Teen drop-in centre evolves

By FRANCES NIBLOCK
The New Tanner

Teen drop-in centre by night and youth service centre by day - that is the latest proposed concept for a youth centre in Acton.

The steering committee that is attempting to find a place for Acton teens to hang out, instead of on the street, thinks that expanding the proposed centre to include services for youths will make the drop-in a viable long-

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term project.

"Our idea is that this youth centre could be considered the hub of adolescent services in Acton – drop-in by night and service centre by day," Dowell explained in a recent interview.

"We're talking with Acton High and Regional Public Health officials and various other players about what's needed, what's available and whether they would be willing to pay rent to offer their services at the dropin," Dowell said.

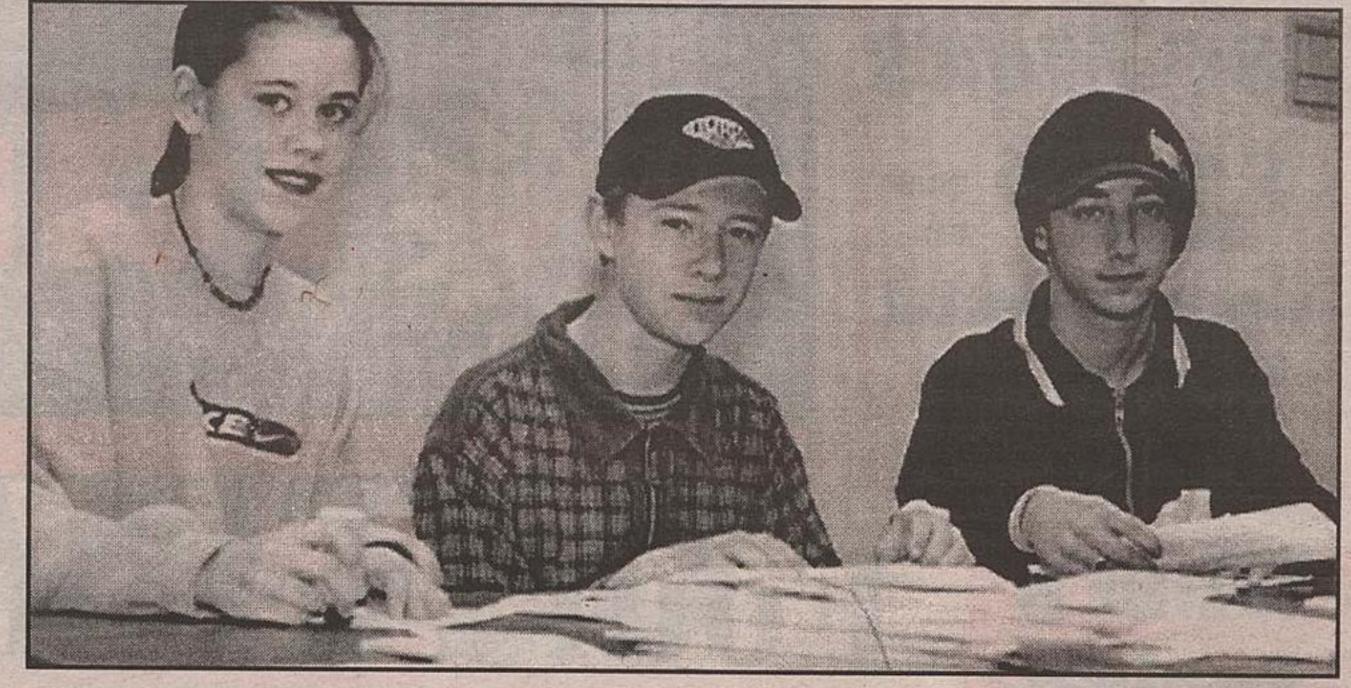
"There are a number of agencies in Halton that are funded to serve the Region so our goal is to encourage them to have a presence in Acton on a regular basis, in a regular place."

Acton High Grade 12 student Amy French, who sits on the steering committee, said that although the dropin component of the plan is most important to Acton, they also want additional services.

"Some teens wanted a job mart at the centre and others wanted to make sure that there were councillors for teens who are having problems," French explained in an interview on Thursday.

Three sub-committees of the drop-in centre steering committee will report back May 20 on possible locations for the drop-in, a refined concept and ways to develop a realistic budget.

Dowell expects the committees to come back with a number of options.



STUDENT STUFFERS: Four classes of Grade 9 students at Acton High, including Kristina Mitchell (left), Mark Bailey and Jason McGuire, volunteered their time last Tuesday to help stuff 4,600 envelopes for Halton Hills Community Support and Information (formerly ASSIC). Acton posties will volunteer their time next week to deliver the envelopes which include an application for the Letter Carrier Alert program, a request for community volunteers and a flyer outlining community services available in Acton. - Frances Niblock photo

Credit Union starts aggressive marketing

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Halton Credit Union has undertaken an aggressive marketing campaign to let people know that part of their profits, 35% over the past three years, is going back to their customers.

Mailers going out to every household in Acton, Milton and Georgetown and an upcoming newspaper advertising campaign, ask bank customers if they're getting a piece of the banks' 'profit

pie'. Other simultaneous campaigns encourage current Halton Credit Union Members to refer new customers and offer incentives to new home buyers.

"We've been quietly going about our business for the past 40 years," says Halton Credit Union CEO Peter Buwalda. "We just decided it was time to make some noise. Everywhere you go, you hear about the big banks, their mergers, their profits and frequently, the dissatisfaction of

their customers. We're independent, locally operated and owned by our customers. We thought it was time we started blowing our own horn!"

"We think people here are interested in the security and growth of their money and the level of personal service they receive," he said. "Our members rated our service as highly satisfactory so we know we're doing that right. We offer all the security and services most people need."

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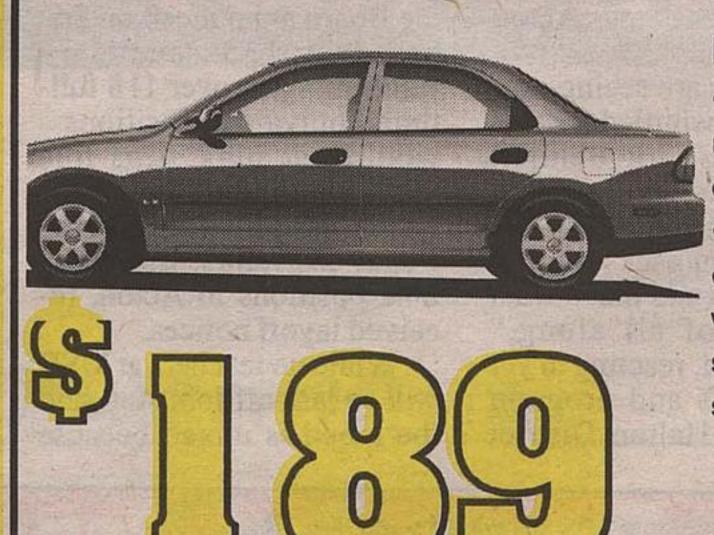
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