

Miltonians support vandalized family

BY LINDA KIRBY
Champion Reporter

For the first time in almost three weeks, Marlene Williams looked relaxed and she even managed to smile a little.

Curled up on a sofa with the family pet dog Missy on her lap, Mrs. Williams admitted it was a nice feeling to have a place to call home.

Late Monday afternoon, she and her husband John moved into a spacious townhouse on Heslop Rd., thanks to the generosity of a Milton homeowner who read about the plight of the Williams family in The Canadian Champion.

One week ago the couple appealed to the public in

an effort to locate a temporary home, following the ruin of their own \$90,000 Bell St. home at the hands of an estimated 100 local teenagers Mar. 6.

The response to that story pleasantly surprised the couple, who received more than a dozen offers of accommodation and many other offers of money and help.

Albert Mummery was one of those people. He read the front page story and immediately contacted the Williams.

Although his house was listed for sale, he was willing to rent it to them. He realized they were looking for furnished accommodation and made arrange-

ments to have his own furnishings (then in storage) returned to the house for the use of the Williams.

"It makes you realize there are still caring people out there," said Mrs. Williams.

For the first time since they were forced to seek lodgings, the family can be together.

In the past two weeks, the couple have stayed in a local motel and friends' homes while their son Jamie has remained with a school friend.

The W.I. Dick student admits, "it is going to be nice to say I have a home to go to now."

The offers of help from the public have varied, but all had one thing in common—they wanted to help

the Williams family through the ordeal in whatever way possible.

"One woman said there was not much she could do, but she would gladly have our son for lunch during the noon hour."

"Another woman wanted to take up a collection..."

"Several people, complete strangers wanted to share their home with us at no cost to us, for however long," said Mrs. Williams.

The couple hopes to restore some semblance of normality to their lives.

Mrs. Williams plans to return to her job at Halton Centennial Manor this weekend.

The future of their wrecked home (damage estimated is more than \$50,000) is still very much in question.

A decision is expected next week from the insurance company, which will determine what is to be done next with the house.

It will still take at least two weeks however, to make the house liveable, according to the estimate of one contractor.

Halton Regional Police are continuing their investigation of the incident. At least seven people have been charged and further charges are pending.

Police have not yet released the names of the accused.

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Teacher gets 2 yr. probation

By DIANE SHUBALY
Special to The Champion

A Milton District High school teacher who stabbed his wife during an argument in her Lorne Park home was placed on two years probation in Brampton Supreme Court last week.

Alexander Robert Douglas, 38, who pleaded guilty to the June 22, 1980 wounding of his wife, Ann Douglas, 36, is a one-time offender who would gain more harm than good from a jail term, said Mr. Justice Anthony William Maloney, in passing sentence.

"Here's a fellow who's been decent all his life. The incident was the culmination of a buildup of frustration and hostility... he has no criminal instinct," said the judge.

Crown Attorney Brian Trafford had requested a nine-to-12 month jail term, "to express re- vulsion of the public in general to this type of activity."

But Mr. Douglas's lawyer, John Rosen, said a jail sentence, even with a temporary absence pass—would mean certain dismissal for Douglas from his technical trades teaching job with Halton Board of Education.

A letter from education superintendent Rae Stoneness, read to Supreme Court, said Douglas, suspended with pay since March, 1981, could be reinstated or transferred to another school, as long as he received no jail term. His case is pending.

On the morning of the attack Mr. Douglas brought a knife from his Milton apartment when he visited his wife, formerly of Indian Grove Rd. An argument ensued and he stabbed her in the back and shoulders. Shortly afterwards, Mr. Douglas telephoned police and confessed.

Since the incident Mr. Douglas has lost contact with his wife and three children, aged 17, 15 and 9, court was told. He lives with a cousin and continues to receive psychiatric care.



As the weather improves, more people are attracted to the great outdoors. Michael Boniface, left, Ian Harry and his dog Lady took full advantage of a pleasant afternoon, strolling along the soon to be completed boardwalk at Crawford Lake.

