



**MINOR INJURIES:** Acton resident Sidney Englefield and his fiancée Bonnie Morrison, both of Holmesway Place, Acton suffered minor injuries when their car flipped into the ditch along Highway 7 at Silvercreek Monday morning. Halton police are investigating the accident. (Frances Niblock photo)

## More psychiatric housing available in Acton

BY FRANCES NIBLOCK

For six Acton psychiatric patients, a new home is just a phone call away.

The expected Ministry of Health call will announce funding for an Acton housing program for psychiatric patients. Oakville Re-Entry Homes will operate six rent-geared-to-income units in two Acton homes.

Louise Sinclair of Oakville Re-Entry Homes said in an interview Thursday that they have conditional offers on two properties.

"We have approval and funding from the provincial and federal governments and are waiting to hear from the Ministry of Health.

"We can't do anything until we get that approval, but hopefully it will happen before Christmas," Sinclair said.

"Our conditional offers are based on getting funding from both ministries and I hope six residents will be able to move in by March 1, 1993. It may just be six units but it is significant.

"The housing crisis in North Halton is so dramatic that the professionals doing mental health work in Acton are desperately searching for affordable units. There will probably be a big, long waiting list for these six Acton units."

Sinclair said independence is the goal. "We have found that when people are given their independ-

ence, they improve dramatically.

"We will hire support staff from Acton to help them. I think it is really important to hire someone who lives in the community and we will buy all the furnishings for the homes in Acton as well.

"There will be three people in each house who have been diagnosed with a psychiatric illness and are hooked up with a psychiatric professional. These people do not have criminal records or a history of violence," Sinclair explained.

"Most of the people that we will invite to apply for this housing are already living in Acton in rest home situations and there are probably some who are already living independently in Acton, but can't afford the rents."

Sinclair would not say where the two homes are located but, said they will look like regular homes. Residents will share common areas but have their own bathrooms. The homes will be staffed, but not around the clock.

Sinclair said there is no word on how much money the Acton program will get, but funding is available according to the financial situation of tenants.

Along with the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation and the Ministry of Housing, the Ministry of Health will provide money to pay staff costs.

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A zany comedy featuring Christine Applegate as a mature responsible adult whose mother leaves for Australia, leaving the rest of the family with a babysitter who dies of a heart attack. The movie is exceptionally funny, without Applegate using the dumb blonde routine.

Rated: PG. By Cheryl Cullingham

*This department was prepared by English students at Acton High and sponsored by Acton's Entertainment Tonite video rental store.*

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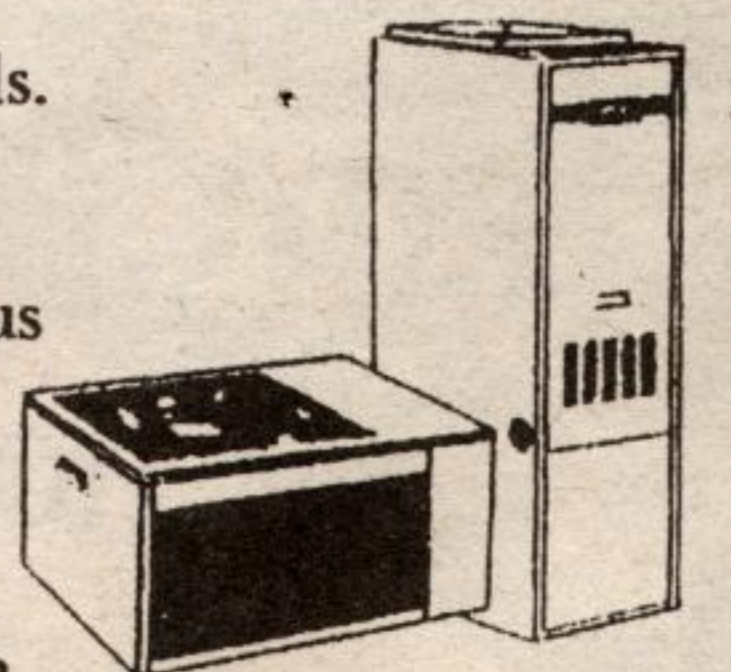
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