

DIRECTORY OF HALTON HILLS Churches & Temples

Georgetown Alliance Church

Main St. south of Maple Ave.
"Nurturing a growing family of people"
Pastor Paul Little
Pastor Tim Brown
Pastor Bob Vetro
Sunday School
9:15 a.m.
Sunday Worship Service
10:30 a.m.
873-0249

KNOX PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

116 Main St. S.
Minister Rev. Peter Barrow B.A., B.D.
MORNING WORSHIP
& SUNDAY SCHOOL
11 A.M.
TIME FOR REFLECTION
AND RENEWAL
Ministers Office 877-2848
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Canada is experiencing family-time famine—expert

In the 60 years that Canada has been keeping statistics, parents and children have never spent so few waking hours together as now.

"I call it family-time famine,"

says Dr. Paul Steinhauer, senior staff psychiatrist at Toronto's Hospital for Sick Children.

Formerly a consultant to Halton Children's Aid Society, he addressed a large public meeting of

the Canadian Federation of University Women—Georgetown.

Many of the children he sees these days show "oppositional" behavior—they act out. It's a reaction to stressed parents who have less time and energy to spend with them. There are more single parent families, more families in which both parents work, and more families without easy access to grandparents. So quality time is in decline.

This unprecedented situation is one reason why a quarter of our children have significant problems by the time they're in school.

"We'll never, ever have enough therapists to help them," says Steinhauer.

Poverty is another reason so many children need help, although few of them get it. It links in a vicious circle with substance abuse, domestic violence, and mental illness. The number of poor children in Canada has doubled in 10 years.

Our "uncivil society" is another factor.

"Back in the Thirties, all of us kids played outside until the street lights came on. Then someone's parent chased us inside."

Parents took responsibility for the whole neighborhood. Now, a friend of Steinhauer's who tried to speak to a lone toddler pedalling dangerously on the road was chastised by the child's screaming mother. She was ready to call police.

Kids who show less respect for authority these days are reflecting a breakdown in civility, the strain of stressed parents, and the loss of the attitude that it takes a village to raise a child. And too many children aren't getting the love and stimulation they vitally need by the time they're about three. This permanently impairs their ability to relate to others and to control their emotions.

Early intervention programs can have huge payoffs for society, however. Ontario is preparing to copy a Hawaiian project that linked high risk mothers with social agencies as soon as their babies were born. In four years, the child abuse rate dropped by 75 per cent.

In a Michigan study, high-risk toddlers placed in special child care programs grew up to have far fewer problems with the law, fewer teenage pregnancies, and a much better chance of graduating from high school and finding good jobs.

At Toronto's Ryerson Public School, help from a part-time psychiatrist and social worker has led to significant changes in student behavior, and huge drops in vandalism and absenteeism.

"It's time for us to pressure governments to pay as much attention to our human capital as to economics," says Steinhauer.

But most politicians are men, and they're only interested in what can be accomplished before the next election. The benefits of helping children take a generation to appear. Many problem children grow up into welfare, prison, and unemployment.

"We can pay now to give them a good start, or we can pay much more later."

Dr. Henry Lau, M.D., B.Sc.
General Physician

New Patients Welcome

99 Sinclair Avenue, Suite #202
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Telephone
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DR. PAUL STEINHAUER

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YOUNG'S PHARMACY & HOMECARE Seminar Room

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Evening format: - Program 7:30 - 9:30 PM
- Lecture information session
- Refreshments

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Diabetes Management for persons NOT using insulin. May 6th