Crawford Lake

A pleasant walk around

Visitors to Crawford Lake will be able to enjoy a walk in the woods around Crawford Lake this spring without damaging any of the fragile plants growing by the lake's edge.

The Halton Region Conservation Authority expects to complete the last section of a specific, elevated boardwalk circling the lake (located near Steeles Avenue and Guelph Line on top of the Niagara Escarpment), by the first of May. The completion date coincides with the start of a public fund-raising campaign by the Halton Region Conservation Foundation—a volunteer group ded-

icated to raising money for conservation projects.

The Halton Region Conservation Authority has spent \$40,000 over the past few years building the boardwalk, which is supported by posts sunk into the rock of the escarpment. It will cost about \$10,000 to complete the last 400 feet of walkway around the eight-acre lake.

Crawford Lake was formed about 15,000 years ago as glaciers retreated from the top of the escarpment. Ground water likely carved a cavern, forming an 80 foot deep lake when the top eventually caved in. Because the lake is so deep,

compared to its surface area, surface water does not circulate all the way to the bottom, so sediment layers are undisturbed.

Examination of the bottom sediment has produced evidence of plant life around the lake dating back to the mid-1400s and has helped provide information about the most accurately-dated prehistoric Iroquoian village in all of Canada.

The Foundation hopes to raise \$700,000 during a six-week campaign beginning in May, to help rebuild some of the structures in the Indian Village, and to create a new interpretive centre.

Three R's cost \$100 more in '82

By STEVE ARNOLD
Champion News Editor

Education is going to cost Halton taxpayers up to \$100 more in 1982. That's the bad news following the approval last week of a \$131.9 million budget by Halton Board of Education.

With only one dissenting vote, trustees approved the package—which will mean a tax increase of \$91 on an average assessment of \$7,000.

Burlington trustee Elaine Riehm, who presented the revenue portion of the annual budget, said Provincial support for education has declined again from past years, meaning local taxpayers must carry an even greater share of the costs.

She also noted that Provincial support to Halton is lower than in past years because the Region is seen as a richer area.

"Halton is increasing in wealth relative to the rest of the province and, as that happens, the Province deems us better able to pay more for our services," she said.

With 70 per cent of the assessment in Halton coming from residential development, she added, the Region is really only "a board of average wealth."

"We are, and always have been, a board of average wealth but we are caught in the transition where the Province is trying to shift the cost of education from the Provincial tax base to the local tax base, she said.

In 1981, Mrs. Riehm explained, the Ontario government gave the Halton Board of Education \$56.8 million to fund its operations. A further \$56.1 million was raised through local taxes.

In 1982, however, while the Provincial grant has risen to \$59.2 million, it accounts for only 44.9 per cent of the total budget compared to 49 per cent last year.

Local taxes however, must pay for 52.8 per cent of the total cost in 1982, Mrs. Riehm noted.

The total budget is an increase of \$15.8 million over 1981, or 13.6 per cent.

Milton will be asked to provide \$7.1 million to the Board for 1982. Halton Hills will pay \$7.8 million and Burlington and Oakville will finance \$29.3 million and \$24.2 million respectively.

Mrs. Riehm added that a \$1.1 million cushion had been added to the budget by the Provincial government to protect some municipalities from an extreme rise in their costs because of the move to market value assessment.

