

CAS Summer Camp receives \$700 gift

It was a TV show about abused children that inspired Hazel Hewitt to begin a project that led to the donation of \$700 for the Halton Children's Aid Society Summer Camp.

Hewitt, a Burlington resident, is the Worthy Matron of the Order of the Eastern Star's Golden Rule Chapter in Oakville. This is a fraternal organization open to both men and women who are related to someone in the Masonic order. Each year, the Worthy Matron plans a fund-raising project to assist local charities.

"We decided to collect a mile of pennies - that adds up to \$945," Hewitt explains. The remaining money is being donated to the Children's Ward at Oakville-Trafalgar Memorial Hospital. The penny-saving started last October under the supervision of Arlene Pacheco, another member, who also counted and rolled the pennies brought in by Chapter members. The group includes about 150 men and women; about 50 of these are actively involved.

The money raised will make it possible for a child to attend the six-week Summer Camp run by the Halton Children's Aid Society. This camp has a high staff/child ratio which makes it possible for children who would not otherwise be able to attend camp to participate in all the traditional activities: swimming, crafts, sports, and field trips to local attractions. The young campers not only have fun, they learn new social skills and make new friends.

After a lengthy negotiation process that ended in mediation, a new contract has been agreed upon between Halton Children's Aid Society and the members of CUPE Local 2501, representing 42 full and part-time social workers.

The new contract was ratified by union members with 90 per cent in favor, and was approved by the CAS Board of Directors July 18.

The contract gives an increase of 6 per cent in the first year and a total of 11½ per cent over two years. There are also some improvements in the dental plan, life insurance, and maternity leave provisions.

Assistant Director Glenn Miller, who was part of the management negotiating team, says: "Nobody wanted a strike. We recognize that we have a responsibility, to the children we care for, and we were all concerned about the impact a strike would have on them."

Miller and other members of the negotiating committee faced the challenge of weighing fiscal responsibility against the need to offer competitive salaries.

"The cost of living is higher in the Greater Toronto Area than in other parts of Ontario," Miller says. "We also have to consider that other service sectors, such as education and health, pay the social workers they employ substantially higher salaries. That also becomes an issue."

He adds that the settlement will put Halton CAS in a deficit position, and the Board will be approaching the Ministry of Community and Social Services for additional funding.



Halton Children's Aid Society Executive Director, Ron Coupland, accepts a cheque for \$700 from Hazel Hewitt, for the association's Summer Camp program. Mrs. Hewitt initiated a project to provide funds for the Halton Children's Aid Society Summer

Camp program, after viewing a television program on abused children. Pictured above, from left to right, Ron Coupland, Hazel Hewitt, Arlene Pacheco, who assisted Mrs. Hewitt in the project, and Corrie Galloway, a camp supervisor. (Photo submitted)

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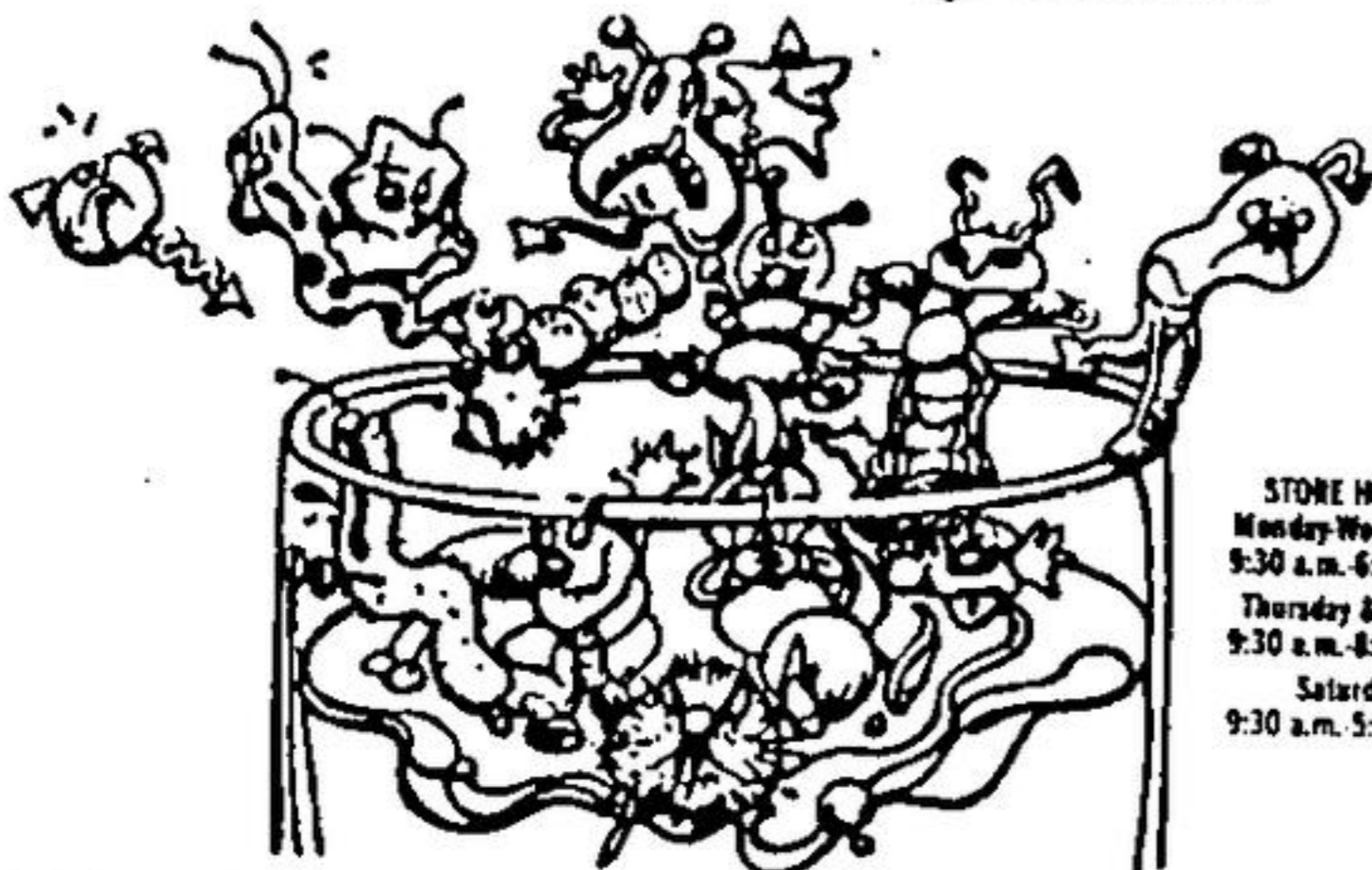
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