R CENTRAL



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MARG**

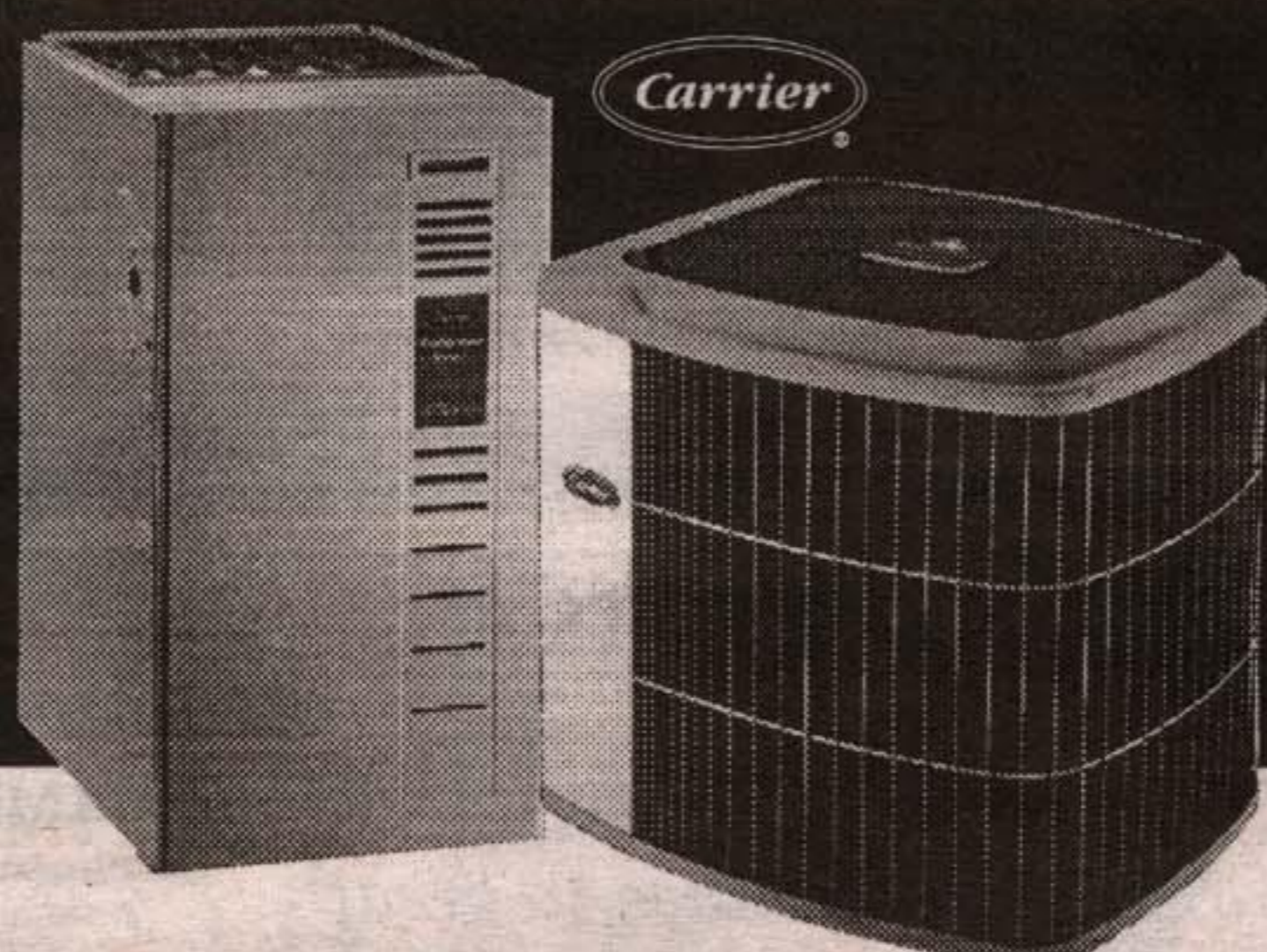
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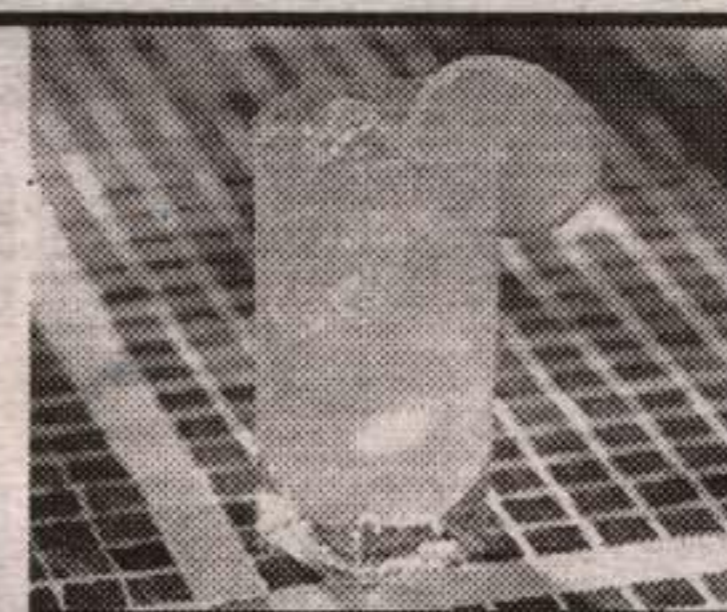
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