. Porter.

The kit has been distributed to over 10,000 licensed day care facilities across Ontario, for a reasonable fee of \$18 a kit.

The concept of the Safe and Happy Kit is the brainchild of a worker at the Outreach Abuse Prevention centre in Oshawa. Creator Maureen Daigle says the kit will help children speak more comfortably about an embarrassing and difficult subject.

The kit is taught in basic language, says Mrs. Porter. "With young children, you can be basic. It's easier for them to understand," she says.

And comprehension is the keynote of the kit. Through the Safe and Happy Program children learn that their bodies are their own, and are told that if one adult doesn't heed their cry, that they should tell another adult. Children are also taught to correctly identify the parts of the body.

The Safe and Happy Program is not yet implemented in Halton, but Halton Children's Services hopes to have it available soon.



Sue Porter demonstrates the anti-abuse kit, with its colorful illustrations designed to teach children the difference between "good" strangers and "bad" strangers. The kit has been distributed to over 10,000 day-care centres in Ontario, including Halton centres.

NOTICE OF PROPOSED NURSING HOME LICENCE RENEWAL AND REQUEST FOR SUBMISSIONS PROJECT 169-88

Pursuant to the Nursing Homes Act, notice is hereby given of the intent of the Director, Nursing Homes Branch, to renew the licence of the following nursing home:

Bennett Health Care Centre
Georgetown, Ontario

Submissions concerning the proposed licence renewal may be sent to The Director, Nursing Homes Branch, Ontario Ministry of Health, 15 Overlea Blvd., 5th Floor, Toronto, Ontario, M4H 1A8, (416) 963-1038 by December 30, 1988.

Please mark the name of the nursing home and the project number on submissions.

The Director will consider all submissions prior to approving the proposed renewal.

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Residents want lit walkway

A rock throwing incident has prompted a Norton Crescent resident to call for the installation of a light in the walkway between Norton and McIntyre Crescents.

Dorothy and Larry Haines said a rock was thrown through the window of their seven-year-old daughter's bedroom at 43 Norton Cres. around 7:15 p.m. Nov. 5.

The bedroom faces an unlit walkway that runs between the two crescents, said Mrs. Haines in a letter to town council Nov. 10.

"Hundreds of sharp pieces of glass spread throughout her room, covering the floor and bed," she said.

The Haines' want the town to place a light standard in the Norton-McIntyre Crescents walkway, much like the residents of the Irwin and Dawson Crescents walkway. Residents there, will get three lights to illuminate a walkway to help curb vandalism.

Like some of the Irwin-Dawson Crescents residents, the Haines' want just one light placed in the walkway.

The town will prepare a report on the walkway.

Candidate says thanks

Dear Sir,
I commend the Halton Hills Herald for the very fair and thorough manner in which they covered the federal election campaign.

The warmth I received from the voters in the riding of Halton-Peel was very encouraging.
I thank all of you for the support you gave me.

Fern Wolf

Bazaar proves successful

Dear Sir,
We would like to thank everyone who supported our recent Christmas Bazaar.

We are, once again, able to contribute to many Georgetown organizations because of your generosity.

The winners of our Cash Draw were Jill Pignatelli - \$300; Lynn Morey - \$200; Helen Sheridan - \$100. Winner of the handmade quilt was Dena DeZatti of Mississauga.

Thank you and may you have a blessed Christmas.

Holy Cross Parish,
1988 Bazaar Committee

Banks late customer closed

A traffic jam on the QEW cost the Bank of Montreal and the Bank of Nova Scotia a shot at providing banking services to Halton Region Nov. 8.

The submission of tenders to provide banking services to Halton Region were due on Nov. 8 at 2 p.m.

But the Bank of Montreal and the Bank of Nova Scotia didn't arrive at Halton Region with their tenders until 2:20 p.m. and 3:49 p.m. respectively.

Both banks said they were late because of traffic congestion on the QEW. Regional treasurer Joe Rinaldo said.

Despite personal appeals by representatives of the two banks at Halton's administrative and finance committee Nov. 18, the two tenders were returned unopened.

Halton has a policy of not accepting late tenders "for any reason," said Mr. Rinaldo.

From now on Halton will set a time later in the day to accommodate banking hours and the tender documents will also spell out just how important it is to get submissions to the Region on time.

Tasty Recipes

★★★★

TUTTI FRUTTI SQUARES

- ¾ cup all purpose flour
- ½ tsp. salt
- 1 tsp. baking powder
- 2 eggs
- ¼ cup melted butter
- ¾ cup sugar
- 1 cup chopped nuts
- 1 cup sliced dates
- ¼ cup glazed citron
- ¼ cup glazed peel
- ¼ cup sliced glazed cherries

Measure and sift flour, baking powder and salt together. Beat eggs and gradually beat in sugar. Stir in nuts and fruit. Add melted butter. Stir in dry ingredients. Spread mixture in well greased paper lined shallow baking pan. Bake at 325° for 30 minutes. Remove from pan and peel off paper. When cool, cut in squares and roll in icing sugar.

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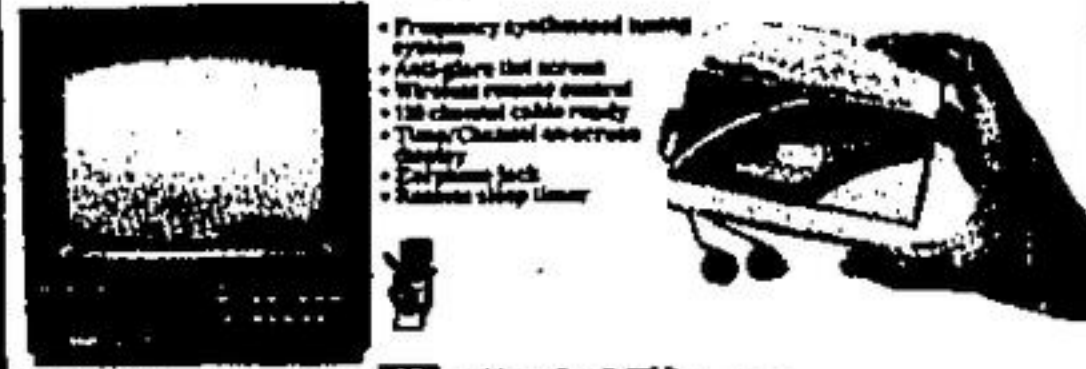
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