

# Private child day care needed in community

By LISA RUTLEDGE  
Herald Special

There's a lot of pride in providing private child day care, said Brenda MacDonald-Samson, a Halton child care worker.

It's not mere babysitting but rather a needed business, she insisted. "The need of infant care is in a huge incline in all areas."

The region is looking for anyone interested in becoming self-employed in the business of home day care for children ages six weeks to 12 years.

There are 11 private day care providers in Halton Hills but the waiting lists for day care are still full, said Mrs. MacDonald-Samson. There are mothers who are on the waiting list who haven't even had their babies yet, she added.

Comments that private day care is an alternative to a real job are completely false, argued Mrs. MacDonald-Samson. "The women providers I work with are dedicated," she said, adding that "they take themselves very seriously as businessmen. They

file income tax just like any other business."

Private day care is an attractive opportunity for women who enjoy running a business but prefer to stay home, especially when they have children of their own, said Mrs. MacDonald-Samson.

The process of becoming a private day care provider is much more formal than one would expect, she maintains. It's a six-week process registered with the region.

Representatives from the Department of Public Health, the fire department and a child care representative must inspect the home for danger hazards and the potential provider is responsible to make safety standard modifications, Mrs. MacDonald-Samson said. Safety measures include owning a fire extinguisher, a smoke detector and having locks on hazardous materials.

A Children's Aid Society worker and the Halton Regional Police will perform background checks to ensure there are no incidents of violence on the potential provider's record, Mrs. MacDonald-Samson

explained.

Once reference checks and all safety modifications are completed, the region will begin placing up to five children in the home, she said. As there may only be two children who are under two-years old, in each home the waiting lists remain high, Mrs. MacDonald-Samson continued.

The region is attempting to minimize the waiting lists, which are into 1991, by encouraging more people to become entrepreneurs in the field of day care.

She is aware there are many private day care providers who don't organize through the region, but she believes there are more advantages for providers and parents when the region is involved.

Providers have a network of support from regional child care representatives. The region offers workshops and will offer advice when there is a problem with a mischievous child or an uncooperative parent.

The parents who are placing their children in day care through the region are subsidized so there

is no agony over collecting payment, Mrs. MacDonald-Samson explained. "Providers won't have to worry about parents coming to them saying they can't pay this week," she continued. The providers also will be protected in case a parent doesn't return for a child without notice, she said.

In a situation where providers suspect a child is being abused,

they can approach the region with the problem and the region in turn will inform Children's Aid, said Mrs. MacDonald-Samson.

The parents also have the opportunity to place their children in a more intimate form of child care, she said. Their children can stay in a home setting and receive more attention than in a larger day care centre.

**Kasual Katering**  
by Geri & Lori Kentner

### Hot Fruit Compote

- |                       |                |
|-----------------------|----------------|
| Butter                | 1/4 cup        |
| Brown Sugar           | 1/2 cup        |
| Orange Juice          | 1/4 cup        |
| Nutmeg                | 1/2 tsp.       |
| Grated Rind of Orange | 1              |
| Plums, drained        | 1 can (14 oz.) |
| Pears, drained        | 1 can (14 oz.) |
| Peaches, drained      | 1 can (19 oz.) |
| Rum (optional)        | 1/4 cup        |

#### Method

In a saucepan, combine butter, sugar, juice and nutmeg. Stir until blended. Combine fruit in baking dish. Pour liquid over. Bake uncovered at 350 degrees for 20 minutes. Warm rum, pour over and flambe. Serves 6 or 8.

## Officer charged

A Halton Regional police officer is to appear before a hearing officer superintendent Oct. 1 after investigations of a missing traffic offence.

The Halton force charged the officer after a provincial Offence Notice, involving a traffic offence, disappeared from the Milton police station in July.

The investigation was conducted by the Professional Standards Bureau of the Halton Regional Police Force.



