

Carruthers Road Co-op officially open

By BEN DUMMETT
The Herald

For Trudy Stanford and her two children, the opportunity to live in the Carruthers Road Cooperative in Georgetown gave her family a chance to regain their self esteem.

Before moving into the cooperative earlier this year, the single mother only had enough money to afford to live in a motel. "There was no sense of permanency in our lives, it was very difficult," said Ms. Stanford. Permanent housing has meant "I can plan for the future."

The Carruthers Cooperative, which started accepting residents Jan. 1, 1990, is comprised of 40 units, 50 per cent of which are geared to income and 50 per cent which are geared to market rents. The residents of Carruthers don't pay rent. Instead, they pay a housing charge. In this sense the cooperative's members are landlords. "It's our own place and we feel responsible for it," said Ms. Stanford. "If I see a piece of garbage on the lawn I'll pick it up," she added.

This sense of responsibility has also rubbed off on Ms. Stanford's children. Her children had no sense of responsibility towards the motel, because it wasn't permanent, explained Ms. Stanford.

Now she sees them frequently outside taking care of the lawn or garden, said the proud parent.

The cooperative grew out of the North Halton Emergency Housing Task Force study. The task force

was established five years ago and was comprised of members of social service agencies in the area who found that the troubles of most of their clients stemmed from a lack of affordable housing in the area.

A cooperative-elected seven member board of directors oversees the building's operation, said the board's president, Silvana LaRose. There are several other committees, each of which is responsible for overseeing an aspect of the operation.

Residents living in the cooperative are expected to commit four hours per month to the running of the cooperative, said Ms. LaRose. But they can do more if they want, she added.

Cooperative member Debbie Rennie is one person who said the chance to get involved in the place she lives has improved her self-confidence. Besides serving on the board of directors and some of the committees, Ms. Rennie also helps out other people wanting to start up a cooperative. But before moving into Carruthers, "you couldn't get me to say boo," explained Ms. Rennie.

Since each member of the cooperative is required to contribute to the building's operation, said Ms. LaRose, the membership doesn't judge each other on the basis of how much money a person makes. "Nobody is interested in how much money another person earns," she stressed. Ms. LaRose wishes this kind of thinking was

shared by all members of the general public. A lot of people base their opinions of cooperative housing residents on the misconception that they are the unemployed or welfare recipients, she explained.

Public education is the only way these misconceptions can be corrected, said Ms. LaRose.

The members of Carruthers Coop hosted the buildings official opening Saturday. People attending the event had the opportunity to meet the membership and tour the building. Ms. LaRose is hopeful this will help break down the misconceptions some people have about cooperative housing.

Ms. LaRose is quick to acknowledge that cooperative living is no paradise. Residents experience the same problems that would be found in any other neighborhood, said Ms. LaRose. She also points out cooperative housing isn't for everyone. "If people prefer to live an isolated type life then Carruthers or any other cooperative would be inappropriate," she said.

Special guests at the official opening Saturday afternoon included, the Honorable Alan Redway, Minister of State (Housing) for the federal government, newly-elected MPP, New Democrat Noel Duignan, Halton Hills Mayor, Russ Miller, Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation representative, Bill Beatty as well as several town councillors.

In addressing the gathering, Mr.

Redway stated, "Members of Carruthers Road Co-operative are to be congratulated for their fine efforts in developing these homes for families. The federal government is proud to be part of such a project."

A press release issued by CMHC described the new complex in detail.

The three-storey apartment building features nine one-bedroom, 24 two-bedroom and seven three-bedroom apartments. Three units have wheelchair access.

Each three-bedroom unit contains two washrooms, as well as a washer and dryer.

Laundry facilities are also available on the main floor.



