

FWIO presents awards

In keeping with its objectives, among which is education of its members and providing education to rural youth, the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario at its annual meeting held recently in Toronto determined the recipients of the 90th Anniversary Education Award.

Each recipient, who must be a Women's Institute member pursuing further education receives \$600. They are: Eastern Region - Helen M. Wilson, RRI, Brockville; Western Region - Margaret E. Smith, RRS, Forest; Southern Region - Barbara Elg, RRA, Listowel; and Northern Region - Fay Pigeau, RRA, Powassan.

In 1989 the 29 County District and Area Scholarships will be worth \$250 each and the four Provincial Scholarships will be worth \$275 each.

In the past FWIO has awarded 15 MacDonald Entrance Awards for students in the Family Studies College at the University of Guelph. Many of these scholarships have not been used so the number will be reduced to six and the amount increased to \$500 each.

As well the International Scholarship, of \$4,000, will be given to Mrs. Nomathamba Moche, of Zambia, to acquire training in Physiotherapy at Queen's University with the intent to practise in Africa. World University Service of Canada and Queen's University will share the funding with FWIO.



Toys galore

Kelly Koelner holds an armful of Christmas toys while Kathy Diner tries on a pair of bearfoot slippers at the old town hall in Acton Wednesday. The two Grade 12 students at Acton High School spent the day

sorting out a variety of toys, clothes and other gifts donated by citizens for Christmas. The gifts were distributed to 19 families - including 42 children - on Thursday and Friday. (Herald photo)

Parking fine procedure changed

Starting June 1, you'd better pay your parking fines on time.

The town is catching up on provincial legislation passed two years ago which establishes a central information gathering process allowing the motor licence bureau to deny car owners new license stickers until they pay their parking fines.

The new process changes the whole structure of parking fines enforcement in Halton Hills.

What happens right now when a parking ticket is issued in Halton Hills is this: a driver returns to his or her car to find a ticket tucked underneath the windshield wipers.

The offender who chooses not to voluntarily pay the parking fine receives a summons to appear in court. If the offender does not appear, he or she is automatically convicted in court. Warrants of arrest are then issued to those who do not pay parking fines.

In Halton Hills, a common parking ticket now comes with several choices. A \$15 ticket, if paid within seven days, becomes a \$5 ticket. If it is paid between seven and 45 days, it becomes a \$10 ticket. After that, the ticket is full value of \$15.

As of June 1, all that will change. Upon receipt of the parking ticket, the offender will have 15 days to either pay the set fine on the ticket or request a court date.

No other notice urging payment, such as a court summons, will be issued. The parking ticket itself becomes the charging document, instead of just notice of alleged violation which it is right now, said town bylaw enforcement officer Bob Ustrzycki.

Drivers who do not pay the fine or don't request a trial within 15 days, will be convicted of the offence

automatically, without a court hearing.

Every time a person who has incurred a parking fine allows it to go into default, he or she will receive a statement from a central fine collection office itemizing the outstanding debts. Those debts must be paid before the motorist can renew the car's license plates each year.

And instead of handing out a \$15 ticket with options to pay early, motorists will receive a \$10 ticket (fines differ with offences, the \$15 ticket was chosen as an example) and they must pay the ticket within 15 days, with no discount for early

payment.

If that ticket isn't paid within 15 days, the courts and the central information gathering bureau, will each impose additional fees on top of the original \$10 ticket.

All of that will have to be paid before the motorist can renew the license plates.

The new system will not carry over parking fines incurred before June 1. Parking fines incurred by motorists up until then, will fall under the current process and will not be placed on the record to be paid before license plate renewal, is granted, said Mr. Ustrzycki.

The President of Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario, Mrs. Margaret Munro, has applied to be a participant in the 1989 Women in Agriculture Study Tour of Nicaragua, an Oxfam Farmers Brigade Project.

Children's aid workers ready for move

After years of struggling to resolve stressful cases in sardine-like offices plagued with high noise pollution levels, Halton CAS staff are eagerly anticipating a move to spanking new headquarters.

The move from the crowded second-floor of 467 Speers Road, Oakville to the spacious, state-of-the-art glass and brick office complex at nearby 405 Morden Road (corner of Speers and Dorval), is scheduled to occur Jan. 5-7.

Halton CAS Manager of Family Services Mark Creedon, who has been co-ordinating work with the builder, Inducon Ltd., for the past several months, is optimistic the new agency headquarters will boost both staff morale and productivity.

"The offices," Mr. Creedon notes, "have been engineered to encourage even better team work. There will be no more shared offices; no more working in areas akin to rabbits' warrens. Everything has been custom designed to suit our needs."

