

Bike-a-Thon preparations

BY FRANCES NIBLOCK
The Acton Tanner

The North Halton Association for the Developmentally Handicapped (NHADH) will soon be ready to roll.

The association's third annual bike-a-thon is slated for Sunday, May 30 in Georgetown, and this year organizers are hoping to attract more Acton riders and pledges.

"We have clients in Acton in all of our programs and we want Acton residents to come out and ride with us," said NHADH community relations co-ordinator Anne Sidebottom.

NHADH is a non-profit organization that serves people with developmental handicaps by help-

ing them live with dignity and have an opportunity to live full lives.

NHADH offers services to children as young as 2 in its preschool program.

"We have two Acton clients who are in integrated child care programs with NHADH resource staff. Without the program, they wouldn't be able to get the help they need without leaving Acton," Sidebottom said.

"We also have an in-home program to help parents and teachers ensure the children's needs are met."

Although NHADH does not have any homes in Acton, numerous former Acton residents live in NHADH facilities in Georgetown

and Milton.

NHADH provides day services to those residents including basic lift skill routines, vocational training and supported employment.

NHADH also offers a supported independent living program with counsellors helping clients live on their own with regular support and guidance.

Funding for the NHADH comes from the Ministry of Community and Social Services, the United Ways of Milton and Georgetown, membership fees and fund raising events, like the bike-a-thon.

"We hope the bike-a-thon will raise \$14,000," Sidebottom said.

Pledge sheets are for the bike-a-thon are available at Halton Hills Furniture and *The Acton Tanner*.

Independent living

For Acton's Betty Anne Elliott, NHADH's supported independent living (SIL) program has given her confidence, job skills and a focus.

Elliott, 29, currently lives with her mother and brothers, but would like to move out on her own.

"I want to rent a place, with a friend, and I wouldn't be able to do that without the program," Elliott said in an interview last Wednesday.

"I've learned how to cook and to go out and do my own grocery shopping, knowing what to pick up and what's reasonably priced.

"I've gone on trips with other clients and our counsellors and now I want to learn how to do my banking," Elliott said.

Elliott, who presently works at an NHADH's ARC sheltered workshop in Hornby, says before becoming involved with NHADH all she did was sit at home.

"Now I go to work, I have new friends and I am saving money to take a trip with other clients and a counsellor to Florida."

NHADH has 45 SIL clients in north Halton, and an equal number of people on a waiting list.

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School Resource Officer

Why are the police at Acton High School?
Recently this question has been asked of me many times. The answer is simple: the high school is a part of your community and the Halton Police Service want to belong to the community.
The program in Acton was proposed by Constable Carole Crowe, the Crime Prevention Officer. Officers visit the schools on a weekly basis and, at Acton High School, an office is provided (but usually the officers stay in the cafeteria). Students are free to visit with the officer for discussions, or questions and to use the officer as a resource for class projects.

The purpose of the program is to improve the relationship between students and police. Unfortunately most teens' contact with police is in relation to traffic tickets or stories from their associates, which creates a negative image. My hope for this program is to provide a positive image for students and police officers.

On Sunday, May 30, the annual Halton Hills Bikeathon will be held in Georgetown. I will be riding in the 15-kilometre charity event. I already have some friends sponsoring me, but I would not be adverse to any local business wishing to sponsor me further. Just call 853-2050.

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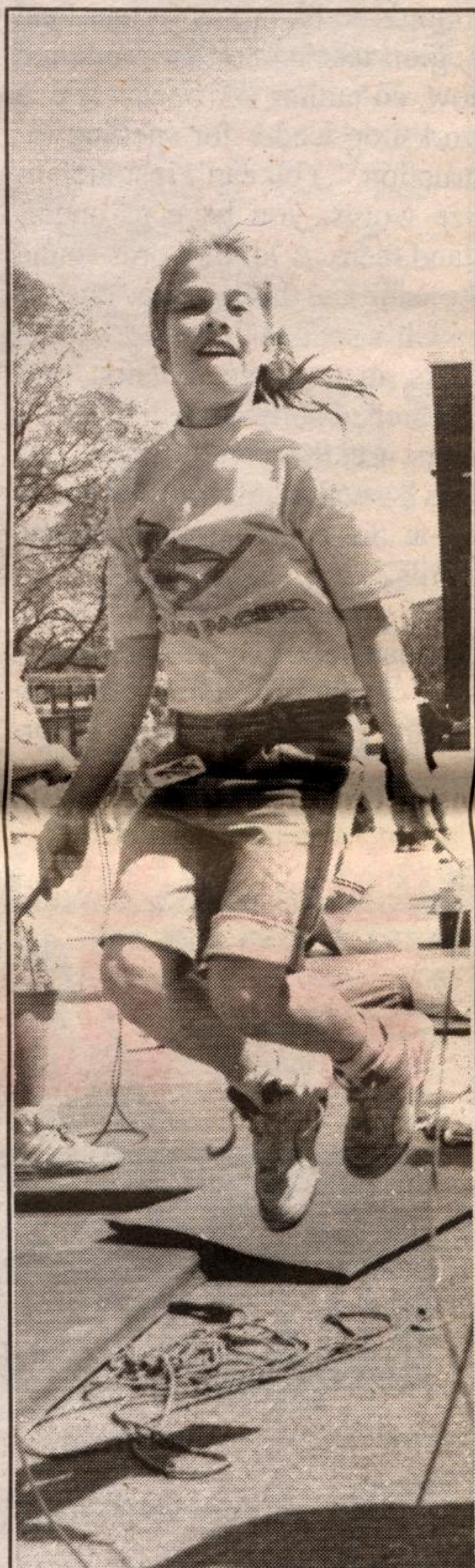
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REACH FOR THE SKY: M.Z. Bennett held their Jump Rope For Heart fund-raiser last Wednesday and Grade 4 student Jessica Craig jumped for joy along with 184 other Grade 1 to 5 kids and raised about \$2,600. Although getting pledges was voluntary, participation was a must as part of the gym course. (Doug Harrison photo)

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