Star McGuire takes over at Open Door centre

By RICH FLAHERTY **Herald Special**

A Star has risen at the Open Door Teen Drop-In Centre, located in the basement of St. George's Church, next to Georgetown District High School.

Star McGuire will assume the role of Executive Director of the program, as well as retaining her duties with Open Door's Young Parents' Program.

She will be taking the place of Beverly Scruton, who has been with the program for the past four years. The decision to make Ms. McGuire Executive Director was based on the fact that she had the best knowledge of Open Door's clients, namely students from the ages of 14-20.

"We are looking for new premises," said Ms. McGuire of changes to be made in the program. Open Door is looking for a location in Georgetown and central to the high school. This is a problem for Open Door, as St. George's Church has never charged the program rent for the days it is in operation. The Teen Drop-In Centre is open Thursdays from 11 a.m. - 6 p.m. and Fridays 8:30 a.m. -4 p.m.

The decision to move from the church was made because both Open Door and Church executives felt that the program needed a more permanent facility. Currently, there are other programs going on in the basement of St. George's Church, and the Teen Drop-In Centre has to effectively be "put away" to make room for these.

Open Door has recreation facilities such as a pool table in storage right now, as it can not be used permanently in the basement.

Ms. McGuire feels that with these upcoming changes, Open Door's Teen Drop-In Centre is going to be a challenge. Also, she feels that the previous Executive Director, Ms. Scruton, is "a hard act to follow."

Ms. Scruton feels that making the transition from Director to social worker for the Woodview Children's Centre in Georgetown, in effect from a head position to one with less overall control, was a matter of "stepping sideways"

rather than stepping down in rank. "It's probably a change I needed in my life," said Ms. Scruton.

In addition to the Teen Drop-In Centre, Open Door offers the Young Parent's Program, located

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at St. Andrew's Church. Ms. McGuire, originally program coordinator for the YPP, will be aided in her duties by program assistant Connie Comingos.

The Teen Drop-In Centre offers games, activities, and counselling to Georgetown and area youths, and the program is always looking for volunteers to handle the 40-50 people they have through the doors during their open days.

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Star McGuire (left) took over as executive director of the Open Door Drop-in Centre from Bev Scruton recently. Ms. Scruton will

be taking a position as a social worker at the Woodview Children's Centre at Park Public School. (Herald photo)

Help for asthmatics

An informed family is a happier, healthier one - this is the goal of the Family Asthmatic Clinic for Halton Hills.

Held at Georgetown District High School Saturdays from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., the Asthmatic Clinic, (sponsored by the Halton Lamg Association), features instruction for families with asthmatic children. Each session is made up of two components - one for children, one for parents. All members of the family are invited, not just those with asthma.

Children's instruction takes the form of a gym and swimming course. The gym program will teach kids about breathing techniques, and how their lungs work and will encourage physical fitness.

The swimming part of the course provides a healthy physicallyoriented environment for children with asthma.

The parents' section of the session is informational, featuring speakers and experts on dealing with both the physical and emotional aspects of asthma. It is also a forum for discussion.

"Just being able to speak to other parents to be able to solve their problems is a valuable experience," says Sandy Woodworth, of the Lung Association.

Currently, there are only three families involved with the eightweek session that began Feb. 18. "We've never done any better than eight families, (in the course), but we would like to," said Ms. Woodworth.

The Family Asthmatic Clinic for Halton Hills offers two programs a year, each lasting eight weeks. Those interested may sign up right at the door for a fee of \$10 for the entire course.

"Dealing with something you don't understand is frightening," says Ms. Woodworth. Attending the regular Asthma Clinics is a way to improve a child's health and the well being of the family



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