Oakville architect Don Kerr says the new agency interior resembles "pods with a central agora - like a town square in ancient Greece." This, Mr. Kerr explains, was done to help CAS teams operate as a unit clustered around a secretary. "To get to your 'pod' or your

'neighborhood,' you must go through the 'village square.' Not only does this arrangement provide private individual work areas, it also encourages staff interaction."

Another aspect of the design with which Mr. Kerr, a former Halton CAS board member, is especially pleased involves a layout that allows every employee to see the sky. "The secretaries got the large, outer windows because they have to sit in the same spot for several hours a day - unlike the workers who come and go frequently throughout the work day. But every single office has a window through the pod area that enables them to see what the weather is like outdoors." The new building also features skylights and some large meeting areas, which the agency expects will soon reverberate with the enthusiastic sounds of volunteers, foster parents and community members.

Mr. Kerr notes he did not design the entire Morden Road building. That was done by the owner, Inducon. "Basically, we inherited a grid of columns, ceilings and outer walls. They (Inducon) provided us with the shell and made suggestions regarding how we might clad it," says Mr. Kerr. "In Europe, that's called 'interior architecture.'"

Canada Brick Company, a division of Jannock Ltd., got the building started by donating the first 10,000 bricks.

Interior design work on the new CAS headquarters was co-ordinated by Mr. Kerr's wife, Christine, former display director for IKEA. Mrs. Kerr left the phenomenally successful Scandinavian furniture store chain a year ago to launch her own interior design business. Working closely with Public Relations Associate Heather Smith, Mrs. Kerr chose contemporary golden oak desks and metal office furniture with pewter grey carpeting and verticle blinds. Offices have white walls and are decorated in soft shades of blue while the centre section of the new complex will be accented with dusty rose.

Mrs. Kerr notes that much of the old furniture from the Speers Road location has been "recycled" to save money. Recycling efforts involved such things as painting black filing cabinets light grey to present a much more unified look overall. "Really, what we've done is to bring Halton CAS out of the '60s and into the '80s," adds Mrs. Kerr.

Space for Halton CAS staff will nearly double in the new building - from 12,100 to 21,635 sq. ft. - and another 8,795 sq. ft. will be leased out to other tenants, including the region's public health department. Mr. Creedon hastens to point out the agency has a 10-year lease on the new facility, which includes an option to buy. "On the surface, this move may appear extravagant, but in the long-term, it's actually a cost-saving measure."

Much of the credit for arranging the "creative financing" that enabled the agency to lease the new head office goes to Executive Director Ron Coupland and former CAS Human Resources Manager Ron Chyczij. Mr. Coupland has worked zealously with the agency's board and with staff members to ensure the best possible end product for all concerned.

Perhaps Residential Services Manager Margaret Morrison beat out the upcoming move into perspective when she said: "Our workers have been trying to do an extremely stressful job while practically sitting on one another's laps at 467 Speers Road. They try to conduct highly sensitive and confidential interviews in an atmosphere of high noise pollution. It seems the least we can do to support those who work in this highly stressful field is to provide them with working conditions that are a bit comfortable and even comforting."

For further information, contact Mark Creedon at 844-8211.

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University of Guelph presents national ballet

In celebration of the University of Guelph's 25th anniversary, the University Centre and the 25th Anniversary Committee are proud to present The National Ballet of Canada, on Friday, Jan. 20, at 8 p.m. in Ross Hall, John F. Ross High School.

The National Ballet of Canada is the premier dance company in Canada. With a company of 70 dancers, The National Ballet is the third largest troupe in North America and the fifth largest in the world. The Company dances a repertoire which includes nearly all of the full-length classical ballets, as well as a large and growing number of contemporary works.

From the beginning of its founding in 1951, The National Ballet was to be a classical company, and is still the only Canadian company to present the traditional full-evening ballet classics. However, the National Ballet has developed a new distinctiveness: a superb ability by classically trained dancers to project in dramatic works with great impact.

Much of the National Ballet's new-found eclecticism has been attributed to Erik Bruhn, who became the National's director in 1983, but died unexpectedly in 1986. Mr. Bruhn commissioned new works from modern-dance choreographers like Danny Grossman, Robert Derosters and Glen Tetley. It cannot be said that Mr. Bruhn, regarded as the 20th century's purest classical dancer, ignored his classical training. However, he did reject a narrow vision of ballet classicism. The impact, freedom and excitement one witnesses in The National Ballet of Canada today has come directly from his influence.

Tickets for The National Ballet of Canada range in price from \$10.50 to

\$16.50 and are available at the University Centre Box Office, Sam The Record Man, The Bookshelf Cafe and The Corner in Stone Road Mall. A handling charge of 50 cents will be levied on the sale of each ticket. VISA and MasterCard phone 824-4120 extension 3940.

For further information regarding this performance, contact Susan Smith at 824-4120 extension 2896.

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