



### Room for Guides

A Guide room was officially opened at John Martin House Monday evening by house owners the Milton Rotary Club. Shown at the opening are, from l. to r., Doreen Lay, acting

Commissioner for Milton North, Bob Farrell, president of Milton Rotary Club and Gail Stelter, district Commissioner for Milton South.

# Karen brings light into . . .

(Continued from page 1)

"We do a lot of talking," Mrs. McFadzean explains. She says her more casual relationship with those she assists creates an atmosphere which encourages them to discuss problems more readily with her than with social workers.

"Most of my work is spread evenly between Halton and Peel," said Mrs. McFadzean, the area's only rehabilitation teacher.

Luckily for Mrs. McFadzean not all of the 670 clients registered with the CNIB in this area require her services.

A CNIB staff driver helps Mrs. McFadzean cover her large district. Her weekly visits include a full day in Burlington, Brampton and Oakville, but her schedule changes according to demand.

There are about 33,000 Canadians who have some type of visual impairment and only 10 per cent of those are totally blind. The relatively small percentage of the population who share Karen's disability is the reason she had to travel to the United States to buy Glenna, her 7-year-old seeing-eye dog.

"Of those who are totally blind, many prefer to use canes instead of dogs," Mrs. McFadzean explains.

Since she purchased Glenna five-and-a-half years ago, Mrs. McFadzean has been able to be more independent.

"When I want to go somewhere, I want to go. I used a cane before but it is hard work," she said.

The German Shepherd, Labrador Retriever cross is more than a set of eyes to Mrs. McFadzean—she is "like another hand."

"Out of her harness she's a real pet but in it she's a real worker," she said.

Glenna was trained at a school in Morristown, N.J.—one of several in the United States. The training which led her to be a trusted companion for Mrs. McFadzean began with basic obedience lessons taught by 4-H club members. This was followed by

three months of harness training.

"You have to train with the dog for a month," explains Mrs. McFadzean.

Some schools require seeing-eye dog buyers to pay for nothing but transportation to take part in training, but in Karen's case, Glenna came with a price of a mere \$150.

German Shepherds are still a popular breed for use as seeing-eye dogs but Karen suggests, although some are excellent dogs, they have a tendency to be high strung. Labrador retrievers, on the other hand can be too affectionate, so a cross of the two breeds seems to temper the undesirable characteristics and produce a superior working dog, she contends.

In addition to Glenna's obedience training she is schooled in "effective disobedience," according to her owner. If Karen commands Glenna to move forward and a passable obstacle is in the way, the dog negotiates them around it. Glenna will ignore a forward command at a street corner for example if Karen were to miss hearing an oncoming car.

"You have to learn to trust the dog and you definitely have to know where you're going," says the 24-year-old of her blonde-haired companion.

There are times when visually impaired people require assistance and the lack of public awareness of this fact is three quarters of the problem associated with many handicapped people Karen explains.

Times are changing, however, and society is beginning to view those with handicaps in a different light. Part of this change in attitude can be attributed to the education system.

As a child, Karen attended kindergarten along with the other children on her block in Milton. It was not until Grade 13 at Milton District High School that her classmates did not all share in her disability.

Grades 1 to 12 were spent at W. Ross McDonald School in Brantford, the provincial school for the visually impaired. A residential school setting meant Karen came home only on weekends and spent the rest of her time with other handicapped people. This type of setting didn't really give Karen much confidence in relations with peers who did not share her handicap.

"No one tried integrating then," she said.

Although Karen's parents wanted her to attend Milton District High School sooner than Grade 13, Karen took her time. Her first few days there she came across more than one student who said they remembered going to school with her in kindergarten.

"Integration gives a person more confidence in themselves rather than coming out of a special school and trying to fit in."

She thinks the new trend is great and notes the

Brantford school is now tending to cater more to multihandicapped children, as those with lesser disabilities are being integrated into the regular school system.

### Garfield Brown

## Resignation not finalized

By TERRY RUGGLES  
Special to The Champion

Counsel for Halton Region has failed to produce a written agreement to finalize the resignation of Garfield Brown as regional clerk.

"We have not received any draft agreement at all," said John Finlay, Mr. Brown's lawyer.

Beginning in January a number of phone calls were placed and three letters sent to the Region's solicitor, David Harris, who is handling the matter, but with no response, said Mr. Finlay.

"We want to know where we stand," he said. "As long as no agreement has been signed Mr. Brown remains as Regional clerk."

Halton's chief administrative officer, Denis Perlin, who has assumed the position as acting Regional clerk, said the Region has been having the same difficulties getting in touch with Mr. Harris.

"We've been told that he's working on it," said Mr. Perlin.

To expedite the process, Halton's own solicitor, Ken Anderson, will be taking over the job of drawing up the agreement, said Mr. Perlin.

