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# Violent behaviour among children on the rise

By BEN DUMMETT  
The Herald

More and more children in Georgetown and Acton are displaying violent and mental health problems than ever before, said Halton Commissioner for Social Services Bonnie Ewart in an interview Friday.

This alarming perception about today's children in Halton Hills was articulated in two community focus groups held in Georgetown and Acton earlier this year, said Ms. Ewart.

The problem isn't unique to Halton Hills. Similar perceptions about children living in the rest of Halton Hills were expressed in community focus groups held in Oakville and Burlington, said the commissioner. Provincial studies also show violent behaviour among children across the province is at its highest level, added Ms. Ewart.

Ms. Ewart said the focus groups were staged by the Children's Services Coordinating and Advisory Group (CSCAG), whose mandate is to develop a 10-year strategic plan for Halton to meet the needs of its children.

The CSCAG was developed through the cooperation of the Region and the province's Ministry of Community and



Bonnie Ewart

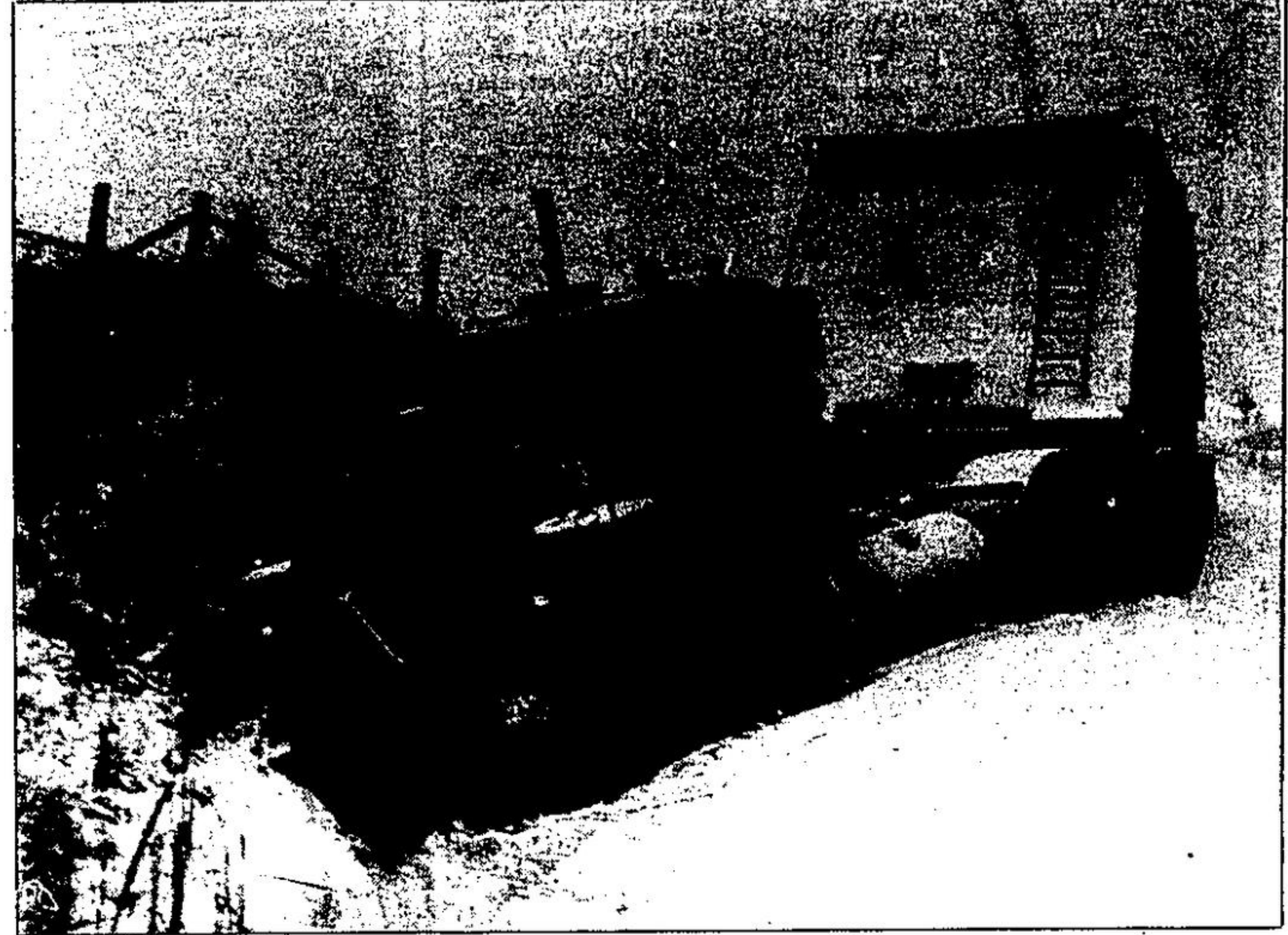
Social Services and it is comprised of a wide range of children's services including Regional social services staff, according to a regional report.

