

Community

Day Care parents will be treated more fairly

By BEN DUMMETT
the Herald

Halton parents in need of day care services will be treated more fairly than in the past, said Karen Chan, Halton's Director of Children Services.

After a year-long test, Ms. Chan said the Region is convinced the centralized approach to allocating available child care spots in Halton is fairer than the previous decentralized system.

Under the new system people are placed on a waiting list on a first-come-first-served basis. When their name reaches the top of the list they are advised of types of child care facilities available. The three types of child care services include: a licensed Day Care Nursery, private home day care or the Regional run Child Care Centres.

Next, the parents will be offered the first available spot on that type of day care service, explained Ms. Chan.

In this way, parents may not get their first choice of child care facility but they will be provided the opportunity of putting their child in one of the three types of facilities, she said.

There are approximately 2,930 families in potential need of child care facilities in Halton, and of this total, 43 per cent are their children in day care. The Region's goal is to meet 50-55 per cent of those who need child care spots, said Ms. Chan.

The greatest shortage of spaces is for infants, she said. This group of children need the greatest number of day care workers, explained Ms. Chan.

Under the old system, parents were put on one of three waiting lists depending on their preferred choice of day care facility. But with this system, parents who were put on one waiting list could be denied a spot over other parents who registered on another waiting list at a later

time. Parents only had priority over those who were on the same waiting list, she said.

Despite the new system, said Ms. Chan, some parents are serviced more quickly regardless of when they request access to a day care facility.

Parents who are recognized under a point system as the most needy for child services are given priority over other parents, said Ms. Chan.

Parents must have a 25 point rating to be prioritized. The following criteria are used in determining how many points a family is awarded.

They include: if the parents are on social assistance; if the family is a Children's Aid Society referral; if there is only one parent

who is upgrading his or her job skills; or a mix of the categories.

Ms. Chan wouldn't reveal how each criterium is evaluated to determine the number of points awarded to each family.



Families of schizophrenics offered six-week program

By BEN DUMMETT
the Herald

It's difficult for most to imagine the stress a family must experience if one member suffers from uncontrollable bouts of delusion or hallucinations. But for some families, it's a day-to-day reality.

Having to live with a schizophrenic can mean watching that person refuse a meal because they think it's something else or hearing he quit a job under the delusion of being persecuted, said Linda Luker, a nurse with the North Halton Mental Health Clinic.

It's incidents like these that practically eliminate a family's social life for those who must care for a schizophrenic, said Ms. Luker. "You just don't want to invite people over to the house," she added.

Ms. Luker is currently running a six-week psychoeducational program for families with members who are schizophrenics. The program got under way Oct. 10 and runs until Nov. 25.

The weekly meetings give the 11 participating families an opportunity to learn how to deal with the disease. As well, it acts as a support group, she said.

The program reassures participants they are not alone, said Ms. Luker.

Approximately half the families are from Halton Hills while the other half are from Milton. "We talk about basic

education. How to live with a schizophrenic," she said. Techniques in dealing with sufferers include: not trying to argue with them while they are hallucinating. "It's a waste of time," said Ms. Luker. "Once the person is hallucinating you're not going to change their mind about anything."

The program's formal objectives include:

- to assist families in gaining information and understanding of schizophrenia.

- to decrease families' anxiety about the illness.

- to increase families' ability to problem solve and cope with the symptoms associated with the illness.

- to enhance development of a support network for family members.

Ms. Luker hopes the families will continue to meet informally and act as a self help group, once the program is finished.

Schizophrenia afflicts people during their youth.

In Ontario there are approximately 90,000 people, or one per cent of the population, who suffer from the illness. There are approximately 2,800 Halton residents who are schizophrenic and of this total, 840 are severely afflicted with the disease. Regional statistics show

Ms. Luker said six months after the program ends, the participants will be approached to find out how they benefited from the program.

