

Halton Health Council developing plan to support cancer services

The Halton District Health Council is commencing a study to develop a coordinated plan for the provision of cancer treatment and related support services for Halton.

The decision to undertake a study on cancer services arose out of issues identified in their recently completed Strategic Plans for Acute and Primary Care Services (hospital and community care) and on Health and Social Services for Seniors. The studies reported that in 1987 there were 870 'new cases' of cancer diagnosed in Halton. Treatment for cancer resulted in 25,000 days of hospital care for Halton residents during 1987/88. In Ontario, 80 per cent of cancers are diagnosed in persons over the age of 50. Approximately one quarter of all deaths are caused by cancer.

"People and families are often devastated when they learn of a cancer diagnosis. They are anxious to get treatment as soon as possible and usually prefer to receive that care as close to home as possible," states Marlene Longdon, executive director of the District Health Council.

The study addresses the issue that persons diagnosed with cancer need more than just treatment services. "They often need support in the form of home help, transportation, nutritional coun-

selling and information about their illness. Families also need help in the areas of information, support and, in some cases bereavement. While the community has a variety of groups and agencies involved in cancer treatment and support, there are still gaps and inadequacies. A local example is the heavy demand being experienced at Joseph Brant Memorial Hospital, the only hospital in Halton with a cancer clinic. In addition, the system requires better coordination, bringing early detection, treatment, community care, and self-help groups closer together into a system of care," states Longdon.

The study, being funded by the Ministry of Health and the four local Halton hospitals, commenced this month under the direction of an 18-person steering committee comprised of health and social service providers and consumers. The committee is chaired by Ms. Bonnie Brown, a past chair of the Health Council.

The Price Waterhouse consultants employed to conduct the study will use a variety of mechanisms to obtain the views of consumers and service providers regarding cancer services. Persons wishing to express their views are encouraged to contact the District Health Council at 842-2120 or write 700 Dorval Suite 503, Oakville, L6K 3V3.



BARB STEPHENS /Weekend

A very happy Day Camp leader, Kevin McMurray (centre of the photo) shows his two free passes to Canada's Wonderland presented to him by The Georgetown Independent/Acton Free Press on behalf of the Halton Hills Recreation Department. The

tickets were presented to Kevin upon his selection for the first Customer Service Award. A summer activity staff member who exemplifies a high standard of Customer Service Excellence will be selected each week to receive the award.

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Speakers available to talk

The Halton Healthy Lifestyles Coalition, a partnership of community organizations and volunteers, has developed a Speakers' Bureau.

Its goal is to tap a large, and readily-available reserve of exper-

tise about nutrition. The bureau is a first-ever for the Halton Region and is designed, like the Coalition itself, to promote good eating habits.

The list of speakers currently contains the names of a dozen highly qualified people who are registered professional dietitians; they all either work or reside in Halton Region and hold memberships in the Ontario Dietetic Association.

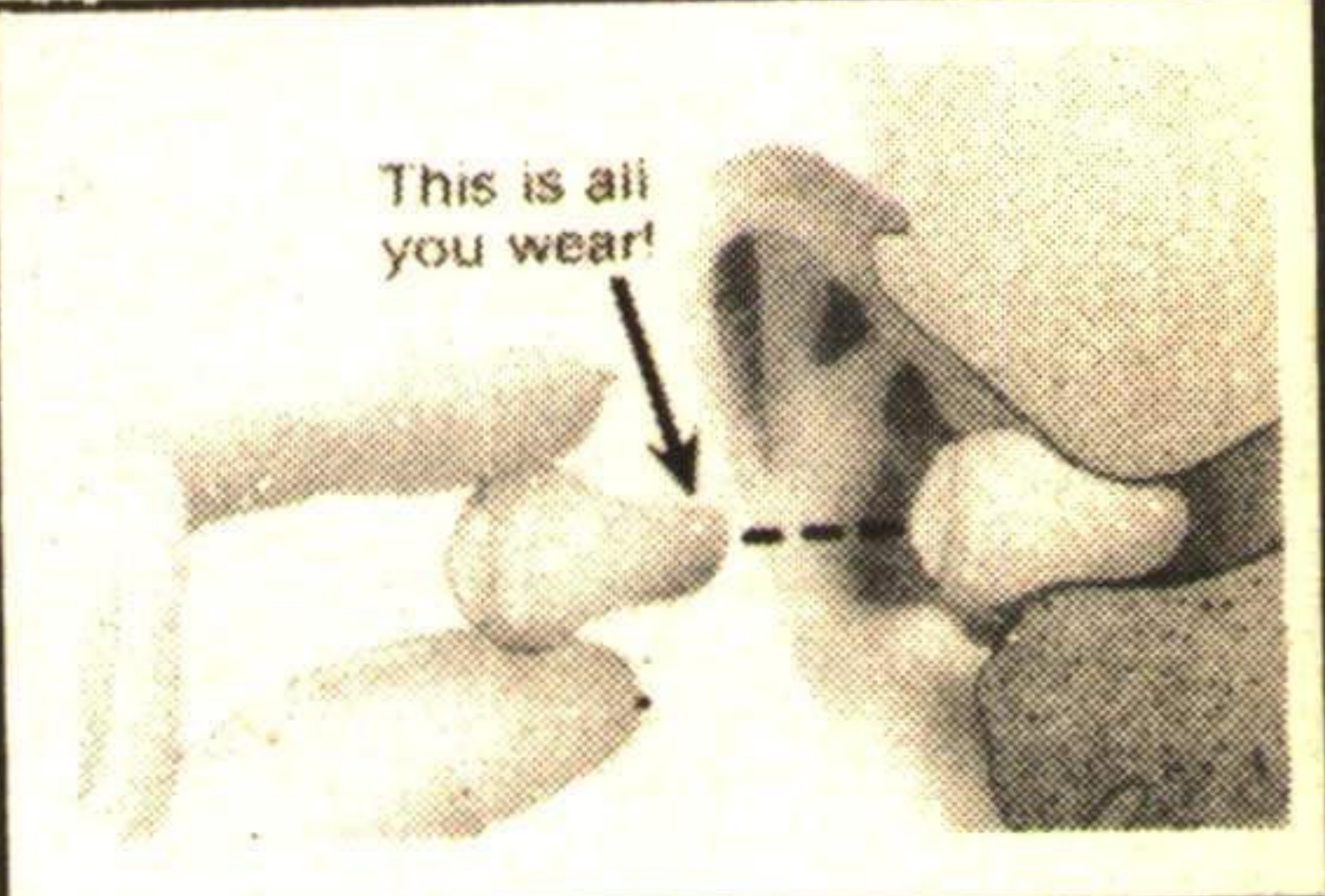
This list provides the information necessary to direct a specific message(s) to a specific audience: the area(s) of expertise of each speaker... how to contact them directly... fees (if any)... ideal audience size.

For further information please contact Jenny Carryer at the Halton Healthy Lifestyles Coalition, 416-842-2120.

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