

Local teen shares gift of sewing with the needy

By **HERB GARBUTT**
Staff Writer

Christmas is Teresa Cooper's favorite time of the year—not because of what she will get, but because of what she will give.

This year the 17-year-old rural Georgetown resident is helping brighten the Christmas of children whose mothers have had to leave their homes. Cooper made 28 teddy bears for the Salvation Army's Family Life Resource Centre, a women's shelter in Brampton. The bears will be distributed each time a new child arrives at the shelter.

"I like the happiness that it brings out of people," she said. "A lot of other shelters get stuff donated but with the women's shelter, because they have to leave so quickly, they can't take a lot with them."

The OAC student at Mayfield Secondary School found out that the shelter needed toys from her mother

Nancy, who donates clothes on a regular basis. Without her mother knowing, she bought the material and made the bears.

It is not the first time Cooper, who has been sewing since she was seven, has put her sewing talents to use to benefit others.

"For years and years she's been doing things for other people," said Cooper's mother. "She enjoys making things

more for others than she does for herself. The women's shelter told me they were short on toys and a week later (Teresa) had the bears all ready for them."

Cooper has also worked with the developmentally challenged, helping them make puppets for her Families in Canadian Society class. It's something she plans to continue after her course is over.

"There's a lot of benefits from working with them," she said. "You learn a lot about yourself by helping them with things. They're emotional and

very happy. I love to see their faces when I walk in with a bag of felt and material."

Cooper also likes the challenge of meeting a goal she has set for herself. A case in point was her school's musical. Though her job was only to coordinate costumes, she and a friend ended up designing, finding the material for and making more than 50 costumes for the show. In total it took over 120 hours.

The goals have already been set for next year. Cooper wants

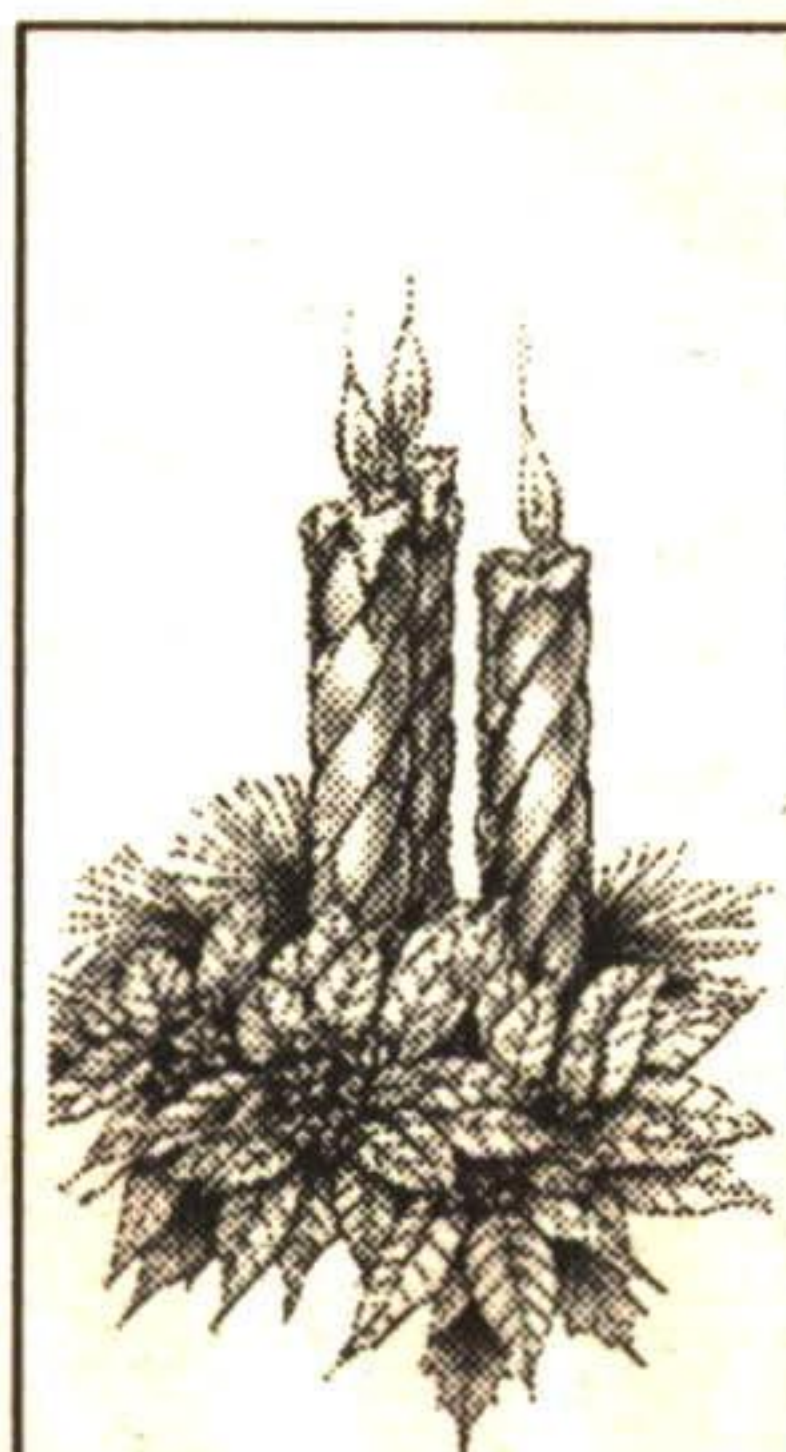
to get companies involved by making pledges and donating materials.

