

**Community resource services**

# Agency hopes to help adults, youth, seniors

There are few local business proprietors who can boast less than two incidents of break and enter.

Many have been the victims of more than one vandalism attack. It usually costs the owner a \$25 fee through his insurance policy to have the window repaired or a new lock installed.

The teenager or youngster is not often caught and if apprehended, first time offenders usually escape with a slap on the wrist.

The victim rarely feels justice has been served on the person who has caused him hurt, inconvenience and expense.

This could change with the introduction of the Community Resource Services of Halton.

The organization, which will operate from the upper offices of the Halton Credit Union building on Main St., offers among other services, the opportunity to help victims of certain crimes.

Working closely with police, the courts and the ministry of correctional services, Community Resource Services of Halton will be responsible for administering community work orders, preventative educational programs and a project known as juvenile diversion.

**Works Well**

The latter works well in a situation where a juvenile offender for example, has no money or means of earning money, and wishes to make up for a bad deed by helping a victim with such tasks as snow shovelling, grass cutting etc.

"What we are trying to do is to instill a sense of responsibility in youth and accountability for their actions," explained Rob McKenzie, executive director of the agency.

"Victims have been ignored for too long," said Mr. McKenzie, adding the program will help victims as well as hopefully rehabilitate the offender.

The idea of community work orders is hardly new, but the concept gaining rapid popularity both in and out of court.

A fine too often does little to deter an offender from repeating the crime, whereas a work order can leave a much deeper impression.

The agency will deal with several different categories—those too young to be prosecuted, or perhaps caught for the first time and given a "second chance"; those charged and processed through the courts and thought as eligible for the program and those who are sentenced by a provincial court judge to a number of community work hours.

Police will often refer what they consider as good candidates for such a program.

**Strictly voluntary**

"Some of these kids don't know whose home they broke into and they come face to face with victim—that's tough. It is also embarrassing for the parents," said Mr. McKenzie.



Heather Smith, manager for Milton United Way, welcomes Lorie Chapman and Rob McKenzie of Community Resource Services of Halton.

Where a young person is recommended for work, but has not been formally charged with an offence, the teenager is under no obligation. It is strictly a voluntary decision, though Mr. McKenzie admits it looks much better for the teen involved if he agrees to compensate for whatever damages he has done.

"In many cases, the kid can't pay for the \$100 window he broke, but he can wash windows and floors and that \$100 is converted to so many hours of labor."

Parents of the offenders are automatically requested to be involved in the decision of a work order, said Mr. McKenzie.

"We will usually have a panel of three who will interview the youth. Often the victim will be on the panel."

This allows the victim some say about compensation.

In a case where the offender is taken to court and he is deemed a good candidate for a work order, a written recommendation will be taken to court.

Mr. McKenzie said he finds a high percentage of parents are receptive to the idea and offer "good" support to the program.

"It is intended to help kids realize the consequences of their actions," he said.

**Non-profit**

A non-profit organization, the Community Resources Services of Halton is one of three such groups operating in Halton (Burlington had a similar service agency open in 1980 and Oakville recently started up a sister group) and is a member of the United Way.

Funded through the United Way, Halton Region and the federal government, the local group is staffed by a full time person in Milton, and with some assistance from staff in Burlington.

As part of its mandate, the organization will conduct preventative programs in Milton schools, with particular attention to grades six to eight.

Discussions will centre on vandalism, house entries, coping with peer pressure, parental and school authority.

"We are concerned about getting a message to youth—respecting the values of others, respecting other persons' property and the consequences of their actions," said Mr. McKenzie.

"We have chosen the educational route as part of our mandate because research has shown this is where our program should be going. Our audience is in the schools."

"Hopefully what we are doing is going to touch some of the youth," he added.

The entire program has taken one year to develop and represents a unique service in Halton, he said.

Considerable time was taken to examine similar programs in Alberta, Manitoba and Quebec and discussions were held with Halton Regional Police Chief James Harding, the police youth bureau and family court judge James Fuller.

**Full backing**

The project has received the full backing of all parties contacted, said Mr. McKenzie.

Though established in Milton, the local office will be offering its services in Acton and Georgetown.

Heading the Milton office will be Lorie Chapman of Milton.

The mother of two has a background in sociology and psychology a diploma in recreation leadership and is working on her bachelor of arts degree at the University of Waterloo.