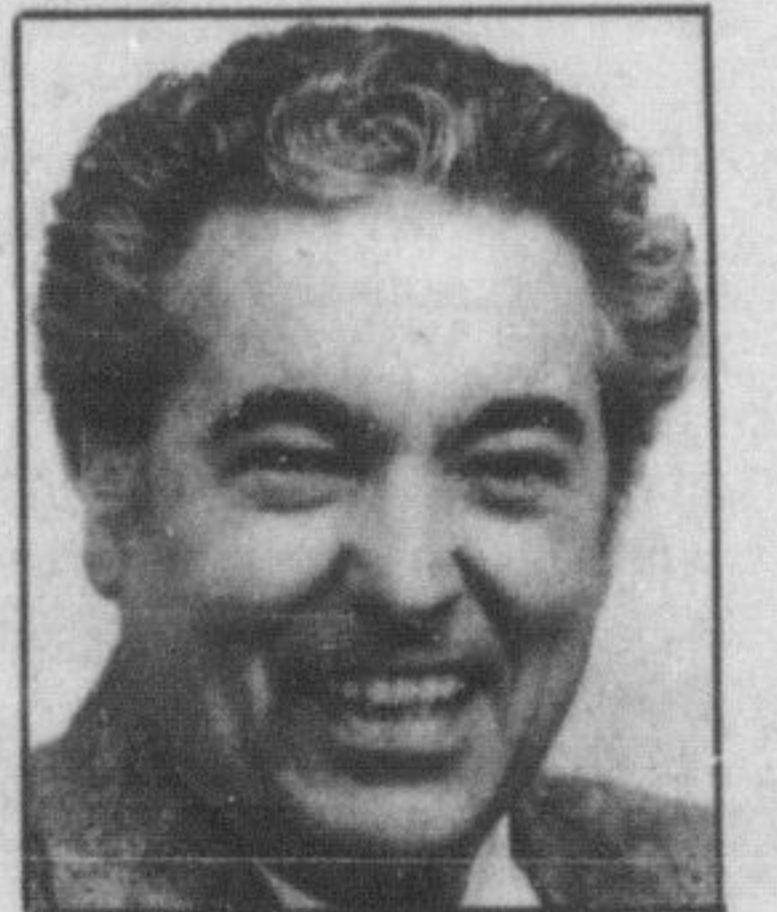
The budget passed through the board without changes, although there were some objections to particular parts of the document.

Milton and Halton Hills trustee John Bradley urged that \$7,000 be added to pay for free coffee and cookies at the evening meetings of the board.

