

# Look at the whole school circle before saying more

### To the Editor:

Communication is one of the most important tools that we need to teach our children. To communicate freely and with honesty, is a right that has been granted to the children by this country.

Our children need to hear, feel and see a positive school environment.

We need to teach the children what is right and what is wrong. We need to reward them for their honesty and good behaviour. To explain to them when they are bad, what they are doing wrong and why they are punished.

We need to teach them respect, for themselves and for others.

We need to provide for

them a happy learning environment, where they learn what's right and what's wrong, through discipline and through love.

We need to let them hear good things about their school. We need them to have pride in their work, their classroom, their teachers and their community. To do this, we must work together to support the teachers, the community and each other. We must have open dialogue.

We must, as parents, realize that this school is our children's future. We must stand up for our children's rights. We must work with the school to teach our children. We must communicate with the teacher, the office



and the board, instead of only communicating with other parents.

Our school must work with us!! We need to stand together to make our school stronger. If we want changes, we, as parents, must do this together. We must not be made to feel afraid or to feel that we will be singled out, or that our children will be singled out if we speak up!!!

It isn't just teachers that make or break a student's education. It's the teacher,

the environment that teacher is made to work in, the support, or lack of, that the teacher is given by the office, the board, and by the parents. If one part of this support group is not performing its job properly, we must recognize it and stand together to fix it, or replace it!!! If the teachers don't have a good working environment, meaning morale, environmental quality, and teaching support; a child's education and life in school can be damaged and wasted.

• Children have a right to learn. They also have a right to learn in an environmentally friendly place where their health, spirit or self-esteem will not be compromised. For a child to learn, the parent has a right to open, honest communication with the teachers that share the child's learning time, and with the office and board administration.

A parent should feel comfortable speaking with a teacher, and their view should be respected.

We need to work together as parents to make the teaching environment happy.

This can mean speaking up about good events, and about bad.

It means making sure we have the right administration working with us to make our school a happy, healthy and safe place to spend each working day.

We have the right. Our children have the right. Let's not let them down. A child's future is in its parents' hands.

Bottom line: parents should feel comfortable with the course chosen for their child's future.

Leslie Mann, MSB parent, Acton

## Plans for youth centre progressing

By FRANCES NIBLOCK  
The New Tanner

Proponents of a youth drop-in/service centre in Acton are looking for a temporary location with interim uses until a permanent home for the facility can be found.

The project of Halton Hills Community Support and Information, formerly ASSIC, is designed to provide Acton teens with some place to hang out, rather than on the street and one-stop shopping for youth services.

HHCSI executive director Rosslyn Dowell said it will take a lot of time and money to open a permanent Acton Youth Centre so they've gone with "Plan B."

"We're looking for interim activities that we might carry out in a temporary location so that we don't lose the momentum and interest of the youth," Dowell explained on Friday, adding the facility will be much more viable if it offers youth services during the day and acts as a drop-in centre at night.

Dowell said they've applied to two private organizations and Halton Region for grants and are preparing a grant request for funding from the federal government.

"There's no on-going operational funding for youth programs so that means we'll have to support our youth programs through program grants and fundraising. We hope that some revenue can be generated sub-letting some of the space during the day to other youth services to use to see clients."

"We feel very supported by the community...and we think we can make this a go," Dowell said, adding they're also planning some fundraising of their own.

Negotiations are currently underway with a landlord, who wishes to remain nameless, for a permanent location and organizers are also looking for an interim location.

"The (HHCSI) board has asked us to hire a coordinator this fall and if all goes smoothly with a location we hope to open in the spring. We're looking for a sole-use space like the Open Door youth centre that we operate in Georgetown, but we don't expect to get sole-use space, rent-free."

The proposed centre would include a homework room with computers donated by the Town, a recreation area and a snack bar.

