

Community forum

Terrific pressures on nuclear families

The pressures that come to bear on the nuclear family are terrific according to Bruce Brillinger, a professional social worker and expert in Parent Effectiveness Training.

Mr. Brillinger was one of four panelists discussing challenges of the nuclear family at the first of a series of Community Forum programs at St. Paul's United Church Sunday night.

"The need for nurturing is terrific pressure on parents. As a society we say you have to provide all the goodies to couples in nuclear families. We used to have grandmas and grandpas to share in the nurturing but in many cases that isn't so anymore," Brillinger explained.



PANELISTS at the first of three community forums at St. Paul's Church discussed the nuclear family. They include Sharon Pyle, Bruce Brillinger, Rev. W. L. Brown, Larry Arbic and John Lenz. Another panel will discuss "The Community in Transition," at 7.30 this Sunday night.

Parent Effectiveness Training (P.E.T.) is a course for training parents in parenting and the subject of a book by Dr. Thomas Gordon.

Mr. Brillinger lives in Acton and offers the course in Acton as well as other centres in this part of the province.

Reflecting on his own situation, Brillinger said he and his wife had been to the right schools, the right church and had come from good families and good communities.

"By all standards we were qualified to be good parents but after our second child our marriage was a little shaky and our parenting was nothing to be proud of. We were formally qualified, but day after day we were blowing it."

"It's tough being a nuclear family with no extended family nearby. It is asking a lot of two people to provide all it takes day after day to raise kids. I have it on my good days and my wife has it on her good days, but not on our other days. If both of our other days come at the same time, it's tough."

He suggested parents must be good listeners and refrain from putting their children down. "Instead of telling a child how inconsiderate he is for tracking dirt across a floor, we say 'you know you

really hurt me when you do that'. We trust them enough to hope they'll take our feelings into consideration the next time."

Other panelists included Parks and Recreation Director Larry Arbic, Co-op Nursery School Treasurer Sharon Pyle and Robert Baldwin Principal John Lenz.

Mr. Arbic said recreation could either divide or unite a family, depending on the attitude.

He said some families took no interest in the recreation activities of a youngster and consequently the youngster would look to someone else outside the family with a common interest. "It can be like a wedge driven between them."

On the other hand there are instances where a couple will think they've got a Gordie Howe on their hands and follow his activity to the point of overcriticizing, Arbic said.

He encouraged parents to take an interest, be willing to listen but don't become overly critical.

Mr. Lenz explained children mature and learn at different rates. "Parents shouldn't compare their children. Many children will give up, rather than run an unequal race. Children should feel confident in their family,

the school and the community before they have to compete with others."

He encouraged parents to advise the school of any events that could upset the child, be it the loss of a pet or loved one or something else that may have hurt the child. "Their fears are real and it helps the school to understand if they know what has happened."

Sharon Pyle said nursery schools weren't intended as training for super children, or a means to by-pass kindergarten.

The school does help children interact socially and assists in building co-ordination of the large and small muscles, she said.

Children at the school are allowed to experiment with paints and have an opportunity to visit Rockton Lion Safari, museums and take part in other learning experiences.

She noted the program is the domain of the teacher but the school is run by parents who sit on the board of directors and others who assist the teachers with many tasks involved in running the school.

Sunday night the second in a series of three panel discussions analyses the crisis Milton merchants face. It is entitled "Community in Transition".

Housing is down

Building permits for the month of March in Milton totalled \$1,665,650.

Construction permits included a building permit for the \$1,180,000 addition to W. I. Dick School on Highside Dr.

The March figures show a marked decrease in commercial expansion with less than 5 per cent of total construction for commercial buildings, compared to last year's figure of 37.86 per cent for commercial projects.

Residential construction is down by 17 per cent from the same time last year. Housing construction stands at 23.08 per cent of the total building projects.

The March building report released by Milton Building Department included six new single family homes, a new addition and a \$35,000 pig barn. The report also included approximately \$19,000 in permit values for farm buildings and a garden centre.

The value of construction authorized to date is \$2,568,518.