Halton Cable Systems

Program Listings for
Halton Community Television
Cable 4

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 6

5:30 - TV Storytime
6:10 - Document
6:30 - Car Crazy
7:00 - Earth News
Special on St. Catharines landfill
7:30 - Elizabeth's Fashions
8:30 - Watt's Up
9:00 - The Beauty of Steel

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 6

5:30 - Pentecostal Presence
6:00 - TV Bingo
7:00 - Canadian Farming On The Go
7:30 - Anatomy of the Human Mind, No. 4
8:00 - Touring Israel
8:30 - George's Country Jamboree

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 7

5:30 - Bermuda - The Life In A Day
6:00 - TV Storytime
6:30 - Caring Foster Parents
7:00 - Lois Gibb Speaks
8:45 - Literacy in the 1990's
9:00 - Business III No. 10
9:28 - PSA
9:30 - Business 121, No. 10

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 8

5:30 - Centennial Public School Presents "Alice"
6:42 - Ontario Canada
7:00 - Pentecostal Presence
7:30 - Document
8:00 - Car Crazy
8:30 - Where There Is A Will
9:00 - Yukon Territory
9:30 - Psychology 204, No. 10

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 9

5:30 - Money In The Bank
5:28 - PSA
6:00 - Regional Council

It's your CHOICE! Help To Select Acton's CITIZEN of the YEAR FOR 1989

I nominate _____
as Citizen of the Year 1989.
Reasons for nomination...

SIGNATURE

The event is sponsored by the Acton Lions Club with a view to honoring a citizen or group for outstanding service to the community.
The winner will be honored at the Citizen of the Year Award Dinner, November 29th, 1990 at the Acton Legion.

DEADLINE FOR NOMINATIONS IS
12:00 NOON, MONDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 1990

MAIL YOUR ENTRIES TO:
The Acton Lions Club
Box 28, Acton, Ontario L7J 2M2



SNOW REMOVAL TENDER TENDER NO. 90-0017

Halton Hills Hydro will receive sealed bids up to 12:00 Noon, Wednesday, November 7th, 1990 for snow removal at various locations in the Halton Hills area. Information to bidders will be made available at our Operations Office, 43 Alice Street, Acton, Ontario, L7J 2A9.



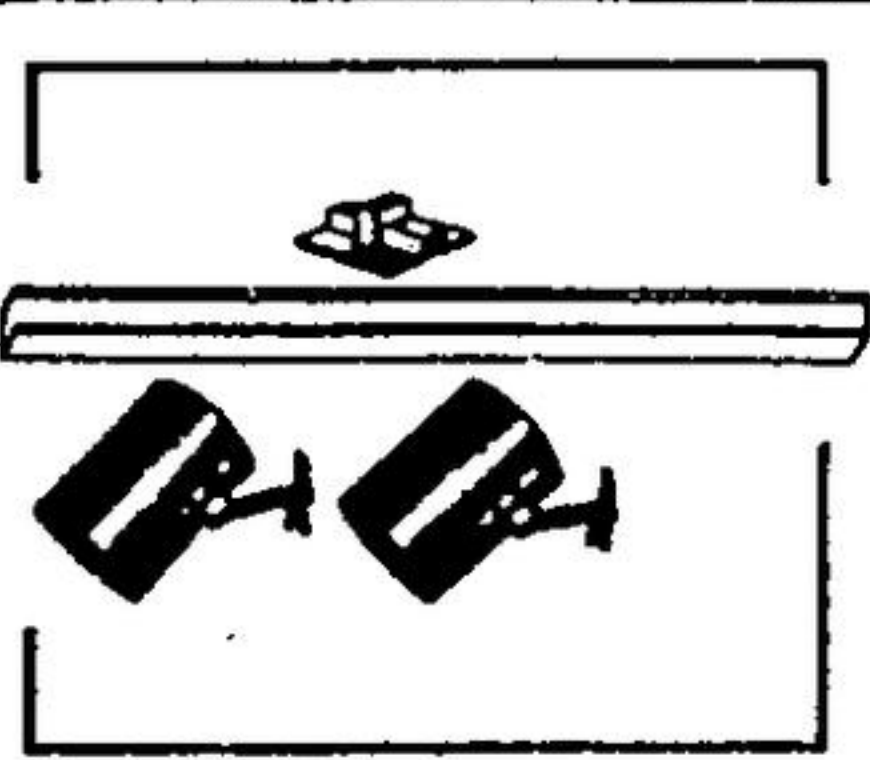
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