

Todd Ellis earns Amity Goodwill Award

Living with a disability has done little to hinder Todd Ellis' spirits or deny him his dreams.

Two months ago, this 17-year-old from Georgetown was chosen the winner of the Amity Goodwill Award for 1990 for the Halton Roman Catholic Board of Education.

Todd, a Grade 12 student at Bishop Reding Secondary School in Milton, will receive this award from Amity Goodwill Industries sometime next month in recognition of outstanding performance as a secondary school student challenged with a disability.

"I was really pleased when I first heard about it," explains Todd. "I didn't expect to win. My parents were very happy too."

Works in service dept.

Confined to a wheelchair since birth, Todd Ellis has not let his disability limit his activities.

As part of his daily school schedule, Todd works in the service department at Gallinger Motors car dealership in Milton as co-op placement.

He says he has reached the point where he's able to help his father when problems with the family car arise.

He also likes to spend spare time working on computers and just about anything related to cars such as making models and reading books.

"I hope to go to Georgian Col-

lege in Barrie after high school for automotive merchandising," Todd says.

Transition difficult

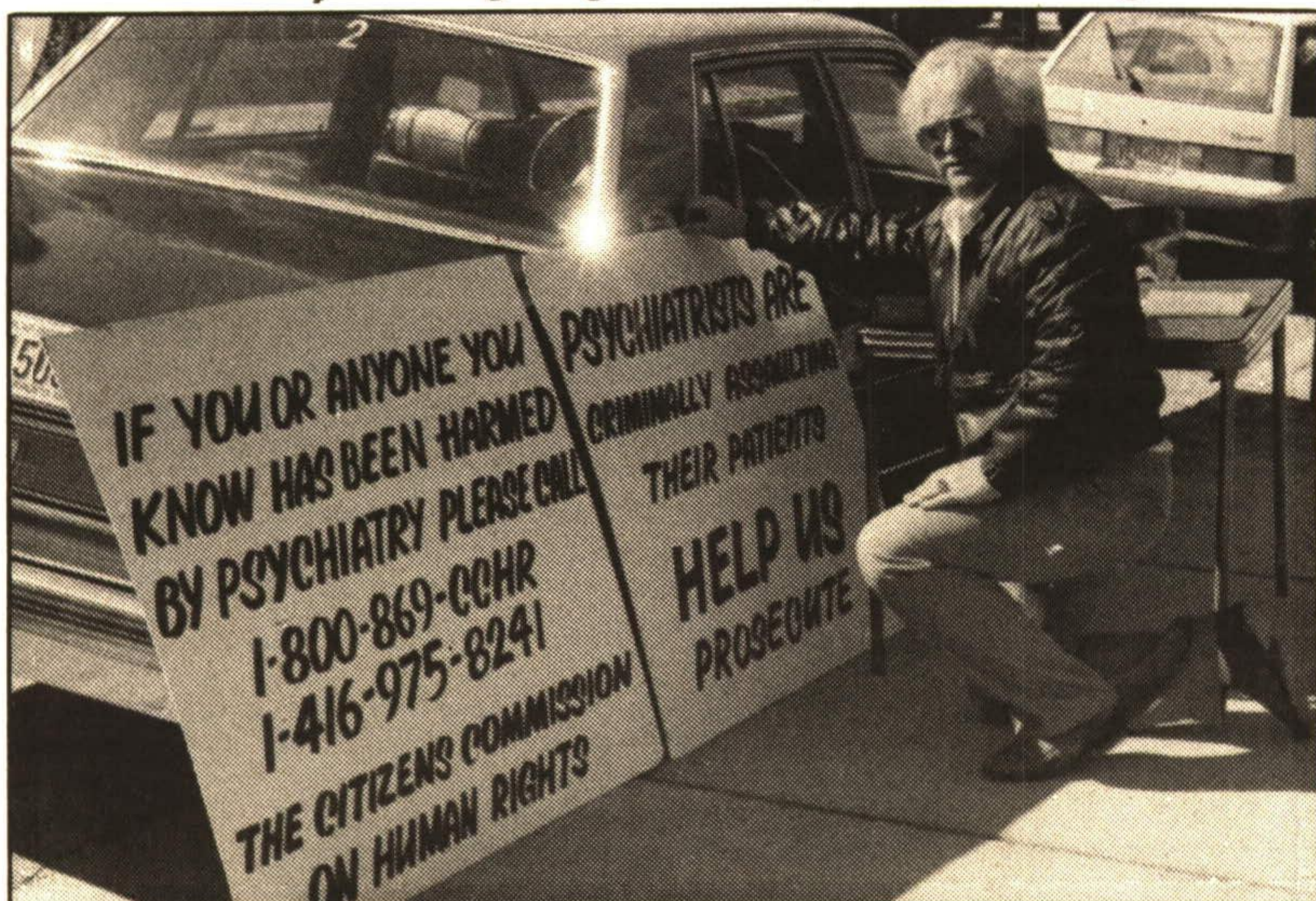
He recalls when he started high school he found the transition a little difficult but that he received a great deal of support from teachers and students.