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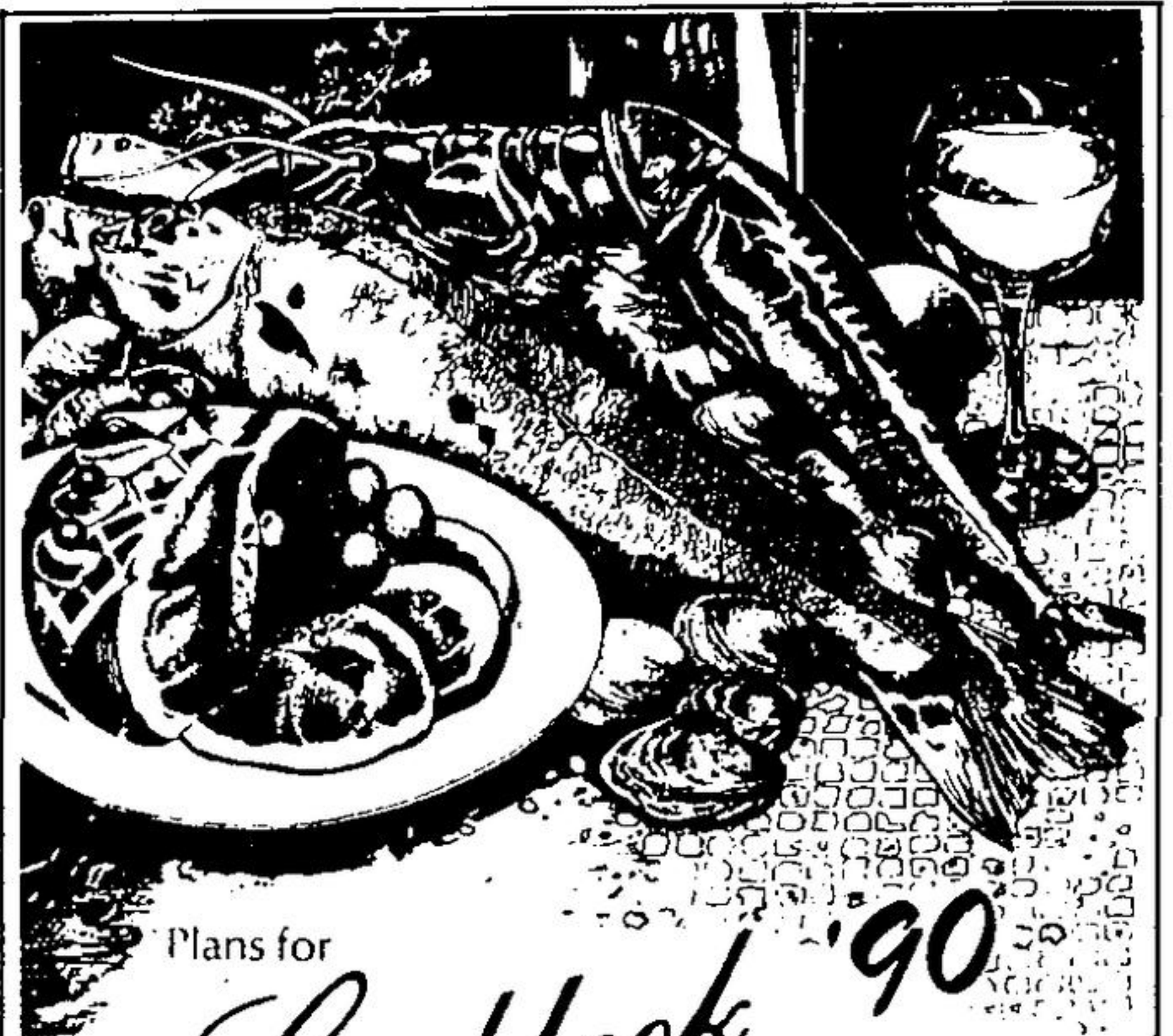
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