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## SUPPORT HOMETOWN ADVERTISERS

# Reta Phillips receives Gold Pin Award for teaching excellence

BY DOUG HARRISON  
The Acton Tanner

Every morning Reta Phillips greets her Acton Co-op Nursery School students with a caring and heart-warming smile, and lately it's been shining like gold.

Phillips, in her ninth year teaching at the local pre-school, was one of four recipients in the Halton-Peel-Etobicoke area for the Shoreline Gold Pin Award at the recent 18th Shoreline Parenting Conference.

The award recognizes her outstanding achievement in pre-school education and her efforts to go above and beyond the call of duty.

"I said to (Acton Co-op president) Julia Roehrig 'I can't move.' I went to rubber. It was very touching," recalls Phillips of the surprise announcement. Only 17 teachers were nominated from the approximately 25 Shoreline co-operative schools.

Phillips, a Hillsburgh resident, is quick to recognize her co-workers, the people responsible for her

receiving her Gold pin.

"I've worked with wonderful people. They've made it a happy place to work," says an appreciative Phillips, who began working in the upstairs nursery room at M.Z. Bennett in November 1985.

Phillips' five mornings-a-week job involves much more than watching kids play with toys.

There's a lot of planning in providing different themes for the program. "I give them the basics and we develop it from there. You need to appreciate young children and their values."

As well, Phillips, who has taught pre-schoolers for almost 23 years, is constantly searching for craft



Nursery school teacher Reta Phillips

ideas and organizing the kids' gym program.

Perhaps one of her biggest challenges, though, is the transition of working with the four-year-old junior kindergarten kids on Monday, Wednesday and Friday — a program introduced this past year — to teaching a mixed bunch of three and four-year-olds on Tuesday and Thursday.

She must change her approach from dealing with aggressive, independent and imaginative four-year-olds to three-year-olds who don't have as great an attention span or as fine motor skills.

However, Phillips' understanding, patience and enthusiasm allows her to work with all children. She couples a gentle approach with an ability to be firm, providing the necessary boundaries and direction the youngsters need.

"We're very proud, she's worked hard," praises first-year president Roehrig. "I think we're spoiled rotten with her."

"Speaking as a mother of two teenagers, the pre-school years are the best years," laughs Phillips.

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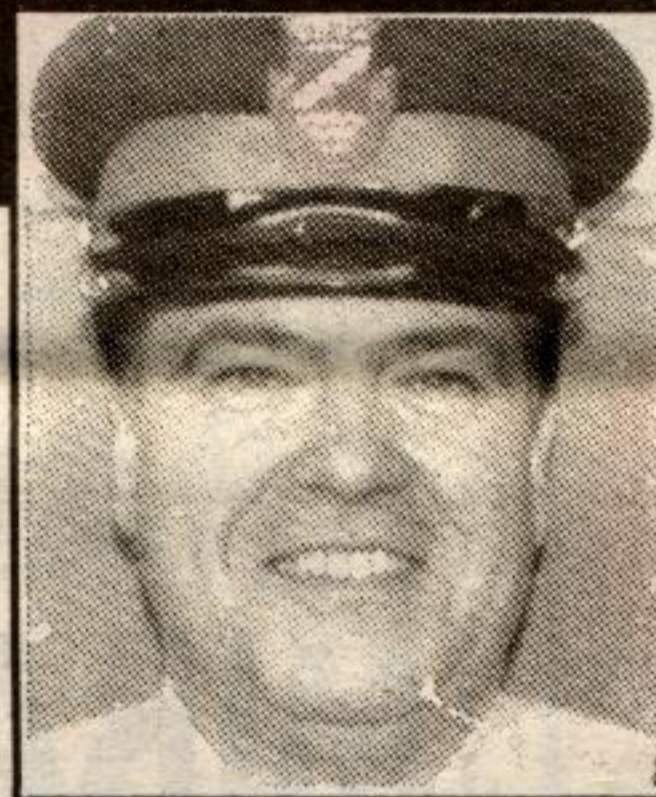
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## CONSTABLE RIDDLE'S CORNER

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## Quest for a new home

I have received several questions from citizens of Acton concerned about the closing of the Acton police office and the changes in the policing of Acton. Until recently I had not been able to answer these questions, because nothing had really been settled. I would now like to respond to these questions.

Acton is now being policed by two Village Constables, one on day shift and one on an afternoon shift. The two Village Constables will be assigned a police vehicle to use in situations where the uniform patrol officer needs assistance.

As to the closing of the Acton police office at 39 Mill St., this will happen on Oct. 31, 1994. This does not mean there will not be a police office in Acton. The Village Constables do require an office in town, preferably in the downtown core area. In all other areas of Halton the Village Constables work out of donated space. Milton Mall—an empty store; Georgetown—an office in a print shop; Oakville—a store front. I am now looking for such a space and I am asking the community of Acton for their assistance in this search for a new office in Acton.



Constable Riddle's Corner is a weekly feature brought to you by the community-minded businesses surrounding this column. We urge you to strengthen local industry and trade by supporting these businesses.

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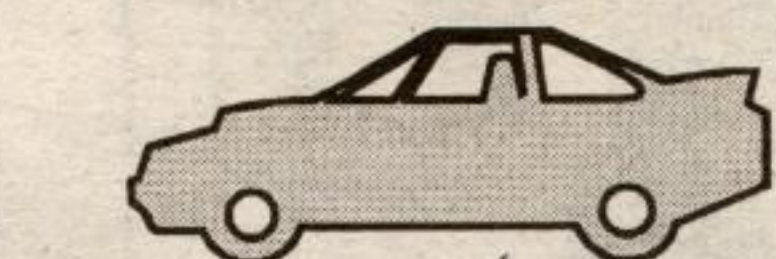
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