

The Centre Programs to continue

The popularity of the morning mothers program at The Centre is an indication of the need for such community resources, according to program facilitator Bev Le Francois.

"There should be one of these in every community," Mrs. Le Francois said.

The fall session, which began Monday, is "over subscribed" but the facilitator suggests those interested can still register for the next session beginning in January.

The cut-off point for participants is governed by the capacity of the pre-school program which operates in conjunction with the mother's program. As the pre-school has reached its saturation point, only those women without children or those who can arrange alternative supervision for their children, other than the centre's free child care service, will be accepted.

There is always a chance, however, that there may be cancellations and with this in mind, Mrs. Le Francois is still encouraging women to contact her.

The first three mornings of the week operate as structured sessions with life skills on Monday and parenting on Tuesday and Wednesday. The children are kept busy in the pre-school, supervised by volunteers while the mothers learn skills to make them better parents and explore other aspects of coping in today's society.

Early childhood educator Norma Smith, who is the only paid staff besides Mrs. Le Francois says, "We are always waiting with open arms for volunteers."

The morning program is absolutely free of charge making volunteers an important element. All guest speakers, including various professionals, donate their time to the mother's group.

The parenting program involves speakers as well as instruction in the STEP method of democratic child rearing. Topics for these sessions cover many aspects of parenting including discipline, behaviour expectations, sibling rivalry, self esteem and children, reflective listening and who owns the problem.

Some new areas have been incorporated in this fall's version of the program—now in its fifth session. In reaction to increased acts of violence involving women as victims, a self-defence portion, an introduction to Wendo, has been added to the life skills program. A new approach to budgeting will be covered as well as improving self esteem.

The Friday morning mother's drop-in will be utilized to prepare crafts to be sold at Milton Mall Oct. 30. Proceeds will be put back into the morning programs as, according to Mrs. Le Francois, there is no funding available for these programs.

Manor gets crafts room

Residents of Halton Centennial Manor are finally going to get their new crafts-adjutant room and kitchen facilities in Pettit House.

Members of the Region's health and social services committee last week agreed to proceed with the projects after being informed that the provincial Ministry of Community and Social Services will provide \$77,000 toward the total cost of \$178,000.

"This has been on the books for the last three years. We've discussed it ad boredom, so now is the time to get on with it," commented Regional chairman Jack Rafits.

The Provincial subsidy also provides \$27,500 for the kitchen project and \$25,000 for the installation of a fire alarm system in Pettit House.

In a report to the committee members, social service director Debbie Oakley said the craft room subsidy awarded by the Province was \$4,000 less than had been requested, but that the deficit would be made up through extra interest earned on a bequest that is being used for the project.

She added that specifications for the projects should be ready within six weeks.

The committee also approved hiring Mississauga architect Donald Skinner to supervise both projects for a total fee of \$8,000; a Toronto consulting engineer for \$2,000 and a Toronto-based consultant for \$3,000 for the kitchen project.

The kitchen renovations will be the final step in the home's conversion to a cook-chill process for food service using a centralized kitchen, rather than separate kitchens in each house of the Regionally operated home for the aged.

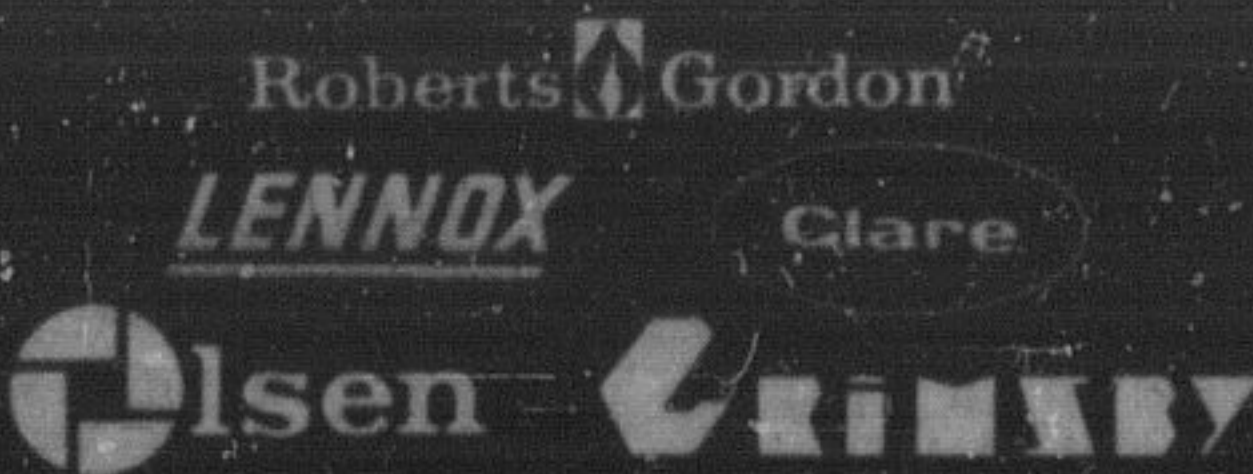
Total cost of that project will be split evenly between the Region and Province.

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Fall programs at The Centre got underway Monday, including the mother's morning program and pre-school. Pictured here in the morning circle which marks the start of the program each day are from right, Debra Komow, her son Fraser, Laura Smith and program facilitator Bev Le Francois.

Election not called

Halton Board of Education has decided not to hold a by-election to fill the seat left vacant by last week's death of Esqueping representative Betty Walker.

Mrs. Fisher may be reached at 877-3163 and Mrs. Bruce at 853-1267.

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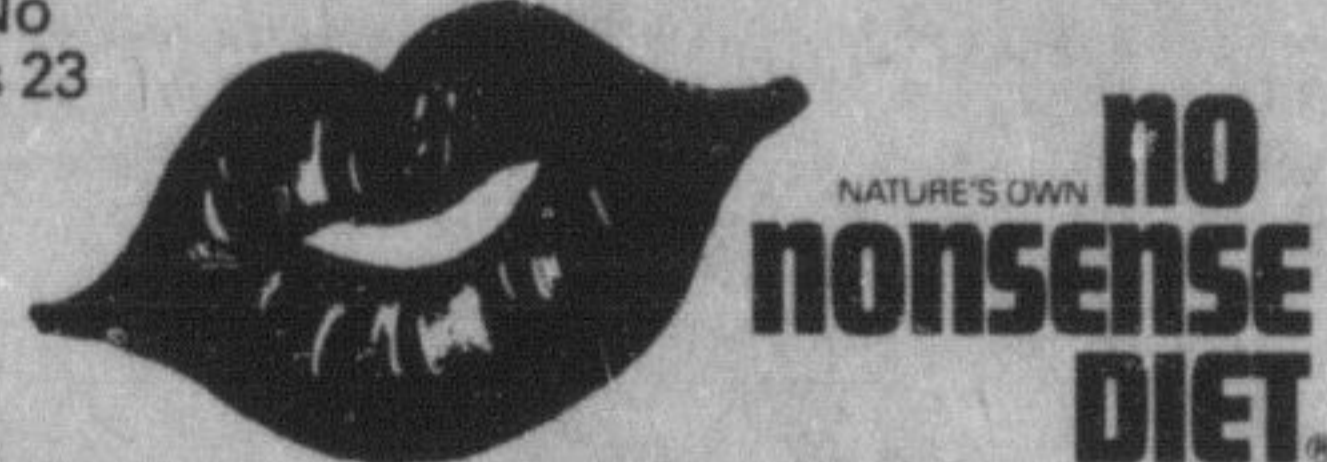
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