Mrs. Chapman who spent three years working at the Milton "Y" said she took on the job because she enjoys challenges and finds "most kids have a lot of promise... they just need a little direction."

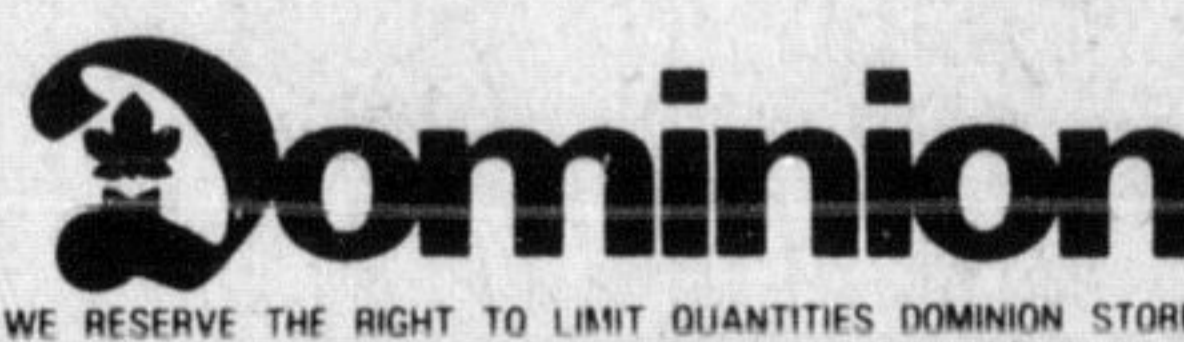
**CORRECTION NOTICE**

In the Wednesday February 9th 1983 edition of this newspaper the following information was omitted from our advertisement pertaining to the "Lifestyle Towels" promotion. It should have read:

"FREE LIFESTYLE TOWELS"  
full details in our stores  
(Provincial Sales Tax Extra)

We sincerely regret any inconvenience this may have caused our customers.

Thank you for shopping Dominion



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WITH COUPON

**NOW OFFERING**  
**SAME DAY SERVICE**



Warning: Health and Welfare Canada advises that danger to health increases with amount smoked—avoid inhaling. Average per cigarette: 1mg "tar" 0.1mg nicotine.

# SUMMER CANADA '83 AN INVESTMENT IN YOUTH

This summer, thousands of jobs will be created for students. The federal government's SUMMER CANADA program will provide funding to non-profit organizations and municipalities to help them employ students, and give them career-related experience. ♦ Students who can't find summer jobs don't develop the kind of work experience that helps them bridge the gap between school and work. It might even mean a student's education comes to a sudden stop. SUMMER CANADA is designed to change that — by helping employers help students. ♦ If you are a student interested in real work experience, you should register at your local Canada Employment Centre. If you are a member of a non-profit organization that would like funding to hire students, read on.

**COMMUNITY PROJECTS**

SUMMER CANADA applicants who want funding to hire students to work on community-based projects must be able to employ three local students. Work should result in tangible goods or services to the community and provide marketable job experience for the student workers. Community projects must last between six and eighteen consecutive weeks during the summer.

Community Projects Sponsor Application Deadline:  
**March 4, 1983**

**INTERNSHIPS FOR STUDENTS**

Internships supply funding to non-profit organizations and municipalities that will hire students as temporary additions to their staff. The emphasis is on creating projects that will give developmental work experience in a well supervised setting. These internships (which must last six to eighteen weeks during the summer) may continue for three consecutive summers. That gives the employer increasingly skilled workers, and the students secure summer employment that builds valuable work experience.

Internship Sponsor Application Deadline:  
**March 11, 1983**

Applications and information available at your  
Canada Employment Centre and Employment Development Office.

Employment and Immigration Canada / Emploi et Immigration Canada  
Lloyd Axworthy, Minister / Lloyd Axworthy, Ministre



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**KINDERGARTEN  
REGISTRATION  
for September 1983  
THE HALTON ROMAN CATHOLIC  
SEPARATE SCHOOL BOARD**

ADVANCED registration for those children who will be attending kindergarten in the Separate Schools in Burlington, Oakville, Milton, Georgetown and Acton will be held at all Catholic schools on