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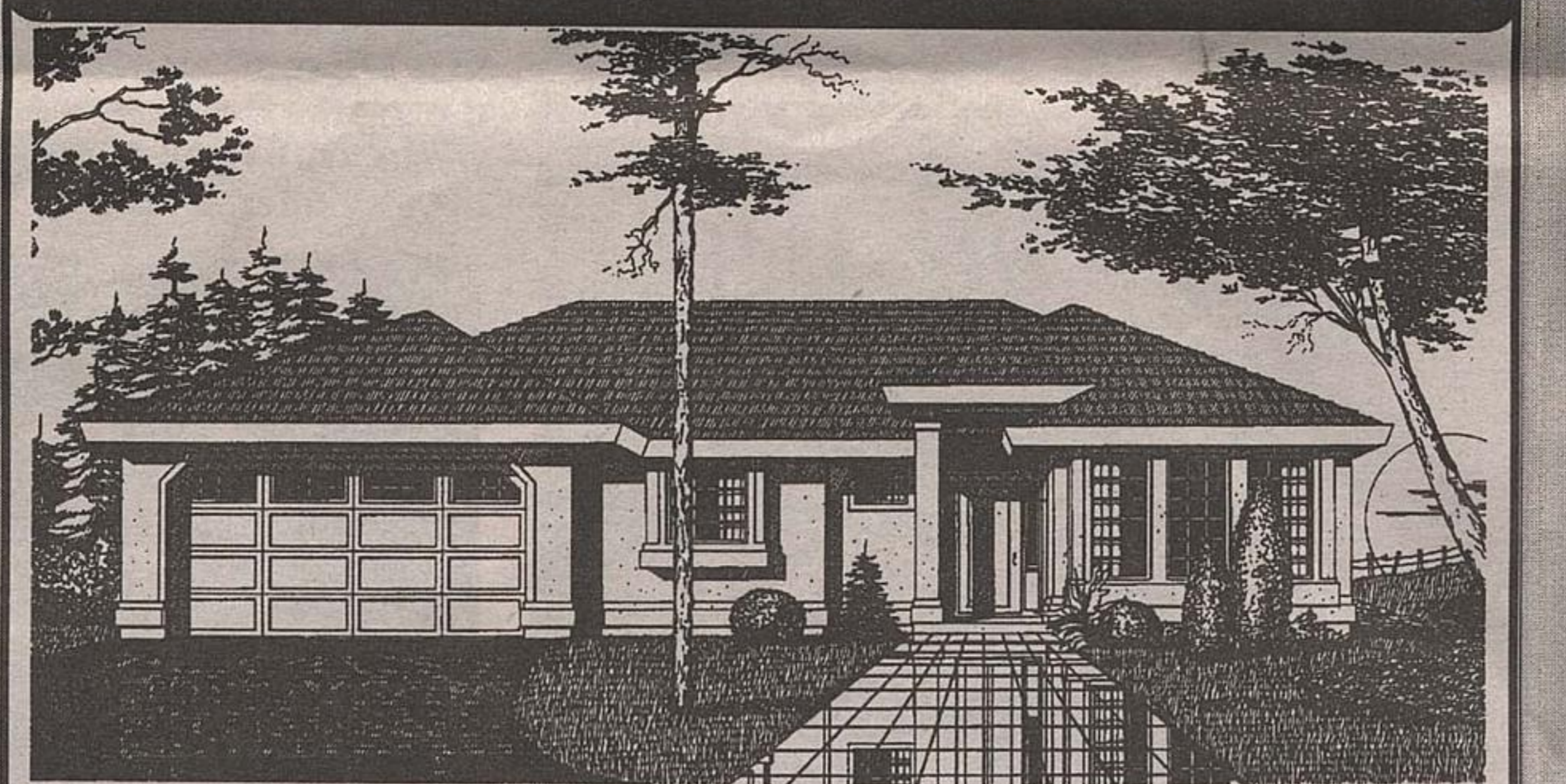
