



YOUNG FACES AGLOW belong to the kindergarten class at Robert Baldwin School as they await their turn to tell Santa what they'd like for Christmas. In the background are the fairy Tinkerbell, fairytale character Wee Willie Winkle and a couple of clowns. Rumor has it one of the clowns was principal John Lenz, the other David Coulson. Carol Morey, Elinor Snow and Bill Lyons also gave of their time as they visited the classrooms to the delight of the children.

"Hello, I'm an alcoholic" young man tells Forum

By Joyce Beaton

"Hello, I'm an alcoholic, my name is Rob. I'd like to talk to you of my own experiences before and after I joined Alcoholics Anonymous."

The young man speaking was only 19 years of age and he held spellbound an intense group of students at Milton District High School, some of whom were not much younger than himself. The students listened with empathy as Rob related his downhill struggle with drugs and alcohol, from the time he took his first drink at the age of 15 to the present when "I can now get higher at A.A. than I ever did with mood-changing drugs."

Happy now

"I feel happy now," he said. "Before I didn't know how to live—it's as simple as that. I didn't know how to live." He explained how his grandfather drank and how his father eventually ended up at A.A. "I saw what alcohol did and it wasn't happy or great, it was poison in our home. I had a lot of resentment of my father and that's a real killer."

In spite of his unhappy home life caused by alcohol Rob didn't recognize the problem in himself until he was introduced to A.A. "I couldn't control my drinking

but I was the last guy to find out, everyone else knew but me."

Rob told how he drank alone and would drink in the morning and go to school drunk. He urged his audience not to criticize the alcoholic. "He's sick spiritually, mentally, emotionally, he's got a disease that can be arrested," he explained.

He finally got to the point where he needed to drink to function properly. He told how he'd pass out from too much drinking and have black-outs. "My friends told me what I had done the next day and I needed those friends like I needed a hole in the head," he quipped.

Left school

Rob eventually was forced to leave school, having run out of new schools that would accept him. He went to work but found his problem followed him there. "I got more scared as time went on," he said. "The black-outs happened more and more and a total change took place. I could be anything I wanted to, but I wasn't getting enough on alcohol so I went to drugs."

Out of his mind on booze and pills, Rob was finally introduced to A.A. "I didn't know any life apart from alcohol and when I came to A.A. I was desperate. I didn't want to run any more. I just

wanted to like myself a bit and have some friends."

Full of fears and anxieties and terribly mixed up, Rob realized he couldn't handle his problem by himself. "My father couldn't help me, he could only love me," he said. "In A.A. I'm back with my family and it's better than it has ever been."

12 steps of A.A.

Rob has been with Alcoholics Anonymous for 10 months. In that time he's learned to live without alcohol but realizes that one drink could send him back to his former life. He follows the 12 basic steps of A.A. as his base for life and believes if he can keep sober for today, things will work out.

Rob was one of two A.A. members who spoke to the Forum program at the high school Friday. They urged students who had a drinking problem in their homes to join Al-Anon or Alateen.

In Milton the A.A. group meets every Tuesday at 9 p.m. at Grace Anglican Church Parish Hall. Al-Anon meets there Thursdays at 8.30 as does Alateen.

MILTON BUS LINES

Wish to announce that there will be no bus service to Bramalea the weeks of December 23 and December 30.

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OUR READERS WRITE:

Dear Sir:

Generally it is acknowledged that the Milton Plaza won the D.P.A. (Dirty Plaza Award) a few months back.

And now to add to that honor (?) it recently won the O.D.P.A. (Ontario's Darkest Plaza Award). Although, because of darkness it was difficult to get an exact count, it was noted that only nine of 24 lights on the parking lot were lit this past weekend! This, of course, is one way to hide the dirt and junk on the lot and the potholes and the unit chunk of cement at the entrance, but it is a poor "reflection" on the town of Milton.

I'm surprised that the merchants of the plaza haven't forced the owner to take action.

I for one refuse to shop there, at least our downtown area is clean and well lighted. Perhaps for Christmas the Plaza owner could at least put a large candle on the block of cement at the entrance to the plaza. I'm sure he could collect the money for this from the happy merchants in the Plaza!

Yours truly,
Dave Hendrick
R.R. 1, Milton

It kind of makes you wonder just who Councillor Watson represents up there in Milton.

Yours very truly,
W.D. Brown,
Editor,
Bruce Trail News.

Mileage rate 18¢

Employees of Halton Board of Education using their own cars for business will receive 18 cents per mile for the first 5,000 miles and 13 cents per mile on any miles after the first 5,000.

Board members have been receiving a straight 15 cents per mile driven. Superintendent of Business and Finance Bruce Lindley told the board the rate should be adjusted upwards. The increase is expected to cost an additional \$3,750 per year.

Trustees to study leadership

Two past chairmen and the present vice-chairman of the Halton Board of Education will be among the 15 members of a committee the board is forming to study opportunities for leadership within the system.

Past chairmen Ernie Bodnar and Fred Armitage and vice-chairperson Judy Alexander along with trustees Bill Beard and Dr. Helen Lock are trustee appointments to the committee.

These Specials Effective December 18 to January 4

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

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