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DR. T. MURPHY & ASSOCIATES Psychological Services of Halton



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Seven-week course for home child-care providers begins next week here

JENNIFER E. LUKAS
Special to The IFP

When Nikki Fraser, of Georgetown, had her first child, she couldn't bear to part with her, but couldn't afford to be a stay-at-home mom. Instead, she decided to get the best of both worlds: She would become a home child-care provider.

The only problem was that she didn't have much experience.

"I really wasn't sure how I was going to get through it, I didn't have a clue," Fraser said. "I'd barely gotten used to the idea of having my own."

Then, Fraser heard about the Halton Child Care Training courses. The courses, sponsored by the Canadian Child Care Federation, are available once a week in Milton.

The purpose of the courses, according to the program committee's chair, Marilyn Wylie, is to educate caregivers in things like child development, behaviour guidance, caring for children of different ages, and balancing work and family.

The courses are especially important for Halton Hills child-care providers, said Wylie, because there are few other resources available for their continuing education.

"Unfortunately in Halton Hills, you don't have a daycare association," she explained. "Some of [the providers] might be more in the mindset that this is babysitting and it's not babysitting, it's childcare. Those providers who are not aware of that might not be as much aware of the changes."

As for Fraser, she said that she found the courses to be immensely valuable. "It just gave me such piece of mind, going in with no experience and talking to people who had done it before," she said. "It made me feel more confident."

Level 2, for providers who have been in the business for at least two years or who have taken Level 1, begins on February 16th and runs for seven weeks for a \$100 registration fee, but the programs are flexible and with enough interest, the Resource Centre would be happy to set up another Level 1 beginner class (three weeks long for \$60).

For more information, e-mail the Halton Resource Centre at info@thrc.ca or call 905-875-4600.

Firm offers scholarship

Graduating high school students in North Halton who are the dependents of independent small business owners are eligible to apply for a \$500 scholarship offered by Padgett Business Services of Milton.

Students applying for the scholarship must plan on attending an accredited post-secondary institution and their parent or legal guardian must be an active owner of at least 10 per cent stock or capital in a local business that employees fewer than 20 people.

All regional winners of the scholarship will be eligible for the national scholarship of \$1,000 while the national winners will become eligible for an international scholarship of \$2,000.

All awards are based on high school averages, extracurricular activities and educational and career plans. March 1 is the deadline to apply. Students from all Halton Hills and Milton high schools are eligible to apply. Local winners will be announced in May.

Information on the scholarship program is available in the schools' student services offices or by calling 905-693-8777.

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