

Community

Parenting Tips

Georgetown Parent-Child Centre

Streetproofing children

By JEANNINE FARRAR

The term "streetproofing" likely conjures up for most parents thoughts of protecting their children from perverts and pedophiles, lying in wait to lure their little ones to a horribel fate.

Sharon E. McKay's presentation on streetproofing includes the facts regarding stranger abduction (it's not as common as many believe). It also aims to dispel the myths surrounding child sexual abuse and provide practical advice on how to keep children safe and healthy.

McKay, who lives in Glen Williams with her husband and two sons, writes a weekly family column in the Toronto Star and contributes to Kids Toronto, Today's Parent and Discovery Magazine, among others. She is also the author of three books, Streetproofing Gently and Creatively, The New Child Safety Handbook and The New Parent Survival Handbook, all published in the last five years.

Cathy Jenkins, of the Infant and Toddler Safety Association has high praise for McKay's work. "All too often, books deal-

ing with child safety are too boring, scary and technical to create much safety awareness. Sharon McKay has written one which will be absorbed and enjoyed from cover to cover, and then referred to constantly by parents and caregivers."

In her presentation, McKay discusses "stranger danger" and questions the usefulness of telling kids not to talk to strangers. She also talks about how to explain sexual abuse to a child under five.

McKay believes there is a lot of alarmist behavior today on the subject of sexual abuse of children. "The problem is, we don't know how to listen to children so we know what's really going on with them." She relates anecdotes in her presentation which illustrate this point.

You can hear Sharon McKay's presentation - Streetproofing Gently and Creatively - at The Georgetown Parent-Child Centre's Annual General Meeting, June 18, 1991, 7:30 p.m. at St. Andrew's United Church, 89 Mountainview Rd. S.

Admission is free and everyone is welcome.



Cobblehill dedication

Several local dignitaries visited the site of the Cobblehill Homes Cooperative project on Cook Street in Acton Saturday to participate in a plaque dedication ceremony to recognize the construction start of the project.

Once completed the project will be comprised of 36 housing units. Completion is expected this December. Those who participated in the dedication

ceremony include (left to right) Acton Councillors Rick Bonnette, Norm Elliott, Coun. Robert Heaton representing Halton Hills Mayor Russ Miller, North-Halton MPP Noel Duignan, Acton Coun. Gerald Rennie, Cobblehill Homes Cooperative Board members Tammy Livermore and Bonnie Ball. (Herald photo)

Teen mothers can join TEAM

Are you a young mother who wants to go back to school, but can't find child care? Why not join the TEAM.

Teen Education and Motherhood (TEAM) enables pregnant teenagers and young mothers to finish their education in a friendly and supportive environment. The students, using independent learning materials, are able to work at their own pace, with teaching staff who are available to help them with any problems or concerns.

Child care is provided, on site, for both infants and pre-schoolers and mothers are nearby in their own classroom.

In September, TEAM will be running from the Cedarvale Community Centre and Maple Nursery School, Georgetown and from Acton at the Acton Parent-Child Resource Centre. Classes will be offered Monday-Friday, 1:00-4:00 p.m.

The program is offered through the Adult and Continuing Education Department of the Halton Board of Education, and has been running successfully in Burlington, Milton and Oakville. The program will be expanding to both Acton and Georgetown in September.

Registration for the program is underway. For further information, contact Anne Day at 878-1240.

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NOTICE

On Monday, June 10, 1991, the Town of Halton Hills will be conducting a Special Collection of Garden and Yard Wastes. Materials such as old flower stalks, grass clippings, hedge trimmings and other related wastes will be collected at curbside and taken to Scott's Composting Farm.

Please place your yard wastes at the curbside prior to 7:30 a.m. the day of the collection. Clear plastic bags would make collection easier, however, normal green garbage bags are acceptable.

NO regular household refuse will be collected on this day.

For further information please contact the Town of Halton Hills, Public Works Section at 873-2600, ext. 374.

R.C. Austin, P.Eng.
Town Engineer

AD No. 1409