

Students may pay later for 'labels' attached now

There is a mystical term they keep throwing around at board of education meetings in Halton. The term is called "streaming" and it refers to choosing in Grade 8, whether a child is cut out for university, college or vocational school.

On the surface, this concept seems solid. After all, who better to give advice on what a child can produce under the best conditions than his or her elementary teacher.

But this system is being called into question by Ontario parents, and for some pretty good reasons.



Kell's Korner

Donna Kell
Herald Staff

A child in Grade 8 is just that, a child. This person is 13 or 14 years old. This person has hit the adolescent crunch, a time when many teens experience so many new

things in their bodies and minds that they're tossed into bitter confusion. Children are being labelled, packaged and placed into individual columns (Phase 3, Phase 4, or Phase 5) where they will likely remain throughout their academic years. The power of suggestion can be explosive.

And they're being told at young and impressionable ages that they are or are not fit for further academic challenge.

Recent reports passed through the Halton Board of Education for information have shown that many adolescent girls drop out of school.

Lifestyles

They may have developed emotional problems too difficult to deal with. And as board studies through psychologists have also shown, these problems can keep them from concentrating on a learning schedule.

Boys experience the brunt of their emotional problems at a slightly higher age, dropping out more likely in the high school years.

But an intelligent child who is not performing up to his or her capabilities should never be labelled with apparent abandon. This is where the Ministry of Education and the Halton Board of Education come into the picture.

The Ministry of Education will soon compile a report explaining how testing will be conducted at the Grades 3, 6 and 8 levels. Perhaps such testing could lead to early determination of a student's weak areas.

The Halton Board of Education recently passed a motion to hire

more psychologists, sociologists and speech pathologists in the schools to deal with a child's emotional problems at an early age, perhaps dealing with problems that can stand in the way of academic development.

These changes are positive, but more must be done.

Assessments must be performed on an objective basis and with some sensitivity. While the teacher will only assess a student once and then propel the child into some "stream" of academics, the student will be branded with the teacher's assessment for years to come.

So the word "streaming" could be replaced with the word "branding." Neither action allows for much movement, and both actions scar the recipient in some way.

A new system must be introduced to help the young student make a solid decision, and to keep all the academic doors open.

Scouting reaches young and old

By JEAN LAYMAN
Herald Special

Scouting is the largest youth group in the world and has programs for young people aged five to 26-years-old.

In Canada, Scouting has 207,815 registered members, 69,000 registered volunteer adults, and 125 professional staff members.

This is the 15th year of the National Reforestation Conservation Environmental Appreciation Program. Over two million seedlings are planted annually in designated conservation areas across Canada. Since its inception in 1973, 35 million seedlings have been planted by one million members.

The Canadian Brotherhood Fund, combined with the non-Governmental Organization Bureau of the Canadian International Development Agency, support projects in Indonesia, Egypt, and other African regions.

Trees for Canada makes it possible for Boy Scouts of Canada to sponsor these community development projects. In 1988, over 350,000 calendars were sold from coast to coast. Through these calendar sales, funds were raised for a thousand young people and adults to take part in the 16th World Jam-

boree in Australia.

On the local scene, the North Halton District has close to 650 registered scouting members. The district takes in the communities of Acton, Ashgrove, Georgetown, Glen Williams, Hornby, and Limehouse.

For Rovers, there are seven members and one leader for the group. In the other age categories, there are 37 Venturers with nine leaders; 65 Scouts with 18 leaders; 202 Cubs with 44 leaders; and 190 Beavers with 37 leaders.

In Acton, various meetings of the groups are held at the Scout Hall, or the Optimist Hall.

The Ashgrove Beavers meet at Pineview School, while the Ashgrove Scouts meet at Hillcrest United Church.

In Georgetown, the locations for meetings of the various groups includes St. John's United Church, St. George's Anglican Church, St. Andrew's United Church, or St. Francis of Assisi School.