In an earlier interview Mr. Perlin said that the terms of agreement had been settled back in December and were retroactive to Dec. 31, 1981.

He then said: "When one is presented by legal council that's as good as a signature."

Mr. Brown's resignation was announced in December in a short press release read by Chairman Jack Raftis.

Negotiations between the Region and Mr. Brown have been going on for over six months.

Throughout last year, Halton Regional council has reorganized its management structure, in response to advice given by consultants Hickling and Johnston Ltd.

Mr. Brown has been off work sick for the past few weeks. When he returns to work he will assume the position as manager of records and information services in the Regional clerk's office.

Applications for the job as Halton's Regional clerk were closed Friday.

## Investigation may shut home . . .

(Continued from page 1)

Mr. Stanley added that he didn't think the allegations were really part of an organized plot aimed to discredit him.

"I don't think that those four people really believe what they're saying. I think one person is controlling them and the other three are just following along."

He also noted that none of the four worked for him longer than six weeks "so they really had lots of

time to make these judgements."

D and G has had a stormy history since it was first opened in June 1980, over the protests of the Halton Children's Aid Society which Mr. Stanley said had been trying to purchase the same property for a group home of its own.

A provincial license to operate a group home was delayed until an appeal hearing could be held before the Children's Services Review Board.

Since then, despite what many professionals have

called a critical shortage of group home space in Halton, no local children have been referred to D and G.

"We decided to locate here in the first place because of all the publicity about how Halton needed group homes," Mr. Stanley said.

A final decision is to be made later this week, he said, after which Mr. Stanley would have the right of appeal to the provincial Children's Services Review Board.

### Argo players say

## Kids just have to be handled properly

BY STEVE ARNOLD  
Champion News Editor

If the children under Dave Stanley's care are hard to handle, it must be because they haven't been handled properly, according to two of the staff people employed at the problem plagued group home.

Rusty Brown and Brent Racette, who spend their off duty hours playing football for the Toronto Argonauts, have been employed by D and G Care Limited for the last five weeks.

"This is all pretty average to me. I don't think these kids are hard to handle at all," Mr. Racette said in an interview.

"There may be some circumstances we haven't seen yet, but then we have an advantage because we're both over four feet tall and weigh more than 100 pounds," he added.

Both men have some experience working with children, but no formal training as Child Care Workers. Mr. Racette trained as a teacher and Mr. Brown is trained in the field of recreation.

Each said they have not experienced the same kind of problems that plagued their predecessors, with Mr. Racette adding "if there's any truth to what those four are suspected to have done. . . I can understand the kids acting like they did."

Neither would elaborate on the suggestion that the four former workers had caused their own troubles.

"We have never had any trouble like that. Why would one kid beat up two staff people unless he was provoked," asked Mr. Brown.

Since an investigation of the home's program was started, however, both workers said there has been some tension among the children.

"When the other kids see one of their friends

being dragged out of here in handcuffs they're bound to wonder what is going to happen next," Mr. Brown said.

One former resident of the home was removed by Halton Regional Police and has since escaped from custody and was still at large at press time.

For the athletes, maintaining the respect of their young charges has not been a problem

even with the air of uncertainty hanging over the home.

"We find that if you give respect you get it back," Mr. Racette said. "Maybe just by being in the situation we are we find this job a little easier."

"Maybe a little kid can see us as a big brother because we don't try to do the psychology thing on him," he added.



Brent Racette, left and Rusty Brown, right, play "big brother" to two of the residents of D and G Care Limited, a Milton area group home

that may be forced out of business following an investigation by the Provincial Ministry of Community and Social Services.

## Expect enrolment drop

Secondary school enrolment in Ontario will drop by 23 per cent by 1990, according to ministry of education statistics but Halton high school numbers may be lower.

Figures for the province show a 13.2 per cent decrease in enrolment from 1981 to 1986 in high schools. Halton numbers show a projected 10.7 per cent drop from '81 to '86.

Halton Board of Education area superintendent of finance Ron Warren, said he expects the decline to continue after 1986, but figures up to 1990 for Halton are not yet available.

"Anything beyond a five-year projection is pretty soft information," Mr. Warren explained. "We use census information for our projections and generally use the information from the ministry (education) as a guide to formulating future informa-

tion."

Maria Svoboda, a statistician for the ministry of education, said the government uses a survival ratio to measure the enrolment projections. "The birth rate is used to make projections and we also have to include the drop out rate and the economic circumstances. It is hard to measure these two, so we use a survival ratio which indicates how many students make it from kindergarten to Grade 10. Hopefully, the survival ratio includes the economic and drop out factors," Svoboda explained.

Mr. Warren said Halton can be considered "average" in the province. "We are in decline, but not as severely as other parts of the province," Warren said. "We have some growth in Halton and that keeps our enrolments higher."

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