

Rotsma takes over as NHADH Executive Director

After one year as acting executive director of the North Halton Association for the Developmentally Handicapped, Andy Rotsma of Burlington was appointed as the organization's executive director June 1.

"Mr. Rotsma has done an outstanding job in this acting position over the past year and we're confident that he will continue to do so," stated the NHADH board of directors in their July newsletter.

"I've found the past year challenging," said Mr. Rotsma during an interview at his Georgetown Park Avenue office. "Our association has doubled in size in the past two years and we've added quite a few clients to the supported and independent living group."

In his new position, he plans to continue expanding the association's life-skills program.

"More and more people coming

into our service are physically challenged as well as mentally challenged," he said. "They really benefit from the life-skills training."

He's also busy in the process of establishing two children's respite homes in North Halton.

"We're hoping to open two spots strictly for respite and two spots for children who need long-term care," he said.

As well, he's hoping to open up a few more supported and independent living homes for developmentally handicapped adults in the area.

"We have a waiting list with 22 names of adults living in the community or in other institutions who want to live in a group home," he said.

Though new tasks are being undertaken and existing programs are expanding, the NHADH is still a relatively small association and Mr. Rotsma says



Andy Rotsma

he likes that.

He decided he wanted to work with the NHADH for that reason and left his job as a manager of day programs at Oaklands Regional Centre in Oakville in February, 1989 to become NHADH's residential director.

Mr. Rotsma had been with Oaklands Regional Centre for the Developmentally Handicapped for 13 years in a number of management positions.

He's been in the field of working with the developmentally handicapped since his college days when he and two other students received a grant from the provincial government to offer recreational activities for developmentally handicapped persons.

"That sparked by interest and after school, I worked for the Oakville Association for the Mentally Retarded before I began working at Oaklands."

Other title changes at NHADH

include: Bev Heinz as the new Director of Finance; Jan Crowe McManus as the Director of Supported Independent Living Services; George Wilson as the new Day Service Supervisor to Arc Industries and Dianne Williams as the new Residential Director.



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