

Fall Registration



Health Notes

Halton Region

Hospital-in-the-home program

The Hospital-in-the-Home (H.I.T.H.) Program is a 2 year pilot project.

This program is a joint venture and a collaborative effort between the Halton Regional Health Department, Home Care Program and the four regional hospitals-The Joseph Brant Memorial Hospital, The Oakville Trafalgar Memorial Hospital, The Milton District Hospital and the Georgetown and District Memorial Hospital. Hospital-In-The-Home is defined as "professionally delivered specialized clinical services requiring the use of technology and equipment that has been used in hospitals but has not been applied to the home environment". The Program is designed for patients who wish to receive care, when appropriate, in their own home environment or patients who wish to continue their hospitalization in the home.

Halton Region was one of five Hospital-In-The-Home pilot sites selected by the Ministry of Health. The goals and objectives specified for the pilot projects included: - Achieving a community focus.

-To relieve or reduce existing and future pressures on hospital-based resources.

-Improving linkages between health care providers.

-Cost-effectiveness.

-Increased consumer awareness and

-To assist the Ministry with province-wide planning.

The project started in mid July, 1991 and has recently been extended to March 31, 1994.

About 570 patients have been admitted to the program; some from emergency departments, some in-patient units of hospitals, and others from physician's offices. There have been patients of all ages from newborns to senior citizens-the largest group being 30-50 years of age.

By far, the largest group of referred patients have required some form of intravenous therapy. A patient can receive treatment within several hours of the physician making a referral to Hospital-in-the-Home. Any physician with admitting privileges to the four regional hospitals may admit to the program.

Another use for the program has been for people with some types of post-operative orthopedic surgery. These patients are generally young with athletic injuries. Instead of remaining in hospital for three or four days plans are made for discharge from the hospital the same day as surgery.

Palliative patients are another group that have been benefited from the program.

These patients and their families have been provided with increased service, support, and teaching. To prevent an admission to hospital, and if the patient wishes to stay at home, shifts of nursing care may be provided.

Some other types of illness which have managed very successfully on Hospital-in-the-Home are pneumonia, meningitis, osteomyelitis, post-operative wound infections, cellulitis, kidney stones and back pain.

Patients say they like being at home, they get better faster, use less pain medication and that it is less disruptive to their families.

In general, the Hospital-in-the-Home Program provides services over and above what the Home Care Program can provide.

The professional (Nursing, Physiotherapy, Occupational Therapy, speech Therapy) and support services are provided for an average stay of 3-5 days.

For more information, contact Halton Regional Health Department-Home Care Program at 639-5228 Ext. 8788.

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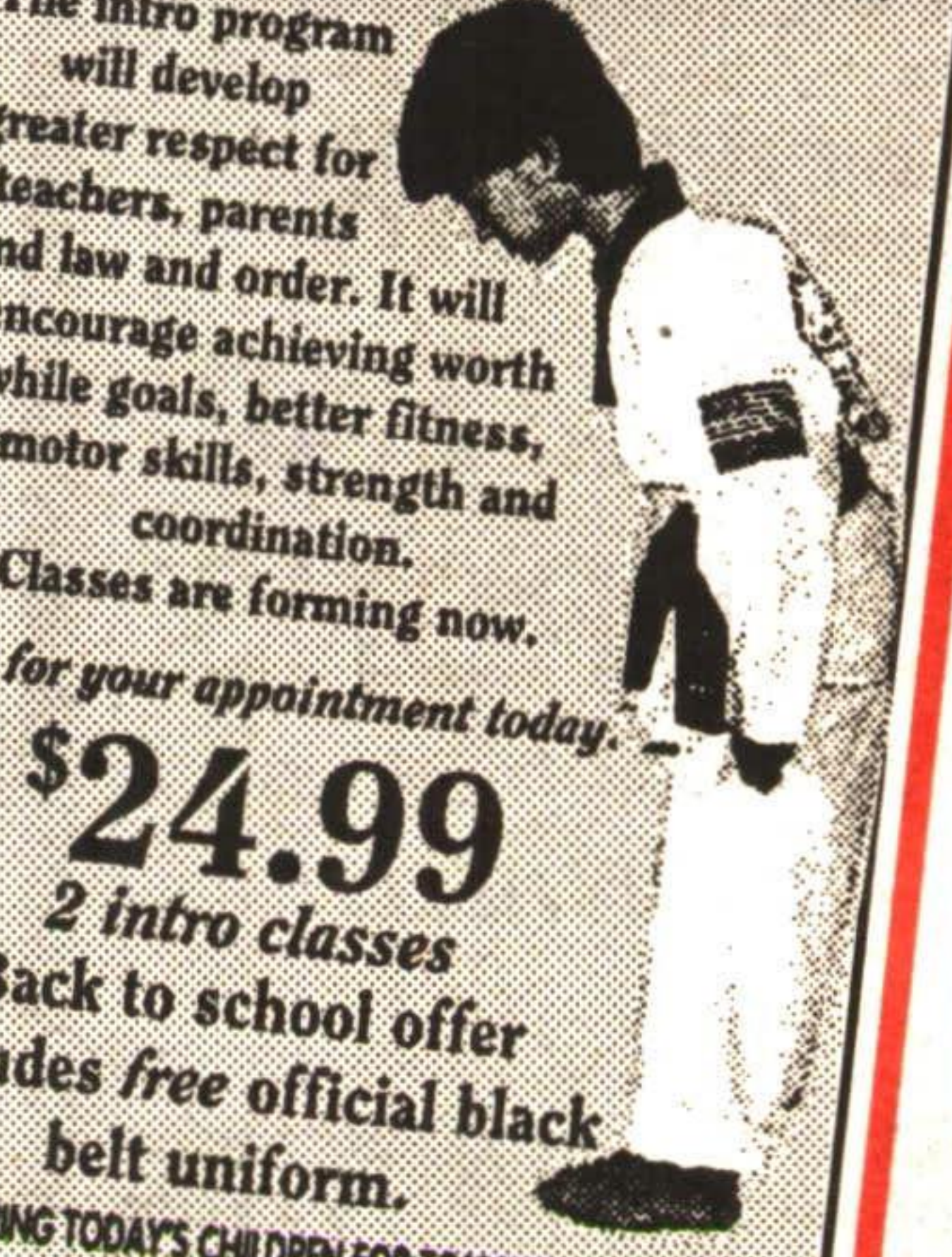
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