CSCAG held a workshop Tuesday (yesterday) in Burlington to discuss what form the plan will take, who should implement it and how it should be monitored, said Ms. Ewart.

The results of the workshop were unavailable at press time.

According to Ms. Ewart, issues discussed included the lack of child mental health services in the North Halton area. During the Georgetown community focus group meeting, concern was expressed there are no child mental health services in Georgetown to deal with crisis situations. She acknowledged the community has some assessment treatment facilities to determine a child's specific problem, but "there isn't much." As well, there is little in the way of outpatient long-term

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## Winter wonderland

There was no escaping Monday's winter storm that wreaked havoc on Halton Hills' roads. This transport truck on River Drive in Georgetown was one of several vehicles that spent a good part of the day in a ditch instead of on the roadways. Staff Sergeant

Mike Kingston of Halton Regional Police, 11 Division in Georgetown said there were 22 accidents during the storm. Fortunately, none of the accidents resulted in any serious injuries, he said. (Herald photo)

# Hospital Board "happy" with transfusions procedure

Georgetown and District Memorial Hospital Board of Directors are "happy" with the hospital's procedure in dealing with doctors regarding blood transfusions, said acting executive director Randy Esford. "The board and a member of the medical staff reviewed the matter and are happy with the steps taken," in connection with Dr. Carla Ockley and her views

regarding blood transfusions, said Mr. Esford.

Dr. Ockley, who has privileges with Georgetown hospital, refuses to give blood transfusions or cross match blood types for religious reasons. Dr. Ockley is a Jehovah's Witness.

According to hospital procedure, if a doctor refuses to order a blood transfusion that doctor would telephone a consultant (specialist) to order the transfusion.

When the issue first came to light several weeks ago, Mr. Esford stressed "The hospital has always had a system in place in which a patient in need of a transfusion will always receive it; at no time will the patient be denied it."

He went on to explain, in any situation a consultant would be available to order a blood transfusion if necessary.

Mr. Esford said he will soon be meeting with the hospital's Chief of Medicine to formalize the protocol.

Some of the hospital's nurses raised concerns about Dr. Ockley's refusal to issue blood transfusions several weeks ago.

The nurses subsequently met with the hospital's Executive Director, Patient and Resident Care, Marlene Quackenbush, and since then the issue hasn't been raised, said Mr. Esford.

After the story first appeared in local newspapers Nov. 17, Mr. Esford said he received three or four anonymous telephone calls inquiring if the reports in the paper were true. Mr. Esford explained he said yes and then informed the callers the procedure the hospital follows. He said he has had no other public inquiries since then.

Linda Franklin, a spokesperson for the Ontario College of Surgeons and Physicians said the college is satisfied with the steps the hospital has taken. But the College is expecting the hospital to submit a written proposal within the next few weeks, she said.

Mr. Esford said once the protocol is formalized, he will contact the College.

However, he said the College did not order the hospital to make any written submissions.

## An Inside Look

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## Happy 90th birthday

Oh, how sweet life is. To celebrate that sweetness, Halton Hills Mayor Russ Miller paid a visit to Georgetown resident Emma Stigger Saturday at her home to present a plaque in recognition of Mrs. Stigger's 90th birthday. Mrs. Stigger has lived in Georgetown since 1926. She has five grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. (Herald photo)

## Volunteer needed

Halton CAS is looking for a volunteer driver who commutes from the Acton area to Guelph who would be able to drive a 15-year-old student to St. James High School in Guelph. The student lives on Sixth Line west of Hwy. 25, and needs to be at school by 8:50 a.m. Classes end at 3:30, but the student could wait until the end of the working day for a ride home. If you would be able to help, please contact Corrie Galloway at 878-2375.

**20 days until Christmas**