

Special needs housing approved

Six Acton residents with psychiatric disabilities will move into two recently-purchased houses in Acton, but officials at Oakville Re-Entry Homes will not say where the houses are located.

"I'm not prepared to say where the houses are located," said Oakville Re-Entry Homes spokesperson Louise Sinclair in an interview last Wednesday.

"Our priority is our clients and their right to privacy. If I felt that they posed any kind of threat to the community, or the neighbours or the people on the street I would be happy to tell you," Sinclair said.

Sinclair stressed that all residents would be monitored very closely and that all of them are already living in the community.

"I think that it is kind of unfair to set them up already. They would have lost their privacy and they

haven't even moved in yet."

Sinclair said she offered to come and meet with one homeowner who learned who was moving in next door to explain that he had nothing to worry about.

"I have no problem meeting with the neighbours on a quiet, informal level but I am not prepared to have a public meeting."

Sinclair said since the project receives government money they must maintain the property at a high level, something not all neighbours do.

Sinclair said they will carefully screen all applicants and take only the most level people they can.

"Our folk are generally not party animals. They are heavily medicated and generally in bed by 9:30. They will be monitored very closely and if there is any sign of illness or problem, then we are on

the phone right away to the doctor."

Sinclair says the homes won't be staffed around the clock but that they will hire a full-time support worker to help the six people chosen to live in the homes.

Some of the residents who will be considered for the housing are currently living independently, living in existing rest homes, or with their families.

The non-profit project will receive \$57,000 in provincial funding annually and a one-time grant of \$32,350 to furnish the homes.

The deal for the two houses closes Friday with an April 1 move-in date.

Habitat for Humanity

The president of a unique housing program, endorsed by former United States President Jimmy Carter, will visit Acton tomorrow (Thursday) night.

Wilmet Martin will detail how Habitat for Humanity Canada builds or renovates homes, using volunteer labour, with the aim of eliminating poverty housing.

Based on a biblical vision of justice for all, Habitat for Humanity works in partnership with needy people. Through volunteer labour and tax-deductible donations of money and materials, homes are built or rehabilitated and sold at no profit to partner families who get no-interest mortgages.

Each homeowner family must invest "sweat equity" hours in the construction of their home.

So far Habitat Canada has built 100 homes in Canada, including

11 in the Waterloo area.

Non-profit housing worker, Eileen Dix of Acton, invited Martin to come and explain the program.

"After we were involved with acquiring government funding for local non-profit housing, we felt that there had to be a better way," Dix explained Sunday.

"We need to get away from red tape and from using taxpayers' dollars. The cost of doing a non-profit is astronomical. Projects run into the millions and after hearing about Habitat, we wondered if this wasn't the better way."

Dix said there are many people in Acton living in poor conditions with high rents and no hope of home ownership, she hopes these people will attend the meeting to learn about housing alternatives.

The meeting will be held at Acton Baptist Church at 7:30 pm.

Agriculture in the classroom

BY FRANCES NIBLOCK

Nassagaweya farmer Maisie stepped in one and think that milk comes from a carton," Lasby laments in an interview recently. Lasby, a member of the Acton Agricultural Society, said students, the consumers of the future, need to be educated about agriculture if it is



MAISIE LASBY

"Lots of kids wouldn't know a cow pie if they

Please turn to Page 16

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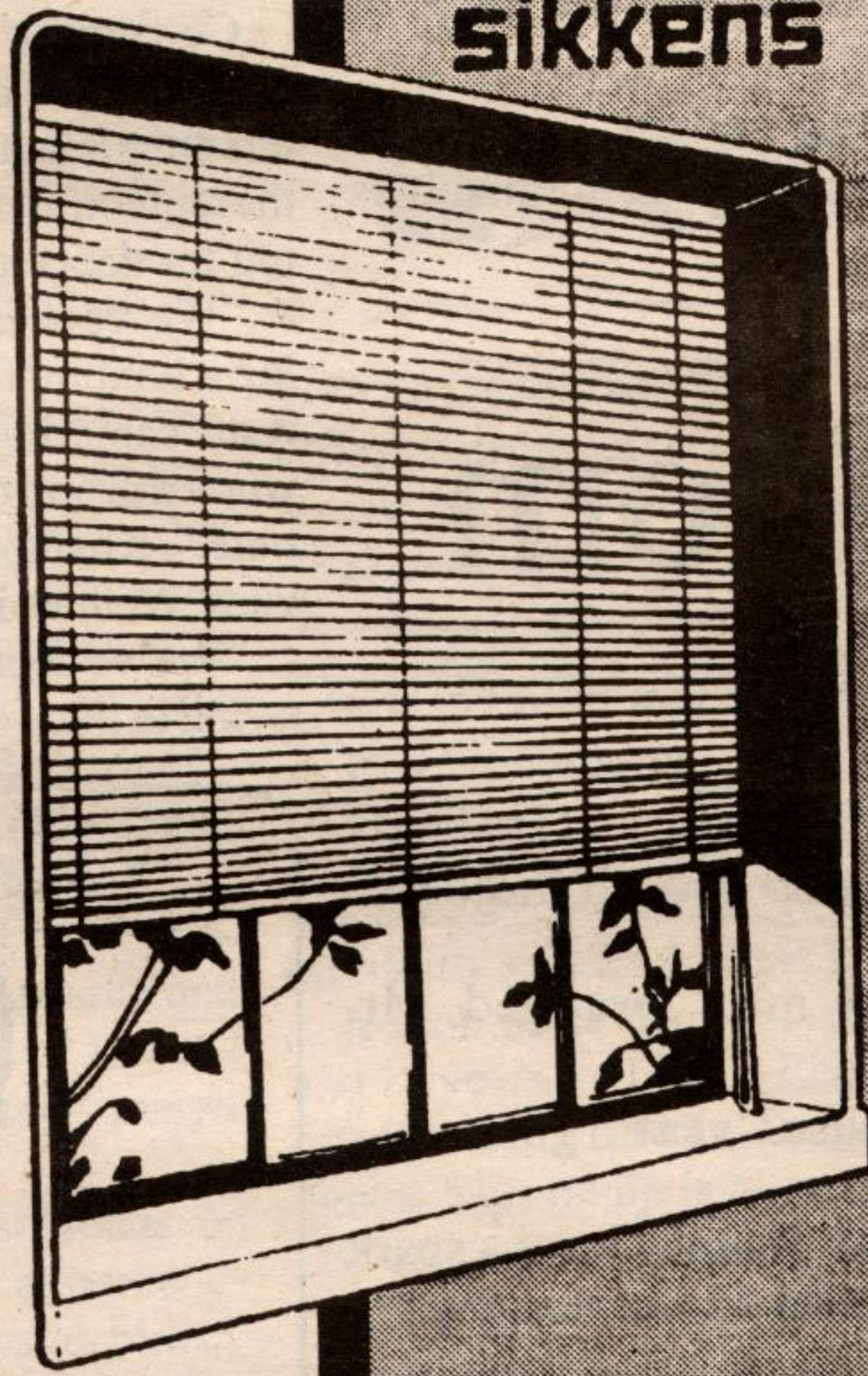
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