



## A.F.S.C. CARNIVAL

The Acton Figure Skating Club will be presenting their Annual Carnival "BOOKSHELF MAGIC" at the Acton Arena on Friday, March 22 at 7:30 p.m. and Saturday, March 23 at 2:00 & 7:30 p.m. A **LIMITED NUMBER** of tickets will be sold this year for each show. Tickets are available at Lakeview Centre, Main St., Acton and at the arena during figure skating hours. Admission: Adults \$6.00; Seniors & Students \$5.00; Children under 10 years \$2.00.



Five members of Georgetown Figure Skating Club represented their club at the Western Ontario Section Winter Invitational Competition, in Sarnia (March 8-10) and brought home some medals. From left, Tara Hart brought home two golds for freeskate and compulsory moves; Rose-Marie

Gimeno took two silvers for freeskate and compulsory moves; Katie Cochrane, two silvers for freeskate and compulsory elements; Lesley Watson received a bronze in interpretive and Danielle Demble received golds for freeskate and compulsory elements.



## HALTON HILLS Gymnastics Club

### SPRING REGISTRATION

**MONDAY, MARCH 18th**

**6:00 - 8:00 p.m.**

at the Rose Room  
above  
The Memorial Arena

For more information call

877-4330

## Georgetown Parent-Child Centre a haven for parents, caregivers and kids

By JEANNINE FARRAR

Time was when Dad went out into the world every day to bring home the bacon and Mom stayed home with the kids and cooked it. Now, fewer than one in five North American families fit that demographic.

For most of us, the economic realities of the '90s force both parents, or the single parent, out into the workplace leaving our children in the care of others.

Those of us lucky (or determined) enough to manage on one income find few of the supports our foremothers once enjoyed. The days are gone when mothers at home with young children could count on neighbors or extended family for company or commiseration.

And there are times, especially during the long winter months, when a person can feel isolated and down in the dumps trying to meet the demands of babies and small children with little adult interaction.

But lucky for us, there's a wonderful resource that's working to fill that void for parents and caregivers - The Georgetown Parent-Child Centre.

In its third year, the centre has evolved into a vital support for more than 125 local families.

On a typical Tuesday morning, the centre is a-buzz with the happy sounds of babies, toddlers and assorted pre-schoolers absorbed in play. The parents, meanwhile, supervise the crafts or referee at the sand table, and in-between-times, share coffee and conversation with the other adults.

Later on, there's gym time, when the kids can let loose on the climbing frames and riding toys and then it's snack and circle time, with the ECE teacher leading the group in songs and finger plays.

Besides the Monday, Tuesday, Thursday morning Drop-in program, the centre offers Take-a-Breaks on Wednesday and Friday mornings. This is a chance for the Moms (and Dads) to be relieved of child duty for a couple of hours while speakers give workshops

on the premises on topics as varied as preparing your child for kindergarten, gourmet cooking, town planning and family law.

The centre also sponsors a variety of parenting courses and runs, among others, a special program for the older pre-schooler and one for new fathers and their babies.

As a member for the last two years, I've found the centre invaluable. It's given me an outlet for my volunteering urge, I've joined a babysitting co-op and developed a network of like-minded friends.

For my two children, the centre is a place where they feel comfortable and have fun.

And the best thing is, it's affordable. Largely funded by the provincial Ministry of Community and Social Services, the annual family membership is a mere \$15 - and it's open to everyone.

The Georgetown Parent-Child Centre is a place where parents or caregivers at home with young children can get the support, encouragement and companionship once found over the backyard fence.

Parenting courses scheduled for the spring include:

Children: The Challenges of the Preschool Years, from April 2 to May 7, Tuesdays 1 to 3 p.m., child care provided. Cost: \$40 per person, \$50 per couple.

