

# Halton Children's Aid Society recognizes foster parents

The Halton Children's Aid Society's Annual Foster Parents' Dinner is a chance for the Society to recognize the hard work and caring that foster parents put in day after day as they look after their foster children. It's a challenging job, and the rewards are mostly intangible: a child who doesn't have nightmares anymore, a teenager who has begun to develop some self-esteem, a letter from a child, now grown, to say "thanks".

The dinner was also an opportunity to say farewell to departing Foster Care Supervisor Carole Noble Lavelle, and past Board President (and foster parent) Grant Dickinson, and a chance to welcome the new supervisor, Larry La Jambe and new Board President, Kevin Flynn.

For the first time, Halton CAS gave out awards for 20 years of fostering. These were presented to Roy and Kathy Hall of Burlington and Don and June Ashwell of Oakville. Awards for 10 years of service went to Bert and Carol Coish (Oakville), Don Workman (Port Hope), John and Cathy Greven (Burlington) and Bob and Norma Reynolds (Oakville). Other special awards were presented as follows:

The C.A.R.E. Award to Greg and Adriana Hatton of Burlington.

While the Hattons have been fostering for less than a year, they quickly became very involved with the CAS and the foster parent program. During a recent evaluation, the Ministry of Community and Social Services was particularly impressed by the Hatton's high level of commitment and caring. They consistently show love and dedication to the children in their care, and give direction and discipline without belittling the children.

The Family Unity Award to Rob and Debbie Settle of Burlington.

The Settles have been foster parents for five years, and are very warm, supportive people who are willing to go above and beyond the call of duty to meet the needs of the children in their care. They were given this award because of their particular efforts to work with the natural parents of their foster children and facilitate the reintegration of the child into his or her family. This is one of the goals of foster care, but it is also one of the most challenging tasks foster parents are called upon to do.

The Betty Hill Memorial Award to John and Jean Padgett of Campbellville.

The Padgetts have five children of their own, ranging in age from 19 years to 14 months. Despite the challenges of a large family, they have been fostering for Halton CAS for two years and have done an exceptional job in caring for some unusually difficult children. Jean is teaching two of her children at home, instead of sending them to school. The Padgetts are known for their sense of humour which helps them through many tough situations.

The Award of Merit to Anna Ninaber of Bellwood.

Anna Ninaber and her husband Rene (who passed away in August of 1989) became foster parents in 1981. They had already raised their own five boys, and took in a family of three foster children as their first assignment. The two oldest are now grown and have left home, but Anna continues to be "family" to them and to be available when they need her. Anna is also very involved in community activities and encouraged her foster children to participate.

The Outstanding Service Award to Bert and Carol Coish of Oakville.

The Coishes became foster parents by accident. Carol came to the CAS office to attend a meeting for prospective volunteers but ended up in the wrong room. By the time she realized she had wandered into a foster parent meeting, she was already interested and decided to stay.

That was in 1980, and the Coishes

have fostered 30 children since that time. They specialize in caring for boys ages 12 to 18, and have often dealt with severe behaviour problems. Their social worker comments: "Carol has the ability to elicit calm and rational behaviour from boys that the police shake their heads over." They take four boys at a time (their own three children are all grown and away from home now) and Carol also volunteers in other CAS programs.

While Halton CAS deeply appreciates the tremendous job done by these exceptional foster parents, the need for additional foster homes continues to be a serious situation. Anyone interested in fostering should call Kim Elliot at 844-8211.

For further information about the award-winning families or fostering in general, contact Teresa Pitman at 844-8211.

## Open house

Inspector Richard Kivell, head of the Halton Regional Police force in Milton and Halton Hills, has announced the official opening day of 11 Division's Community Room.

The room, at the Guelph Street location in Georgetown, will be opened at 4 p.m. May 16. The police station will have an open house between 4:30 p.m. and 7 p.m. with tours of the facility. The public are invited to attend.



## Hospital donation

The owner of M and M Meats in Georgetown, Salvador Salinas (right) donated \$750 to the Georgetown and District Memorial Hospital, Tuesday. The hospital's executive director Mark Rochon accepted the cheque on behalf of the hospital. The money was raised through sales of the meat shop on April 28, said Mr. Salinas. (Herald Photo)

## Ontario's Senior Games

Last Sunday, the playoffs for walking for Halton District 21 of the Ontario Senior Games took place at the Georgetown Fairgrounds.

Each participant had to estimate his time for a 3 km walk. There were 3 participants from Oakville who were finalists in that area, and 13 participants from Georgetown.

Ken Howat of Georgetown was the overall winner. He came within 55 seconds of his estimated time of 30 minutes. He will represent Halton District 21 in the Ontario Senior Games at London, Ontario, in August.

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