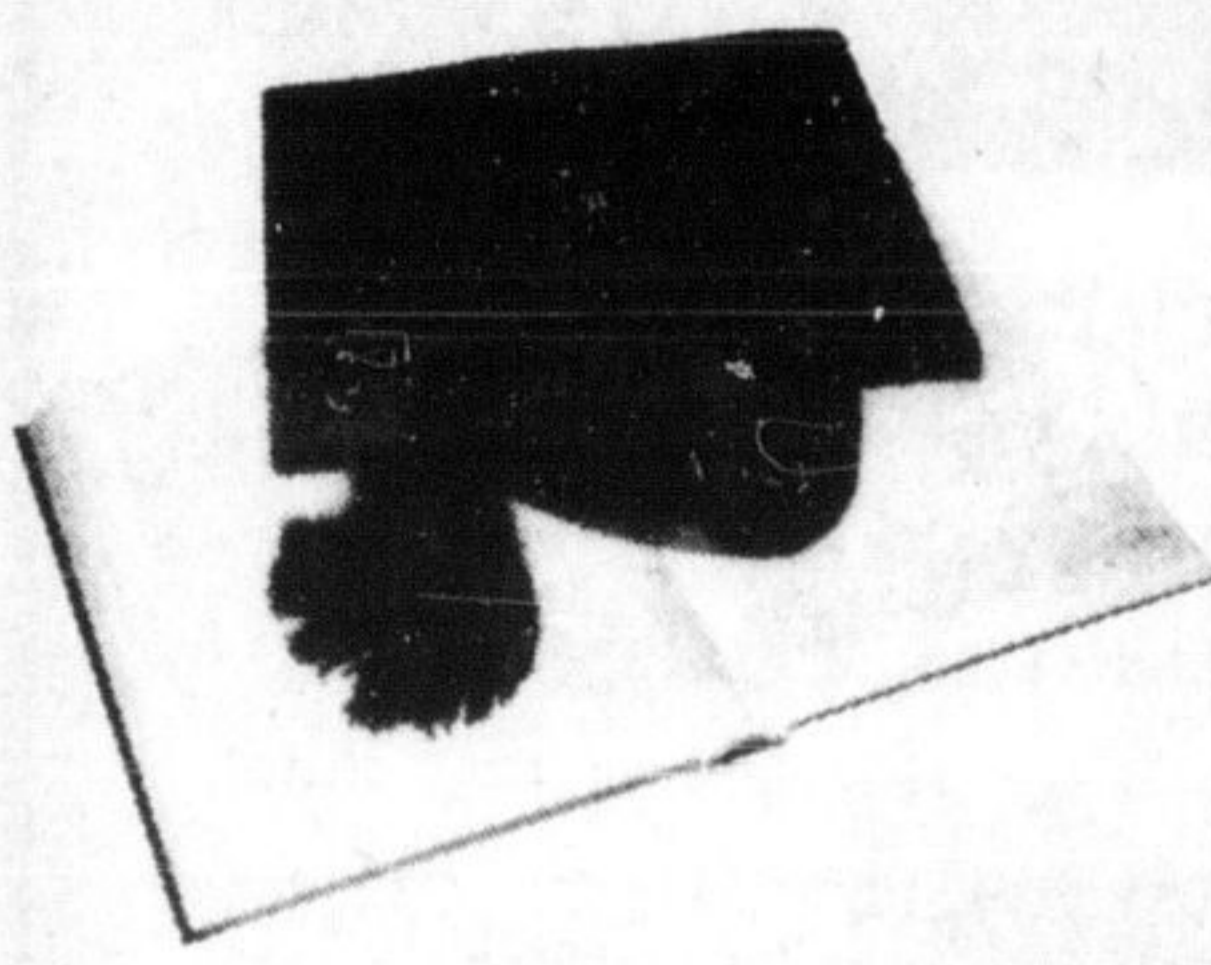
**TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY AND THURSDAY**  
**FEBRUARY 22nd, 23rd and 24th, 1983**  
9:00 a.m. to Noon  
1:15 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

**AGE OF ADMISSION AND REQUIREMENTS**

- Children are required to be 5 years of age on or before December 31st, 1983.
- Birth and Baptismal Certificates.
- Family O.H.I.P. Number.

For further information, please contact the principal of your nearest Catholic School.

Reverend J. Mihm C.G. Byrnes  
Chairman of the Board Director of Education



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For more information visit the Canada Employment Centre, 310 Main St. Milton on the last Tuesday of each month (9:00-4:00 p.m.) or return the coupon.



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Are interested in hearing more about the Regular Officer Training Plan. Please send me information without obligation.

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