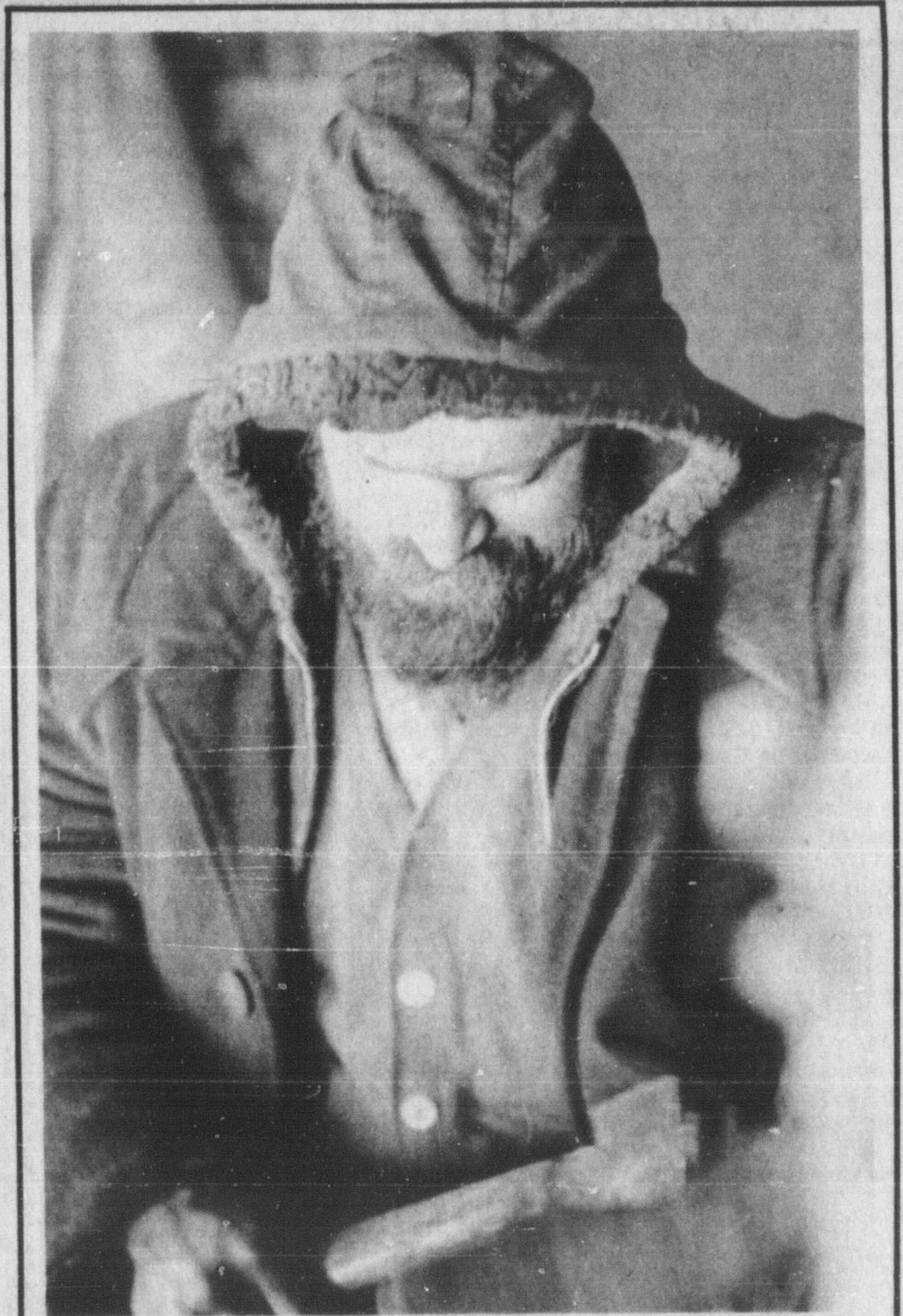
Mr. Bradley applauded the effort that was being made to reduce costs, but said the \$7,000 being saved was too small to even qualify as a symbolic gesture.

A better move, he said, would be for the trustees to give up their \$7,200 a year

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JOHN BRADLEY



He searches the neighborhood for wood each day to fuel the fire in his makeshift fireplace—a fireplace which helped him survive the winter. Living beneath a railway overpass bridge in Kitchener, the former Milton resident claims to be content.

Recluse Doug Woods

"Leave me alone"

By JANE MULLER
Champion Reporter

He squats behind a makeshift fireplace, his bearded face, his layers of clothing and hands, covered in soot.

Beside him, his possessions are stored in an assortment of plastic bags stacked in front of the shelter made of plastic supported by sticks of wood.

A supply of firewood is stacked in a neat row on the cement slab beneath a CN railway overpass bridge—which has been home for the 32-year-old man this past winter.

The overpass is located in Kitchener, but the man is from Milton. Doug Woods isn't looking for sym-

pathy or handouts, he simply wants to be left alone to live the life he has chosen.

When his reclusive retreat, no more than a four-foot high cement corridor, was intruded upon by stone-throwing children, Doug called police. CN officials reacted to reports of the man's residence by charging him with trespassing several days ago, but Doug remains in his home beneath one of Kitchener's busy thoroughfares.

Newspaper reports in that city have prompted several citizens to visit Doug with offerings of food and clothing, some of which he accepts.

(Continued on Page 3)

Inside today's Champion

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AEROS

Going from B to A

In a surprise move, Milton Aeros owner Gary Thomas has decided to take his club up to the Intermediate A level for next year. Story on page C1.

Kids getting wrong teachers?

Halton public school students may be short-changed through the rigidity of the Ministry of Education because its demands for teacher preparation eliminate most specialized teachers for kindergarten. See story on page A8.

Retiring Lorne Scots

Local Lorne Scots Harvey Brush and Art Cooper retired from the service, leaving the regiment without any active World War II veterans. See page A11 for story.

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