

Literacy Guild works with adults

By HEATHER ANGUS
Herald Special

This is the first of a four-part series on tutor/student success stories at the North Halton Literacy Guild. One-on-one tutoring for any adult in Halton Hills is free, confidential, and individualized. (Study where and when it suits you.) You can get your own tutor by calling Ave Edington at the North Halton Literacy Guild, 873-2200 or 876-4756.

Scott (not his real name) and his tutor, Anne Simpson, were matched by the North Halton Literacy Guild in September 1990. After working together at weekly lessons, Scott has improved his reading and writing skills.

"With the (one-on-one) system at the Guild, I don't think someone can really fail," Scott says. "You're going to gain something from the experience."

Scott first heard about the North Halton Literacy Guild from an advertisement on Halton Cble (Channel 4) last summer. He wasn't sure if the literacy program was suitable, so he hesitated about calling for a couple of months.

"I didn't know if I'd be accepted," Scott says. "I thought maybe you had to be unable to read or write at all, and I could read."

Scott finished high school, but later realized that he didn't have enough understanding of grammar and spelling to achieve his personal goals. A computer

operator in the manufacturing sector, he hopes to take college courses, and to write his biography for his children.

Scott has taken adult education courses at a local high school, but found they didn't suit him.

"I couldn't fulfil what was expected in the classes," he says. "I tried to run when I couldn't walk."

Scott doesn't respond well to stress, so he never did well on exams for these courses. "As soon as the exam was over, the information would all come back to me," he recalls.

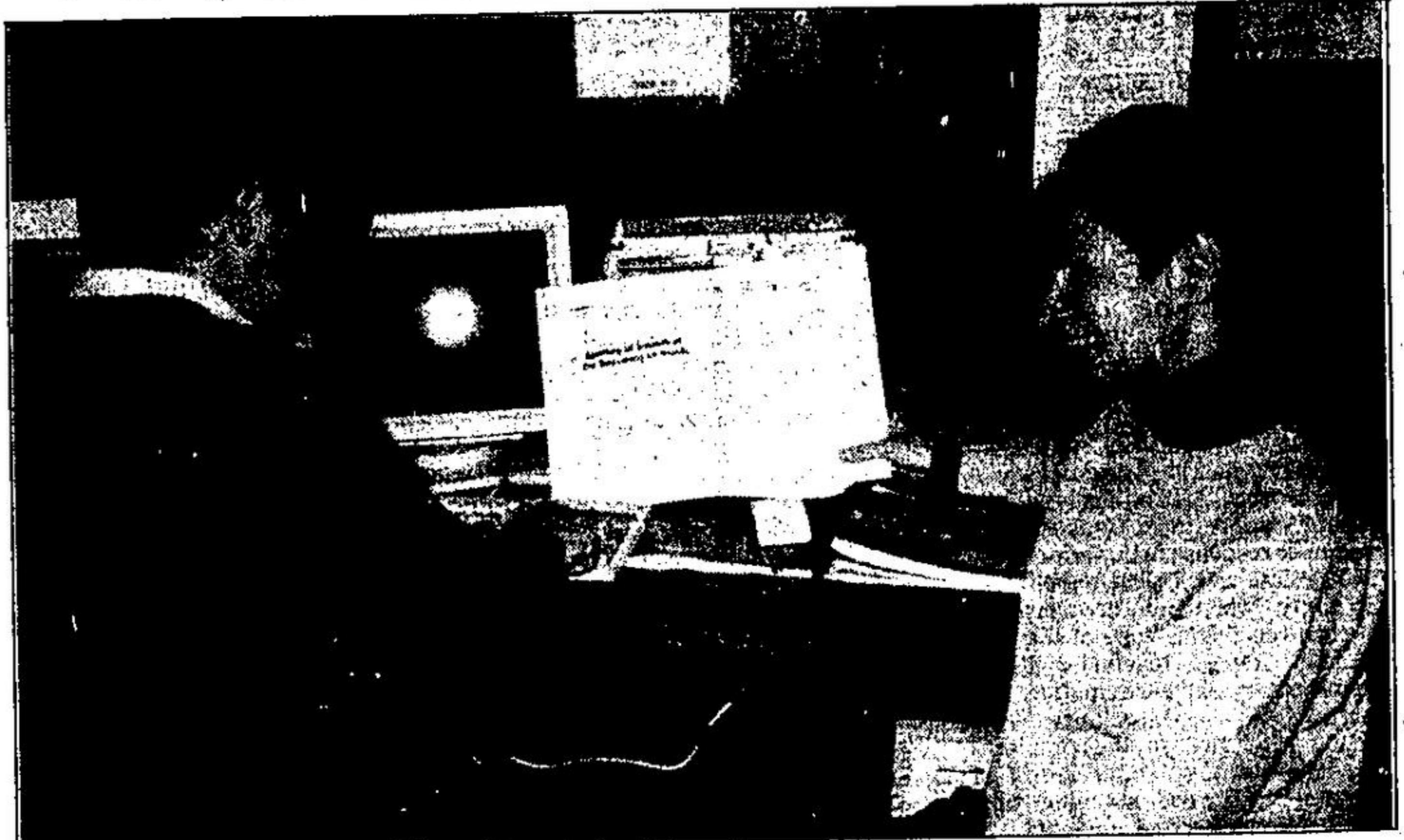
There are no exams at the North Halton Literacy Guild, and tutors don't use grades to judge a student's progress. Students work at their own pace, using materials of their own choice.

