

## Parent-teen relations aim of support group

By Dianne Cornish

A parent support group, formed four months ago in Acton, is helping to develop better mutual understanding between area teenagers and their parents.

Parent-Aid is a non-profit group that respects the confidentiality of all those attending its meetings and seeks to deal with a variety of pressing issues, such as teens leaving home, peer pressure, parents' legal responsibilities and substance abuse. Parents are encouraged to come out to the meetings and share their experiences with others who have had similar conflicts with their children.

The group is informal and was formed "because we care about our children," a member said last week during a telephone interview. "There's a definite need out there for this type of organization." Parents often need to discover that 'they are not alone' and there are others who have experienced similar challenges with their children. During Parent-Aid meetings, they have an opportunity to relate to others who have 'been there' and to develop positive attitudes about their relationship with teens.

While the organization was formed in Acton, it is open to all interested parents in Halton Hills and area. To date, the group has met five times. Its next session will be held September 16 at 7:30 p.m. at Acton High School.

While the meetings generally take the form of informal discussions amongst parents, there have been some guest speakers address the group on specialized topics, such as drug and alcohol abuse. The organization plans to respond to the needs of its members and will invite other speakers to discuss topics which parents want to know more about.

Further information about the group and its meetings can be obtained, after the start of the school year, by phoning Acton High School at 853-2920.

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