Meetings in Glen Williams are conducted at St. Alban's Anglican Church or the Glen Hall, and meetings for Limehouse Beavers, Cubs and Scouts are held at Limehouse School.

Anyone interested in obtaining

more information about these meetings and the various nights they are held for the different age groups can contact: Beavers - ADC Doug Collins; Cubs - ADC Jean Layman; Scouts - ADC Brian Sheppard; Venturers - ADC Brent Collier; or Rovers - Gord Douglas. District Commissioner is Elaine Hannah and District President is Ric Golding.

A good time to quit

Spring is a time of new beginnings, why not start this spring off right by quitting smoking? With the weather perfect for taking long walks and enjoying the outdoors, it is a great time to kick the habit once and for all.

The Lung Association's annual Georgetown "Cold Turkey" clinic will be held at the Bennett Health Care Centre, April 3-7, with follow-ups on April 10 and 17. There is a registration fee of \$10 for this program which is subsidized by Christmas Seals.

The Cold Turkey program's group support, empathetic leader, and warm knowledgeable speakers combine to give this pro-

gram a great success rate. A 1983 study found that 60 per cent of people who had participated in Cold Turkey since 1973 had successfully "kicked the habit."

If you would like more information about the Cold Turkey clinic, or quitting smoking, contact the Lung Association, Halton Region (the Christmas Seal People) at 632-8499. Registration is limited.

SAME DAY TAX RETURNS

101 Guelph St., Georgetown

877-2217

NEW STORE HOURS

The Salvation Army Thrift Store
120 Mill St. East, Acton
853-3321

MONDAY - SATURDAY
9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Used Clothing and Furniture at Prices
Anybody Can Afford!

Crook makes clean getaway

Halton Regional Police reported 80 boxes of laundry soap missing from a Main Street laundromat in Georgetown last week.

The small boxes of detergent were taken when an unknown

suspect smashed through the laundromat plate glass door, entered

the store and broke into the laundry soap machine sometime between midnight and 7 a.m. Feb. 17.

The Robin's Nest
CRAFT SHOP
11 MAIN STREET SOUTH
ACTON 853-3949
Sears Agency 853-1310

Delacour's
For All Your Fine China,
Silver, Crystal & Giftware
227 MAIN ST. MILTON
878-0050

MY GENERATION
"Fashions For The Young
At Heart"
115 MAIN ST. S., GEORGETOWN
Across From Knox Church 873-2851

\$ BULK FOODS \$
Next to Mac's Milk
Specials For This Week!

GRAHAM CRACKER CRUMBS \$1.55 LB.	COCONUT \$1.55 LB.	BREAD CRUMBS .79 LB.
---	-------------------------------------	---------------------------------------

Buy Any Other Item - \$2.00 or More and Receive the Prices Above

EASTER CANDIES
White Supplies Last!

SALE PRICES IN EFFECT UNTIL
Tues. March 7, 1989
Seniors Day Every Wed. 10% OFF

10 Mountainview Rd. South
877-5570 **BULK FOODS** Next To MAC'S MILK

For all your Baking Needs: Candies, Snacks, Nuts, Dried Fruits, Spices, Soups, Muffin Mixes, Gourmet Coffee, Flavoured Teas, Etc.

lawn & garden needs

See Henk's For The "Right" Equipment

It's a snap with
SNAPPER
A division of Fuqua Industries

SNAPPER
SETS THE STANDARD FOR
LAWNCARE EQUIPMENT!

SNAPPER QUALITY — A CUT ABOVE

- Snapper has been manufacturing quality lawn equipment for over 30 years.
- Simple sturdy construction for long life.
- Patented HI-VAC mower can handle any grass with ease — even tall, damp grass!
- Snapper features a complete line of mowers from a 19" lightweight walkbehind (the ladies' choice) to a full size 18 h.p. 48" cut lawn and garden tractor.

FOR RELIABLE SALES & SERVICE CALL:

HENK'S LAWN & GARDEN EQUIPMENT

28 STEWARTTOWN RD.
GEORGETOWN
877-0768