COUNTRY LANE



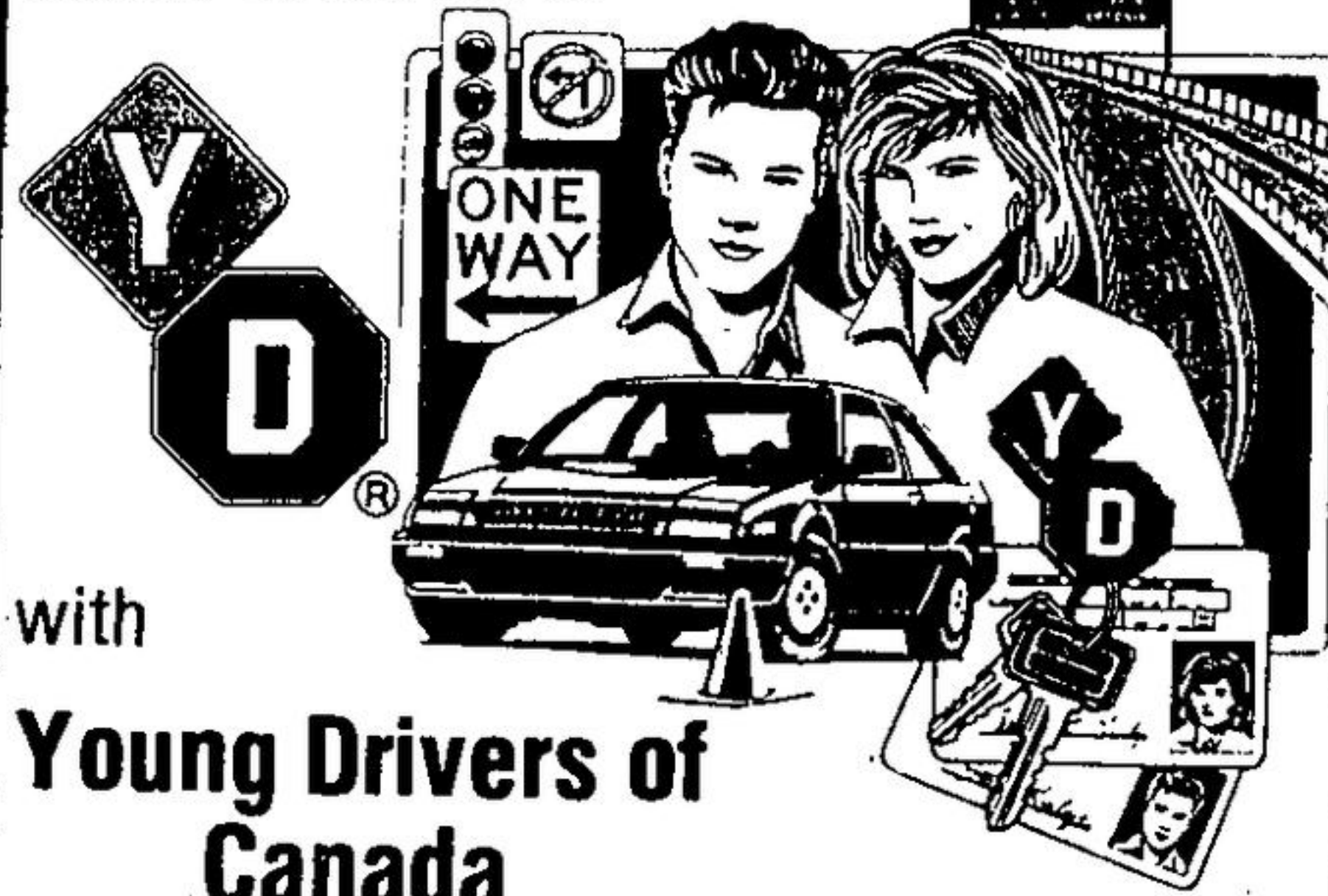
OUR NEWLY RENOVATED

CHRISTMAS & COUNTRY GIFT & CRAFT HOUSE

10th Line & River Rd. GEORGETOWN

877-2254

Learn to Drive ... and Survive



with

Young Drivers of Canada

GEORGETOWN CLASSROOM - 16 MOUNTAINVIEW RD. S.

NEXT 4 WEEK PROGRAM

STARTS OCTOBER 10th

WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY EVENINGS

NOVEMBER CLASSES START

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 7th - 6:30-9:38 p.m.

877-0751

IF BUSY, CALL 453-0413

350,000 GRADUATES RECOMMEND—



YOUNG DRIVERS OF CANADA



Newly elected MPP, Noel Duignan of the New Democratic Party, was just one of the many special guests present Saturday afternoon for the official opening of the Carruthers Road Cooperative. Listen-

ing intently to Mr. Duignan's speech are Silvana LaRose (next to Mr. Duignan) and Debra Rennie of the Carruthers Road residents Board of Directors. (Herald photo)

RECYCLING.

It only works if we all do our part!

Please Remember to Recycle This Newspaper

MY GENERATION

"Fashions For The Young At Heart"

115 MAIN ST. S., GEORGETOWN
Across From Knox Church 873-2851

Elizabeths Fashions and Bridal Boutique

77 Main Street South
Downtown Georgetown
873-1470

Important information about Canada's economic plan and how it affects you.

Many Canadians have questions about the economy and what the government is doing to help make it healthier. This guide outlines some of the key steps being taken towards building a stronger Canada. Please take the time to read what's inside and if you would like other government publications, see the outside back cover.

COMING SOON TO YOUR HOME

Every household in Canada will be receiving an 8-page information guide in the next few days. It outlines the country's economic plan and contains important information about Canada's future. Please look for it in your mailbox and take the time to read what's inside.

If you haven't received the guide by October 15th, call the toll-free number below and a copy will be sent to your home.

1-800-267-6620

Hearing impaired, please call 1-800-267-6650. Pour obtenir la version française de cette publication, veuillez composer le 1-800-267-6640.



Government of Canada

Gouvernement du Canada