

'We made it'

CAS much better society is told



MARJORIE POWYS received a bouquet of flowers and accolades from Children's Aid Society President Bryan Clarke during the annual meeting Wednesday. Mrs. Powys resigned from the board after several years of service.

Halton Children's Aid Executive Director Ron Coupland summed up his report to the CAS Annual meeting in three words: "We made it."

The short, terse phrase described the outcome of the highly publicized battle of the budget that the CAS had waged with the Ministry of Community and Social Services.

Coupland and the Board of Directors presented and defended a budget calling for 37 per cent increase. They argued Halton had fell far behind in its services to children under the care of the society.

The year was half gone before the budget was finally passed and even then the approval came only after the support of the solicitor Noel Bates was enlisted.

"They won the battle of the budget and initiated policies that led to new and improved service ventures," Coupland said.

Society President Bryan Clarke said the fight with the ministry had been so time consuming, that the board hadn't been able to delve into some programs in 1977 the way it wanted.

He told the membership that this year the board would strive to develop program, keeping in mind the fiscal restraints and work to improve the rapport with other social agencies in the region.

During 1977 the society opened a society operated children's group home on Alconbury Court in Burlington, Clarke reported. He noted budget restraints and competition for staff by the ministry had made it difficult to keep staff. A high turnover of staff resulted.

In his report, Director Coupland said the society had served 992 families in 1977, had 158 children in care, paid for 51,606 child days of care, served 137 unmarried parents, approved 28 new foster homes, completed 45 adoptions and filed 99 divorce reports.

A report prepared by

Volunteer Auxiliary president Margaret Macdonald indicated among other things, that volunteers had driven 56,515 miles taking clients to dentists, doctors, court and for family visits.

"At the present time about 25 volunteers are case aides involved with families on a one to one basis as a big brother, big sister or tutor. This number is ever changing as the need changes."

"Those who are case aides to a family, help in many ways—by being sympathetic listeners, by helping to obtain the service a family requires from other agencies, finding apartments, houses, clothing and furniture, if there is a need. Some take mothers to shopping and try to teach them to budget and buy more wisely. Some help with parenting, a skill sometimes sadly lacking. In short, they all serve as support to a (troubled) family, and their contribution is invaluable."

"Those who are (big brothers) or (big sisters) are

a special friend to a child, or as is most often the case, to an adolescent, and share with them many experiences which they otherwise would not have. For obvious reasons, many C.A.S. children do poorly at school and it improves their self image if a tutor can help them do better. Some of our tutors are experienced teachers, others are not. I might say here that the schools are very receptive to this offer of extra help for a child."

"Twenty-five volunteers help in (Mothers Groups) located in Milton, Georgetown, Oakville and Burlington. These are mothers, often single parents, who are identified by C.A.S. or Public Health as people who would benefit from meeting weekly with other mothers in similar circumstances. They share experiences, support one another, listen to guest speakers, see films on relevant subjects, or do craft work. While the mothers are meeting, their pre-school children are supervised by volunteers who carry out programs which include free play, stories, songs, and many other stimulating activities."

"We have some volunteers doing special projects; one, a former social worker, is putting early C.A.S. files in order so that they may be microfilmed. Another does public relations work by speaking about C.A.S. to high school students and organizations in response to requests. Others help on the switchboard or in the office, as needed."

"This past summer was a very rewarding one for the Auxiliary. In February, 1977, we sent out 500 letters to industries, service organizations and professional people, requesting their aid for a Summer Enrichment Program. In response, we received \$4,800 in donations.