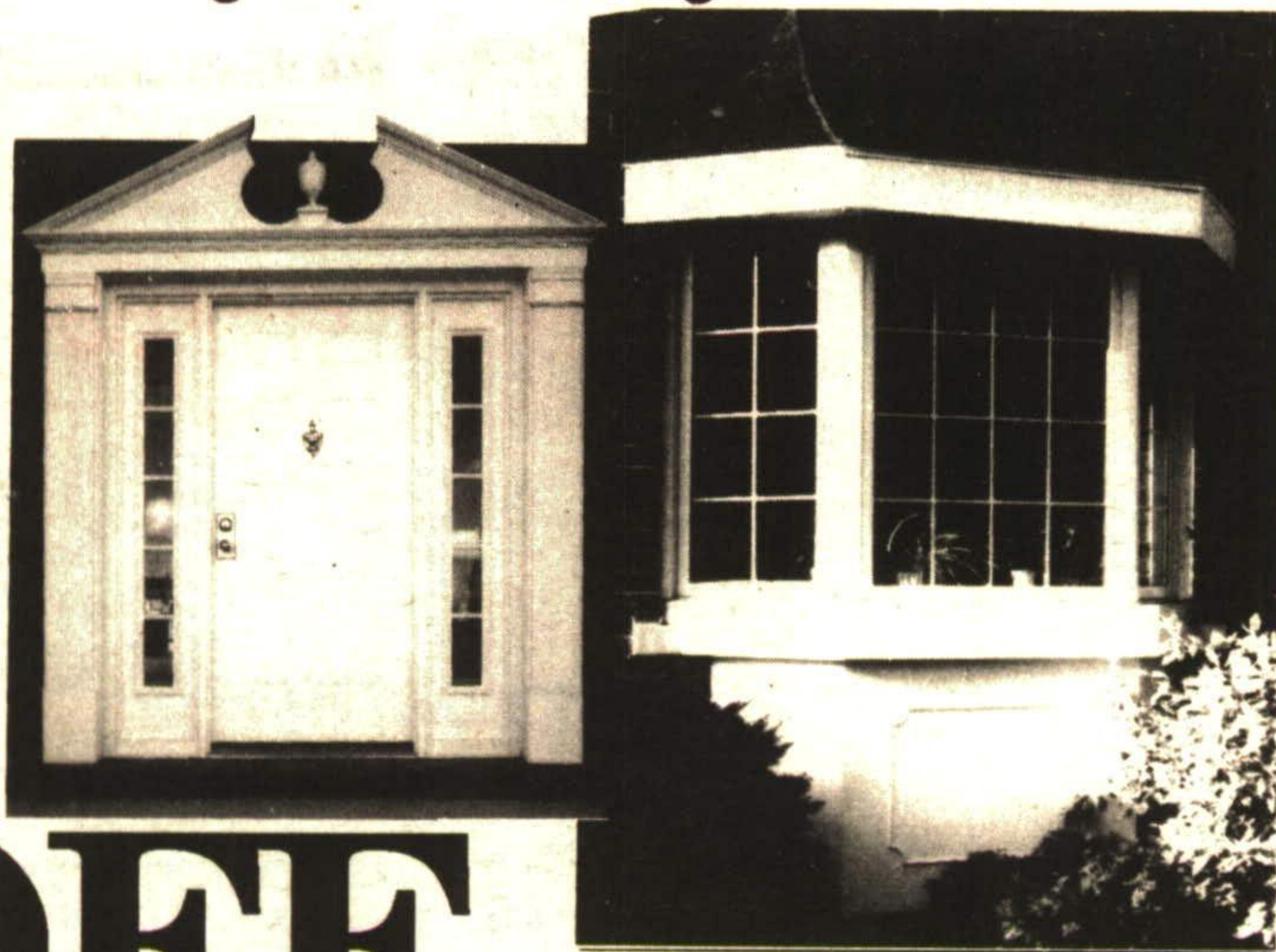
Growing Pains: Challenges of Parenting the School-Age Child, from April 23 to May 28, 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. Cost: \$40 per person, \$50 per couple.

Precious Moments with Dad (a four-week program for fathers and their new babies), starts April 20 for four weeks, Saturdays, 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. Cost: \$10.

For more information about the GPCC, located in the basement of St. Andrew's Church on Mountainview Rd. S., or to register for courses, call 873-2960.

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