



DARE graduates honored

Grade six students (above) from Centennial Middle School and St. Francis of Assisi School gathered at Centennial, Wednesday as 250 students graduated from the D.A.R.E (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) program, under the instruction of Cst. Stewart Flaming of Halton Regional Police. AT left, Cst. Flaming presented all students like Daniel Szlachta of St. Francis, with their certificates.

TED BROWN Independent/Free Press



New detox centre in Brampton

By **MARTA MARYCHUK**
Staff writer

The Ontario Ministry of Health has announced capital funding of \$1.8 million to build a 30-bed drug and alcohol detoxification centre in Brampton, to serve the regions of Peel, Halton and Dufferin.

Ontario Minister of Health Ruth Grier made the announcement yesterday (Thursday) morning, at a press conference at Peel Memorial Hospital, in Brampton.

"I know people have waiting for this for a very long time," Grier told a group of about 75 people.

In 1987 the Peel District Health Council identified a non-medical detoxification centre as its number one priority. In 1991 the provincial government announced \$774,000 in funding for operating expenses and

\$500,000 in capital costs.

Thursday's announcement was for the \$1.35 million remaining in capital costs.

"Today you have made a community dream come true," Frank Caswell, director of the centre, told Grier.

"The centre will provide care in the acute intoxication and early withdrawal stages of substance abuse," said Grier. "This will help them on the road to more intensive counselling and treatment."

Instead of arresting people who are intoxicated, OPP Constable Paul Kasulis said police will now be able to admit these people to the detoxification centre instead. Police will also be able to refer people to the centre for treatment.

Grier estimates three-quarters of the people in Ontario suffer from

some sort drug or alcohol addiction problem. She says the provincial government spends \$9.2 billion annually, through health care and policing costs, to treat these people.

"As a former director of a drug and alcohol treatment centre, I know how important this detoxification centre is," said Noel Duignan, MPP for Halton North.

"Substance abuse affects not only the individual, but also the family and the community as well," he added.

Peel Memorial Hospital collaborated in the planning of the centre with the Addiction Research Foundation, the Ontario Substance Abuse Program, Halton Recovery Program, Peel Addiction Assessment and Referral Centre and police departments in Peel, Halton and Dufferin.

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★ ★ ★ ★ ★

The Georgetown Lions Club is again looking for the "Citizen of the Year", someone who has given unselfishly to the community.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

The Lions Club wants help from you in picking our most deserving citizen or group for 1993. Nominations are now being received for Georgetown Citizen of the Year. Please mail nominations with supporting resume post marked no later than Jan. 28, 1994 to Georgetown Lions Club, Citizen of the Year, P.O. Box 73, Georgetown.

The winner(s) of the award will be made known in March at a dinner to be held in the Lions Club Hall on March 1, 1994. The public is invited to attend this special evening. Tickets are available from Lions Club members.