"At the same time we applied for, and subsequently received, a Young Canada Work Grant to hire four students to carry out the program. As a result, we were able in co-operation with agency staff, to provide enjoyable experiences for 62 children who were enrolled in residential and day camps; 600-children who attended Teen Centres in Burlington, Milton, Georgetown, 92 adults and children who went on family bus trips and eight families who spent a week at Cedar Glen Camp. Volunteers were very much involved in every phase of the program. Two of them reported regularly to the Job Creation Branch as sponsors, another handled all the finances and bookkeeping in connection with the students' salaries. Many volunteers helped supervise the Teen Centres and family bus trips. Others loaned or donated equipment, such as record players, records, ping-pong tables, books and games. We were able to obtain free radio advertising worth \$2,000 to publicize the Teen Centres. I would like to take this opportunity to thank once more, all those who participated in this worthy project."

"We have again sent out letters soliciting financial help for this summer's program. The C.A.S. has applied directly for the Young Canada Work Grant to cover student salaries and will manage and supervise the program entirely this summer. We wish them well and stand ready to help," she reported.

The volunteer auxiliary is expected to dissolve this month and become a committee of the board. Both Mrs. MacDonald and Mr. Coupland see the move as bringing the volunteers closer to the mainstream of the operation, instead of acting independently of the board.

Steel bars answer for some

The closing of Hillcrest training school in Guelph is a step in the wrong direction, according to Dr. R. E. Stokes, President of the Ontario Psychiatric Association.

Stokes was the guest speaker at the annual meeting of the Halton Children's Aid Society. He claimed the schools with steel bars on doors such as Hillcrest were often the best places for violent young people.

Stokes said the death of Milton resident 15-year-old Robert Bruce Shepherd prompted undue and unfair criticism of the school. The youth committed suicide in the school last November.

anger towards the people who had the thankless job of trying to help the individual.

"Professionals are criticized, institutions are challenged and the press reach new levels of irresponsibility," Stokes said.

Stokes said that in Shepherd's case there had been 12 social agencies involved, but he claimed there was a lack of co-ordination, a function he says should be under the wing of the Children's Aid Societies.

"I was very pleased to see the ministry send out a circular indicating that the CAS should be the co-ordinating body. But I was disappointed to learn of the decision to phase out Hillcrest. The ministry never sent out a circular on that."

"The collective guilt of society arises in stormy Stokes claims that in spite

'Sympathetic ear'

CAS pays tribute to Marjorie Powys

Special tributes were paid to George Heym, past president of the board and Milton resident Marjorie Powys during the annual meeting of the Halton Children's Aid Society, Wednesday.

Heym served on the board and as president for several years and Mrs. Powys served as secretary for a number of years.

She was described by CAS President Bryan Clarke as the only sympathetic ear the society had on regional

council for a number of years. Both Mrs. Powys and Mr. Heym stepped down from the board this year.

During a short directors' meeting at the conclusion of the annual meeting the board re-elected Clarke as president for his second term and Bill Wright was re-elected treasurer.

Regional Council appointees to the board this year include: Mrs. Diane Funk, Jim Kerr, Laurie Mannell, Russ Miller, Walter Mulkewich, and Ron Planche.

Other members on the board are foster parents Mark Heerema and Mrs. Vivian Rust; auxiliary representatives Mrs. Corrie Galloway and Mrs. Marilyn Milligan; and staff representatives Mrs. Marion Detlor and Donna Novosel.

The 12 citizen directors include: Ervin Fisher, William Barclay, Boris Chemerys, Bryan Clarke, Mrs. Suzanne Dagleish, Mrs. Nancy Emerson, Dr. R. B. Edwards, John Graham, Joe Meighen, Douglas Penfold, Angelo Serafini and Mike Whyte.

Candidate visits club

Milton Lions had a campaigning guest at their last dinner meeting. Lion Bob Emond, presently zone chairman, came to announce his desire to be named Deputy District Governor. He was accompanied by Lion Terry Mulligan from the Dixie Club.

The club received a letter of appreciation from the Maplehurst Centre, for \$100 donated towards entertainment.

Lions are planning a collection of used eyeglasses in May, and a glaucoma clinic at Milton Hospital this Saturday, April 8.

Milton Scouts are out collecting pledges for their Trees for Canada project. On April 29 they will plant 10,000 Red Pine trees at Hilton Falls Park.

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