



EMERALD SCHOOL! St. Joseph's was honoured Friday after achieving Emerald School Status by completing 500 environmental projects. St. Joe's is one of the first 100 schools in Ontario to complete such a feat. Front row, from left: Justine Selihar, Jordan Overland, Vladimir Fallak, Sophie Higgins and Jessica Petkoff. Back row: Principal Robert Maggio, Trustee Irene McCauley, Jacek Wiktor, Emily Heintzman and teachers Barb Spiak and Lise Roberts. (Doug Harrison photo)

Big Brothers coming to town

BY DOUG HARRISON
The Acton Tanner

September is Big Brothers Month, and Acton will mark the occasion by opening its first-ever office.

Although details concerning what day and hours the office will be open at McKenzie-Smith are still to be determined, the group's executive director is excited and optimistic of its potential here.

"I'm raring to go," said Evelyn Gransaul last week. "We'll be taking it step-by-step, so we'll make sure a strategic plan is in place, including a community representative, but I am positive."

Gransaul explained that "we felt we needed to start serving our communities (Acton, Oakville, Milton and Georgetown) better. We have an excellent program and we weren't reaping the benefits we have to offer."

The only problem with opening in Acton is that there aren't a lot of Little Brothers waiting here, but Gransaul said that should change "once we get the word out."

"We would like to have 10 Big Brothers in Acton when we start, but we don't have 10 children."

Big Brothers of Halton is a community-based charitable organization committed to providing and fostering a positive male influence to boys with absent fathers.

Gransaul was ecstatic that Big Brothers had already received a call - before the office had opened - from an Acton man interested in becoming a Big Brother.

She said Big Brothers must be over 18 years of age, must be responsible citizens in the community, must like children and be men who care and understand the art of friendship.

Stressing that the screening process of applicants is quite strict, Gransaul said there is a two-hour interview, along with the applicant providing six references before the clinic will even consider offering them a position.

"And if there is any doubt about the person," she added, "you better believe we won't approve of the applicant - for the safety of the children."

Most people who are interested

in becoming a Big Brother, but who are apprehensive, said Gransaul, likely don't know what the program is all about, are turned off by a scary time commitment or worried about the ever-lingering sexual abuse situation.

The same goes for a mother applying to put her son in the program, she pointed out. But the mother is put through an information session to learn about the program and the training the hired volunteers must go through.

When details are ironed out with McKenzie-Smith, Gransaul said the Big and Little Brothers will have use of the indoor pool and gymnasium one night during the week for volleyball, basketball and floor hockey.

To sign up as a Big Brother, Little Brother or for more information, call Gransaul or Susan Smith, who will be Acton's case worker, Tuesdays through Thursdays. The telephone number is 853-5902.

Library needs Friends

Have you always been a great enthusiast of the Acton Public Library and wondered how to show your interest? Or perhaps you are new to town and would like to become more involved?

The Friends of Halton Hills Libraries is a non-profit organization dedicated to supporting the library. They are presently looking for new members and invite you to join them in their activities.

Some of the Friends' contributions to the library, through past fund-raising efforts, include investing in archive shelving (matching a grant from the government through the Esquesing Historical Society), providing additional funds to book collections, furnish-

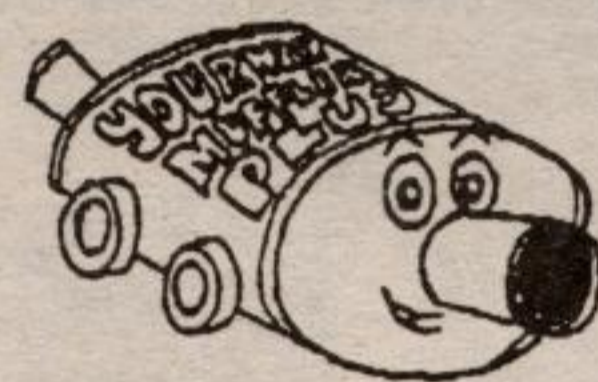
ing a picture rail to display library-owned art, and purchasing display cases for Eskimo soap carvings.

Your membership donation of \$10 paid annually goes into an independent fund administered by the Friends, to help the library to finance its capital and special program and project needs.

The Friends of Halton Hills Libraries meet once a month and hold an annual general meeting. They are currently very active in the celebration of library's centennial and will be sponsoring a variety of special events and fund-raising projects.

To become a member, simply drop by the library to fill out an application form.

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