He explains that high school has been easier to deal with because Bishop Reding High

School is a closely knit community.

Speaking with Todd Ellis, it is easy to forget that he is disabled. Despite little details such as transportation, he deals with school and with life in general just as any other student.

"I'm trying to do my best in school and be friendly. If you're friendly, things seem to go easier."



Don Moore of the Church of Scientology's Citizens' Commission on Human Rights was on Main St. Wednesday afternoon collecting signatures for a petition. The petition called on the provincial government to properly enforce Ontario Mental Health Act provisions giving psychiatric patients the right to refuse treatment.

MARIANNE TAKACS, Halton Hills Weekend

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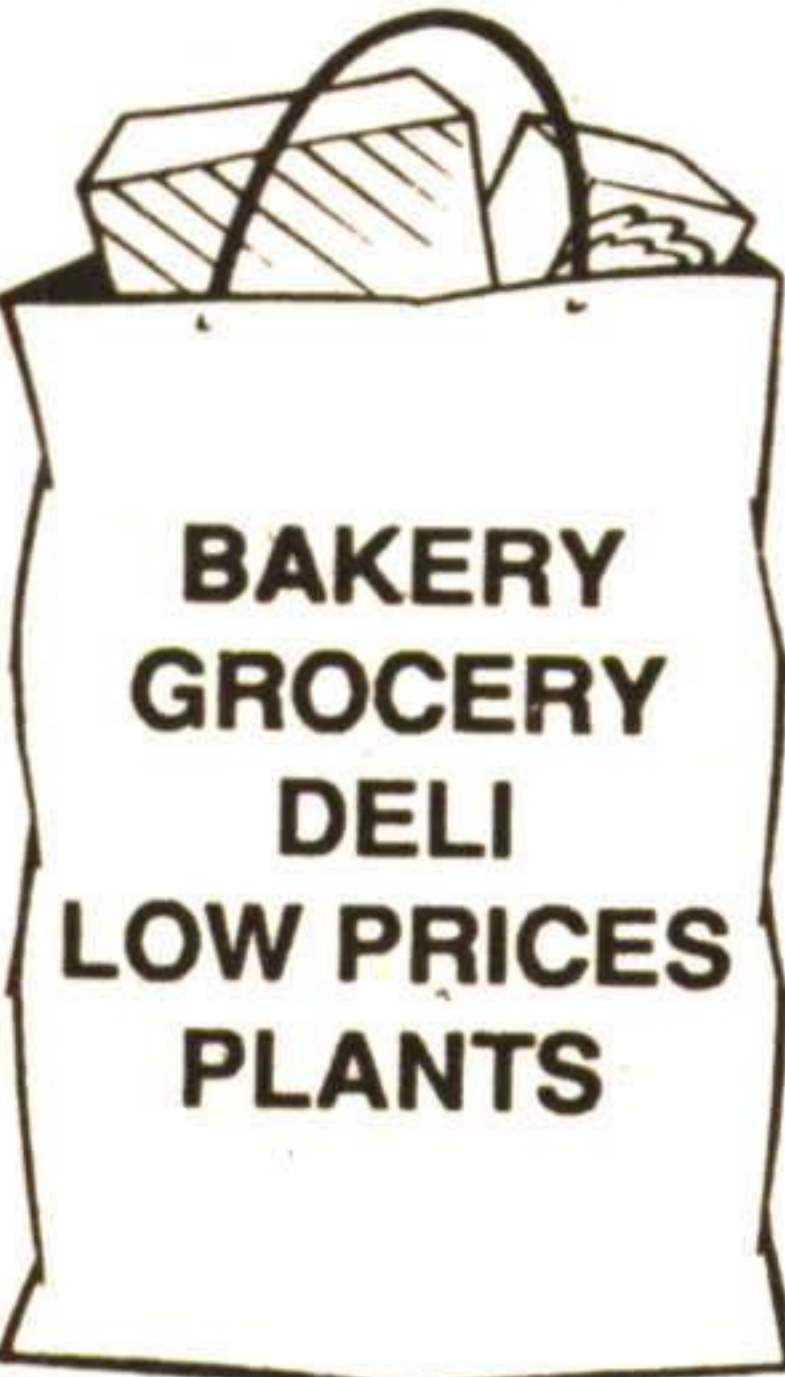
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