"The person-to-person relationship with a tutor really helps," Scott says, "and the Guild staff are warm, sincere, and friendly."

Scott now feels much more at ease when writing; he enjoys composing letters, short stories, and accounts of daily experiences. "I have always admired people who have a flare for writing with ease, without mistakes," he says.

"The more I write, the more I have an urge to write," Scott adds. "The only problem now is that there's not enough time to write everything I want to!"

Anne and Scott meet every week, in the afternoon, evening or morning, depending on Scott's



Tutor Anne Simpson

work shifts. They hold their lessons in the local library, or at the North Halton Literacy Guild's office on Trafalgar Road in Georgetown.

Scott doesn't spend as much time on his reading and writing as he would like, due to his family life and busy work schedule. He has been frustrated by this, realizing that his progress depends on the amount of time and energy that he puts into his lessons.

"It's not always easy to come to the lesson... sometimes I'm busy, sometimes very tired," Scott admits. "But I always leave

the lesson feeling good."

Scott and Anne have been using spelling and writing exercise books, as well as a computer software program called "Grammar Gremlins." The North Halton Literacy Guild has two computers which students and tutors may use. Scott now wants to learn to touch-type on the computer's keyboard, using a "how-to" software program.

Anne likes the spontaneous nature of her tutoring sessions with Scott. "I enjoy seeing Scott grasp an idea," Anne says. "It's very exciting when something becomes clear... it happens at odd times, when you don't know a

breakthrough is coming."

Scott likes the flexibility of their lessons. "We go along and come across something unexpected... not necessarily planned as part of our lesson," he says. "Pretty soon we're dealing with a different problem of writing or spelling."

Scott's advice to individuals who could benefit from joining the North Halton Literacy Guild is to "overlook what people think and say... look instead at your long-range achievement, personal freedom, and expression."

He adds that "you may feel after joining, 'Gee, why didn't I get help earlier?'"

Doors close at Kay's Grocery

By LISA BOONSTOPPEL-POT
The Herald

For 42 years George Brandford has been opening the front door of Kay's Grocery on Guelph St. and closing it after a long day behind the counter. But Aug. 31, Mr. Brandford regretfully locked up Kay's to spend needed time recuperating from illness.

"I'm in ill health. When I feel better, I'll open it up again but I have no idea when that will be," said the 67-year-old man while sitting at his kitchen table at the back portion of the building where Kay's is located.

After spending so many years working close to 15 hours a day,

having nothing to do isn't easy to take for this well-known, well-respected and well-liked man in the community.

"It's hard," he says simply.

As a young man, Mr. Brandford was no stranger to hard work. He was in the airforce for two years before he started working for Alliance Mills (later known as Domtar).

He worked there for 12 years. Then he married and purchased the grocery store on Guelph St, renaming it Kay's after the woman he married. Together the two worked side-by-side in the store for 40 years before Kay passed away in May of 1989.

Kay's Grocery supplied its customers with groceries, confectionary and built up a reputation for its meat counter.

"I had customers come in for 40 years," stated Mr. Brandford. "Then I had their kids as customers and their kids too!"

For 20 years before Mrs. Brandford died, the couple also ran a recreation room for teenagers to come in and eat their lunch and have a place to "shoot the breeze" as Mr. Brandford calls it.

"We had a juke box and a few pin-ball machines in there. It was a place to relax and eat your lunch."

He admits he really enjoys having his own store. "It's a real sense of independence. I've enjoyed it over the years."

Special literacy workshop

On the morning of Monday, October 7, a workshop will be presented on "How To Design and Compose Clear Language Documents for the Workplace." Frontier College, Canada's oldest literacy organization will be teaching participants how to reach employees, clients, and consumers more effectively through advanced plain language techniques.

Sponsoring the workshop for business, government and social service agencies in the area, is the North Halton Literacy Guild, a non-profit organization that teaches adults how to improve their reading, writing and basic

math. "The workshop teaches you that clear, simple writing is always better, particularly for the author," said Karen Bongard of the Literacy Guild. "All regardless of their literacy skills, are far more likely to read a brochure or training manual that's clearly laid out and jargon-free," she said.

The setting for the workshop is the charming Scotsdale Heritage Farm north of Georgetown. Continental breakfast is included in the \$25 registration fee. For more information contact Karen before September 25 at 873-2200. Registration is limited to 45 participants.



George Brandford has owned and worked in Kay's Grocery on Guelph St. in Georgetown for 42 years but due to a debilitating illness, he just doesn't have the energy to keep the store open and has temporarily closed it. He plans to re-open the grocery store when he feels better. (Herald Photo)

A family of scholars



Alexander Sekulovich, M.S.C., son of the late Mr. George Sekulovich and Mrs. Juanita Sekulovich of Georgetown recently graduated from the University of Manitoba with his Master's Degree in Nuclear Physics. Alexander moves on to Vancouver to take up a position in his field.



Andrew Sekulovich, younger son of the late Mr. George Sekulovich and Mrs. Juanita Sekulovich of Georgetown recently graduated from Ryerson Polytechnical Institute in Toronto in Electrical Engineering Technology. After vacationing in Germany, Andy returns to Toronto to take up a position with Grey Coach.



Michelle Sekulovich, daughter of the late Mr. George Sekulovich and Mrs. Juanita Sekulovich of Georgetown recently graduated from Georgetown High School and now attends Fanshawe College, London, where she will pursue studies in designing.