Resident forms local FAD chapter

By LISA TALLYN
Staff writer

Acton resident Danielle McIsaac has set up a local chapter of Families Against Deadbeats (FAD), and is striving to ensure parents of broken families are held financially responsible for their children.

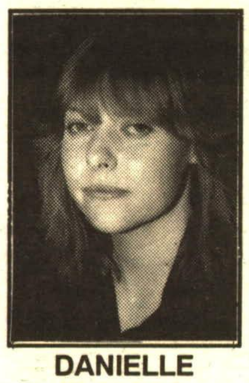
McIsaac, formerly a private investigator and currently a paralegal, became involved with FAD after seeing a newspaper article on the Brampton organization. She got in touch with organizers to provide tips on how to locate people, based on her investigation background, and became very interested in what the group was attempting to do.

FAD was formed about a year ago by Brampton residents Renate Diorio and her father Heinz Paul. The main focus of the group, which has about 200 members, is to make an improvement in their childrens' lives by fighting for proper enforcement of the current family support laws and pushing for change where necessary.

McIssac said the enormous cost created by deadbeat parents - those who avoid paying child support, goes beyond the immediate families, and that taxpayers end up picking up the tab for them as many go on social assistance.

"Of each tax dollar, 20 per cent is going to support families on welfare," said McIsaac.

She said currently in Ontario outstanding child support arrears are in the $903 million range. She added some estimates indicate three out of every four divorced fathers are in default of child support payments.


DANIELLE McISAAC

She said to avoid child support payments many deadbeat parents leave the province, quit their jobs, go on welfare, hide their money or work for cash under the table. She added many also don't file income tax.

McIsaac said supporting families of deadbeats should not be the burden of taxpayers.

Members of the group are working with MPPS and through the attorney general's office to get changes made to the family support system.

They are seeking stricter enforcement actions including credit ratings which reflect child support arrears, refusal to renew drivers licences until arrears are cleaned up, closer scrutiny of personal bankruptcies which are sometimes used to avoid payments, and possible jail time for parents who refuse to pay and continually avoid court orders.

Most of FAD'S members have turned to the group for help in getting support payments. McIsaac said the group has been successful in getting payments for some. Her paralegal training is put to use to help initiate the process for some members.

FAD is not looking for any financial contributions or donations, but needs allies to push for change. They ask people to call their local MPPs to express their support for stricter enforcement of child support payments and challenges everyone to look within their own circle of family and friends and speak out when there is child support neglect.

Anyone interested in joining the group or in more information should call McIsaac at (519) 853-3434 or Dioro or Paul at (905) 793-6442.

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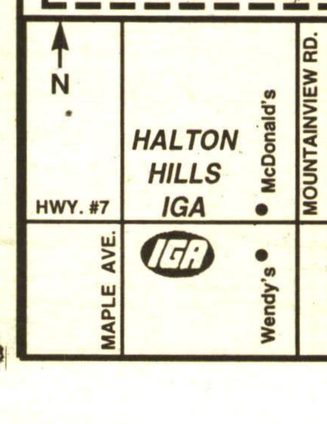

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