"Everyone always thinks I set my goals too high," she said, "but you just have to believe in yourself. You can't just let life walk by."

Cooper says she would like to make more than 100 teddy bears next year but is by no means ruling out many more. At the mention of a target of 1,000, she smiled and said, "Well, if I start in the summer..."

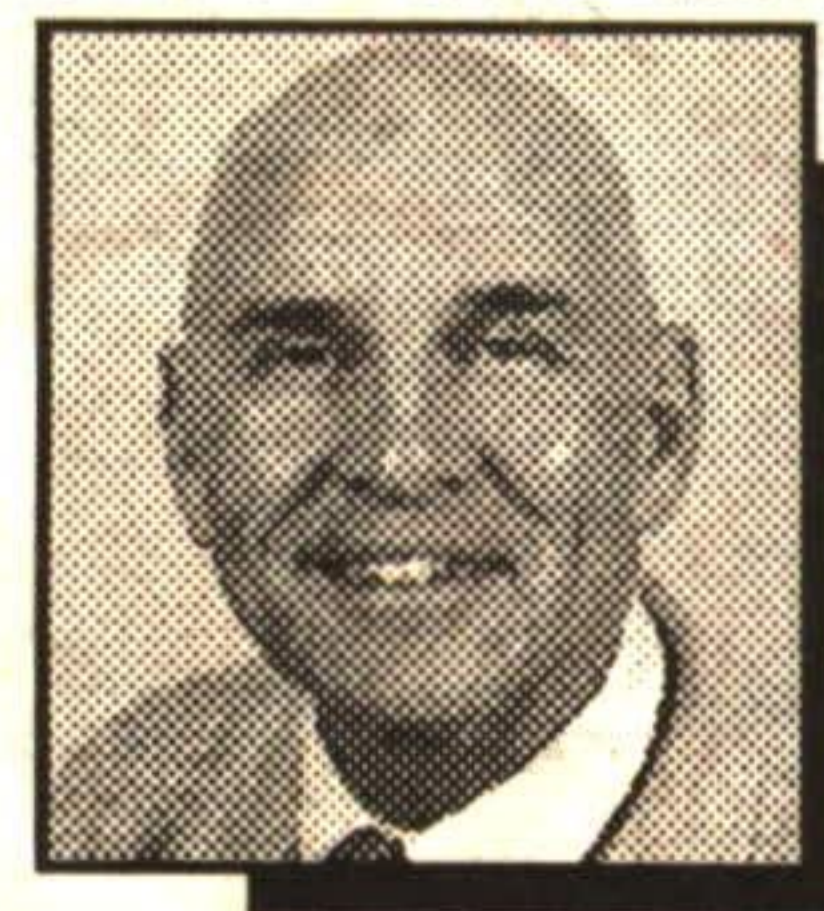


TERESA COOPER



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NOTICE TO HALTON WATER AND WASTEWATER RATEPAYERS

1997 Water and Wastewater Rates

Halton Region has approved the introduction of a special water rate (the "Watermain Charge") effective January 1, 1997, to be applied to all water consumed on or after that date. The principal features of this charge include the following:

- The "Watermain Charge" has been introduced to finance the cost of replacing seriously corroded watermains in Halton. These deteriorating watermains are resulting in safety concerns (restricted water flows for fire fighting) as well as health problems (water colour, taste and odour).
- To address these problems a decision was taken by Regional Council to accelerate an existing cast iron watermain replacement program. The actual replacement of deteriorated watermains is considered to be the most effective and safe solution to address the health and safety concerns. Under the approved program watermains will be replaced within a 7 year time frame, with the total cost (\$111 million) financed over 10 years.
- Regional Council reviewed options for dealing with these health and safety issues, including a lower cost option of adding chemicals to all municipal water; an approach that would mask the taste, colour and odour problems. This option was rejected because it would fail to address safety concerns resulting from restricted water flows for fire protection - corroded watermains actually restrict water flowing through them.

It was Regional Council's decision that the safest and most complete solution to the problems with Halton's cast iron watermains was to approve the replacement option.

- This initiative will be funded from revenue derived directly from the "Watermain Charge" applied at the rate of 13.96¢ per cubic metre for all metered water consumption. This charge will appear as a separate line item on your utility bill and will be in place for a period of 10 years, after which time it will be removed. For the average residential ratepayer with annual water consumption of 300 cubic metres, this charge will amount to approximately \$42 per annum.
- The "Watermain Charge" represents the only increase in water and wastewater rates in 1997. All other components of the program have been financed at 1996 levels.

For further information concerning water and wastewater rate structure and policy, including the "Watermain Charge", contact the Region by telephoning 825-6000 (878-8113 for enquiries from Halton Hills) and asking for "Water and Wastewater Enquiries".

