

## Parent-child drop-in centre a hit

Acton's first drop-in centre for parents and children was an instant success on Thursday as 23 children and 13 parents attended opening day at the Salvation Army Church.

The centre will be open every Thursday morning and is a wonderful way for parents to socialize with other parents and receive support and for children to meet

friends and interact.

"I didn't know how many people to expect because the centre hadn't been promoted other than flyers being passed around," said Lin Sallay, Acton Social Services and Information Centre (ASSIC) community support worker on Thursday. "I thought it would be something that would progress. I'm really pleased.

"Parents feel like pulling out their hair some days and feel like they're the only parents in Acton. They need a break sometimes and that's what the centre is for."

Plans for the centre began about a year ago. Sallay said the Acton Children's Corner planning committee applied for funding, but didn't get it.

Soon thereafter a number of local businesses, most notably the

Salvation Army Church, along with *Tim Hortons*, *IGA* and *Mr. Mugs* came to their aid.

Activities for parents such as workshops on self-esteem, stress management and discipline will be offered soon. For the children, a limited Christian component in the form of a low-key Bible study has been discussed.

Joan Reinbergs, a public health nurse with Halton Region's health department, feels landing the Salvation Army facility was the key from the start.

"To me," she says, "it was an amazing location. Parents have to come downtown. It's my dream to make this a five-day program."

Sallay adds: "It's clean, big, has a washroom across the hall and an adjoining kitchen. What else could you ask for?"



### HI THERE!

Nicole Rowsell, 4, was on the phone at the opening of Acton's first parent-child drop-in centre at the Salvation Army Church on Thursday. (Doug Harrison photo)

## Acton Co-Operative Nursery School

Special THANKS to the following donors who so generously supported our School Fundraiser on Saturday, April 16:

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### Thank You

With your support, our bazaar was a success.

CHILDREN, TEACHERS and PARENTS

## School plans Celebration

Next Wednesday (May 4) students in McKenzie-Smith middle school's bands will be showcasing their musical talents in a Spring Celebration Concert.

Both the school's Concert Band

and Jazz Band will perform new music and old favourites.

A suggested donation of \$2 or \$1 with a canned food item is requested to help support both the band program and the community.

The performance, which will also feature smaller groups of musicians playing feature pieces, begins in the gym at 7:30 pm.



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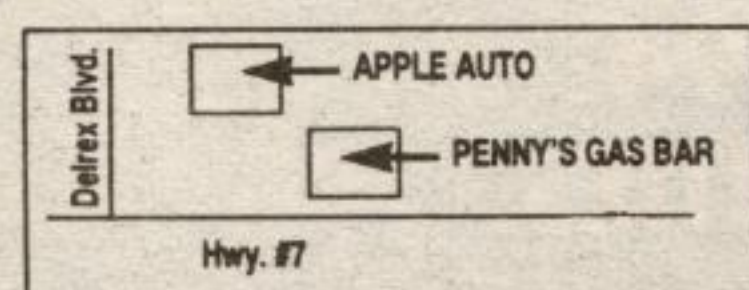
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