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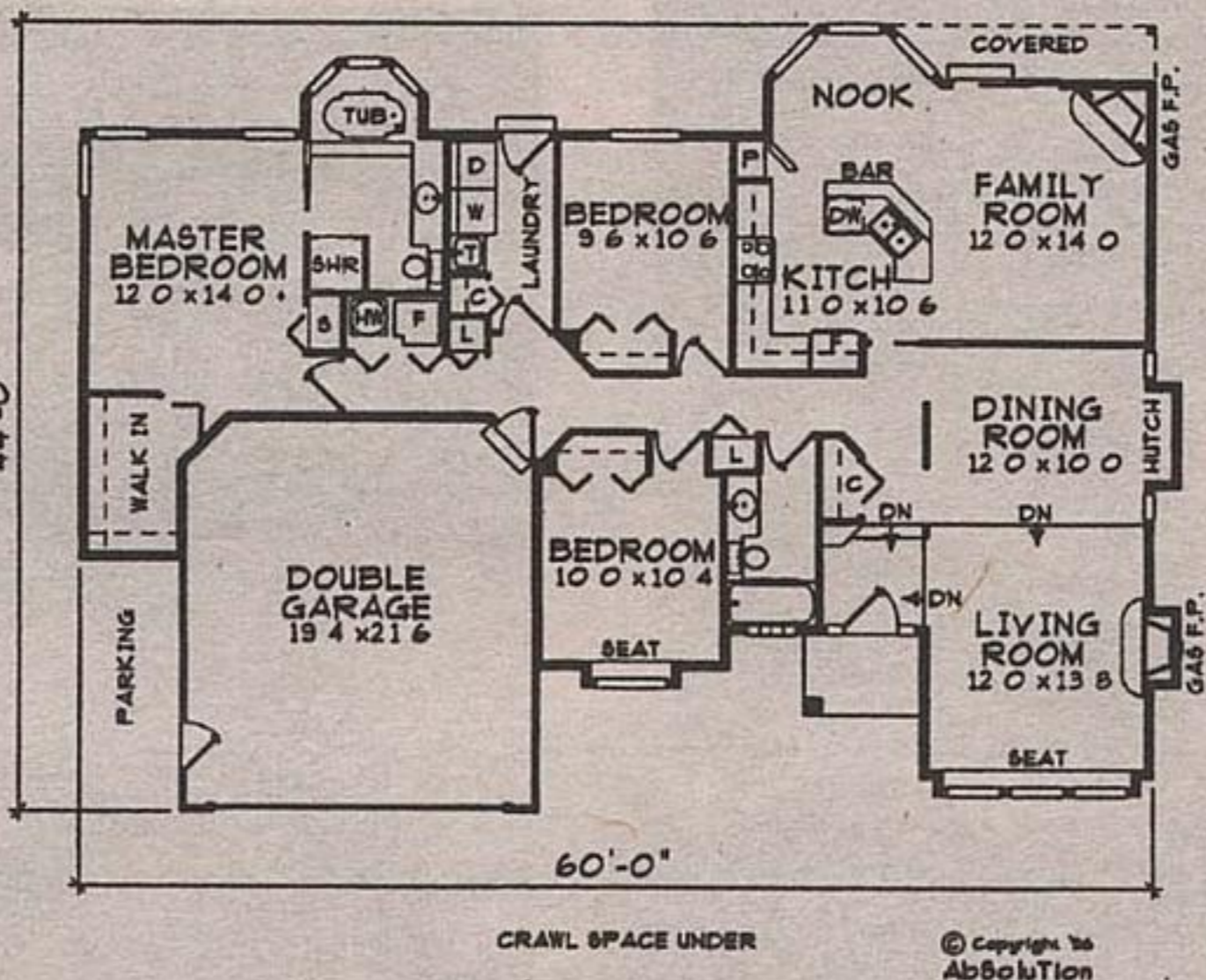
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