Karen's

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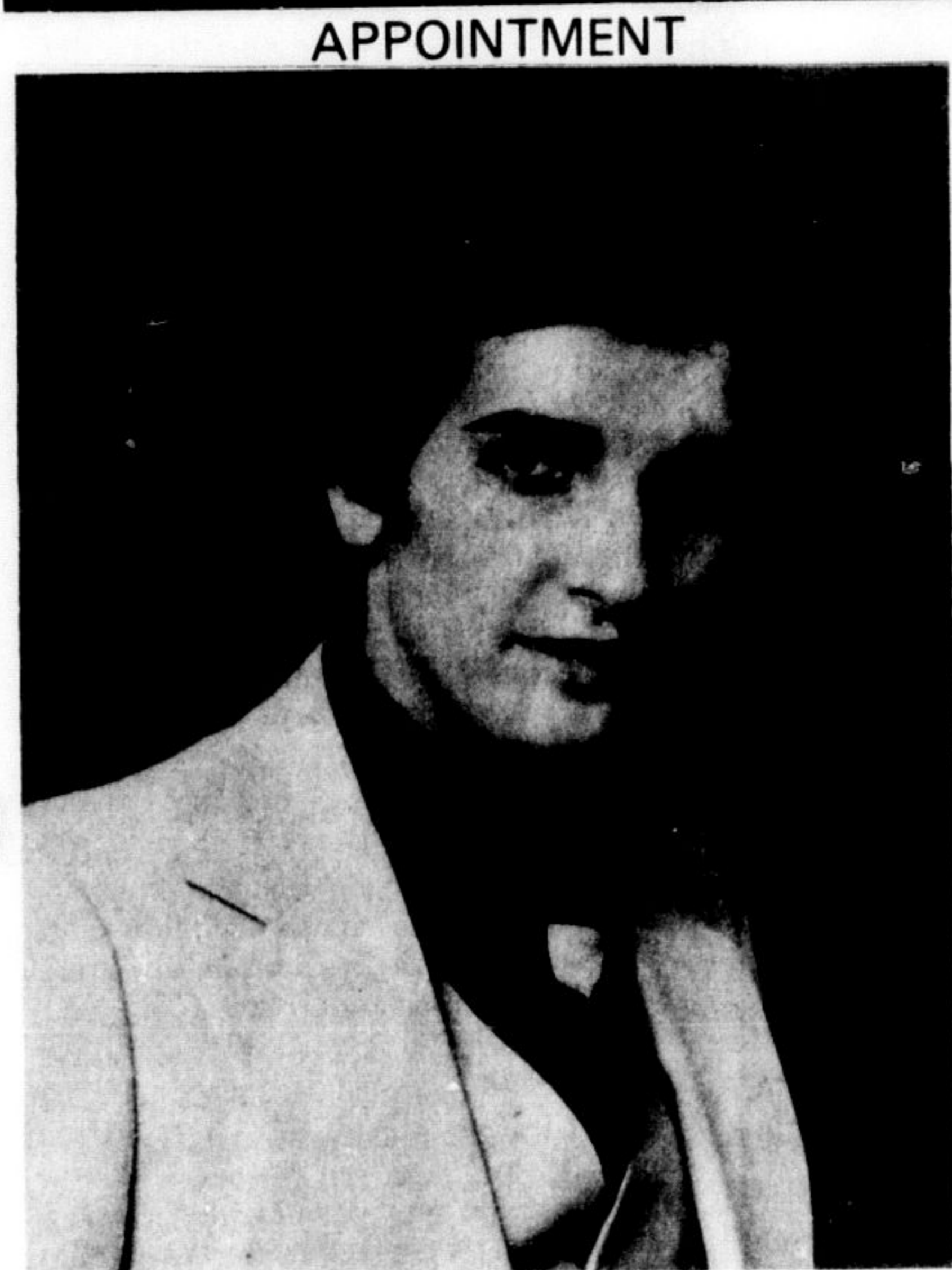
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Paul Belanger Jr. has been in the advertising department of The Champion since 1974 and he has taken major responsibilities in providing creative advertising programs for Champion advertisers.

Inspector helps fight Heslop Rd. rat problem

Halton Health Unit's inspectors have been "much more helpful and understanding" since Heslop Rd. resident Frank Putman complained to Milton Council last week about an infestation of rats in his back yard.

His wife Anne told The Champion this week that she and her husband were angry because the first Health Unit inspector had treated their rat problem lightly, but the Health Unit's attitude has changed a lot since then.

Chief Inspector Neil Patullo visited the Putmans Tuesday morning of last week and spent about two hours checking out the neighborhood, she said. He discussed the rat problem at great length with Mrs. Putman and neighbors and offered some suggestions on how to combat the problem.

The inspector also took away the eight rats' bodies they had collected, and disposed of them.

He revisited the site Monday of this week and took away two more carcasses the Putmans had collected. Mrs. Putman said one rat was found in their next door neighbor's yard, probably killed by the poison they had set out, and one more was caught in a trap — bringing the kill count to 10.

Mr. Patullo said he discovered evidence of rats in another neighbor's yard, where garbage was being stored in a back yard shed. The rats had burrowed under the floor to gain entry and had not only feasted on the garbage, they had also chewed up the tires on a child's bicycle.

He told area residents to

continue putting out traps and poison until the rats are all gone.

Mrs. Putman said she has also had many calls from citizens who read about the rat problem in last week's Champion, many of whom have also killed rats on their property. She urges them all to report any sightings or kills to the Health Unit.

The rat problem appears to be almost over at the Putmans' home, but the war may continue. Mrs. Putman saw one more small rat in her yard this week, she said.

Council last week, after a visit from Mr. Putman, decided to urge the Health Unit investigate the rat situation and agreed something should be done to get rid of open garbage collection depots at the nearby Heslop Rd. townhouse project where, it was feared, the rats could find sufficient food.

ICG auction raises \$6,000

In a display of spirit and unity the Interested Citizens' Group ICG raised about \$6,000 from an auction in the Milton Fair Grounds Saturday, according to ICG member Glenna Scott.

The bake sale and concession alone pulled in \$600, Mrs. Scott said Monday. Pies, cakes, bread, rolls, cookies and other homemade bake goods went under the auctioneer's hammer.

I was really impressed with

how hard people worked and how much fun they had, Mrs. Scott said.

The ICG raised the money to help offset the cost of legal fees incurred in the five year battle against the Ontario Hydro 500 kV corridor which is planned to extend from the Bruce nuclear generating plant on Lake Huron to Milton Station where it's to connect with an already built east-west corridor. Some of the money will go to continuing the battle, Mrs. Scott said.

"We all met new people, and there was no nastiness or pettiness in the group," Mrs. Scott said.

Among the items auctioned off were four-half dressed pigs, ten pounds of Bright's cheese from Woodstock, two apple trees from Chudleigh's, a year's tennis membership from the Norval Way-Jay Club, spider plants from Jones Greenhouse, fertilizer from Country Gardens Nursery.

Many people from the Erin section of the ICG travelled to Milton for the auction, Mrs. Scott said.

Fire

Milton Fire Department with the aid of Campbellville firefighters doused a car fire on the CPR line, after the car travelling on a box car caught fire Friday, April 7.

Faulty wiring in the Chrysler product is blamed for the fire. The car was completely destroyed.

According to officials the shipment of new vehicles was on its way from Windsor to Montreal.

The incident occurred at Guelph junction, west of Campbellville.

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