

Organizer says he has enjoyed strong success

By KAREN SMITH
The Champion

All but one young adult who recently completed a government-funded employability program have obtained promising jobs or have made plans to go back to school.

Seven out of eight graduates of Youth Service Canada's United We Learn Community Project were able to find their paths in life through the north Halton program, said co-ordinator Dennis Leavitt.

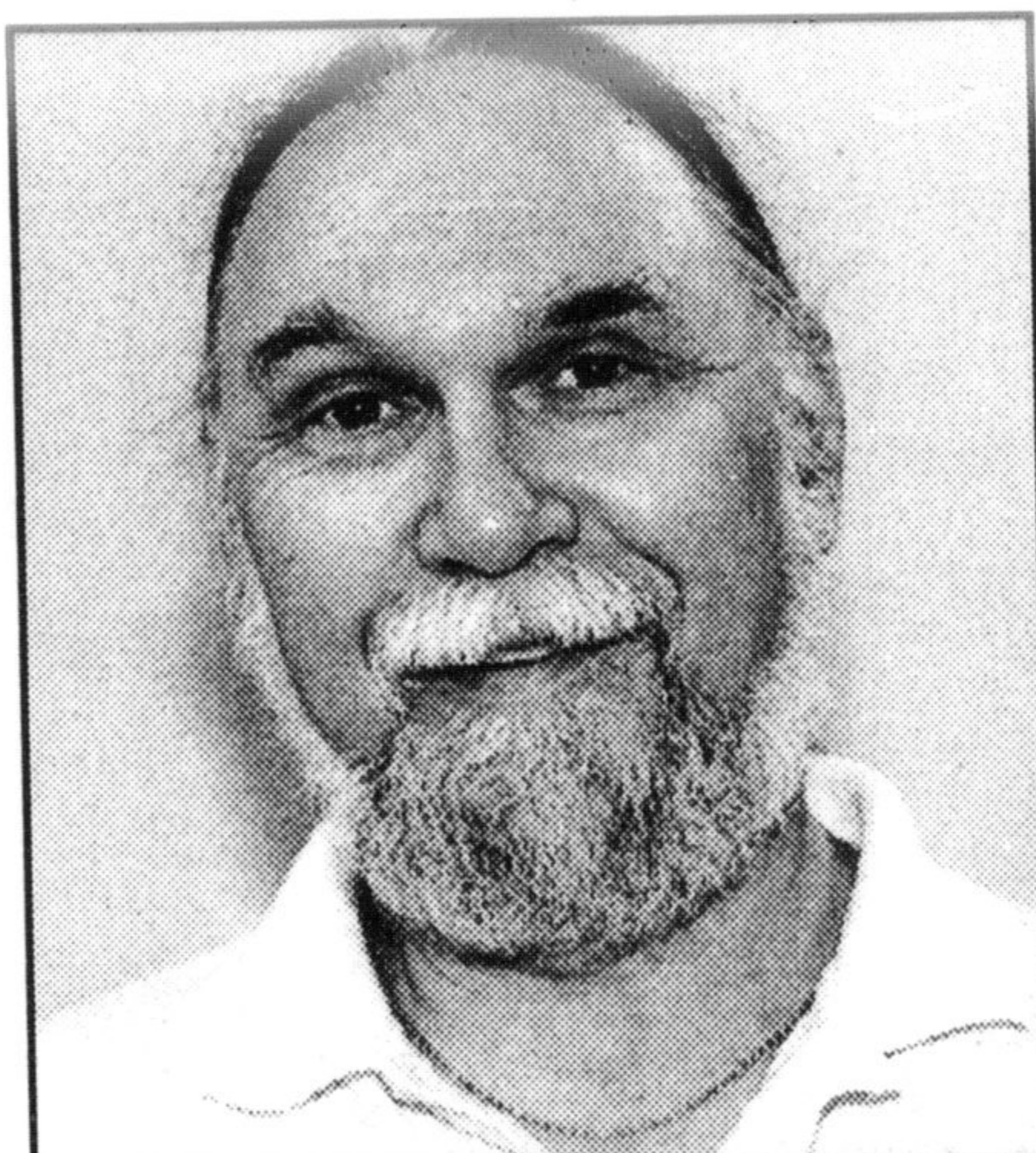
"I feel that this was extremely successful," he said. "It's a win, win, win situation all 'round."

A total of 12 young adults started in the program in November. Two participants left late in the project on a positive note when they had received job offers they couldn't refuse. But early in the program, two others dropped out after deciding it wasn't for them.

The creator of the north Halton project, Mr. Leavitt said the 29-week program to find a place for unemployed young adults in the working world aided the community as well as participants.

The participants, whose ages ranged from 19 to 28, gleaned valuable work experience through inter-generational activities such as tutoring local elementary school children and running programs at the Milton Seniors' Activity Centre.

As a result, many of the participants



Dennis Leavitt

have gained employment at daycare centres or plan to attend school for early childhood education, Mr. Leavitt said.

Allison Wendover, a 20-year-old graduate of E.C. Drury High School, will work with mentally challenged children at Trillium School this fall.

Through the program, she enhanced her computer and communication skills.

"Allison has seen an improvement in herself and an increase in her confidence and her ability to express her opinion," Mr. Leavitt said.

Meanwhile, other group members branched off into different directions suit-

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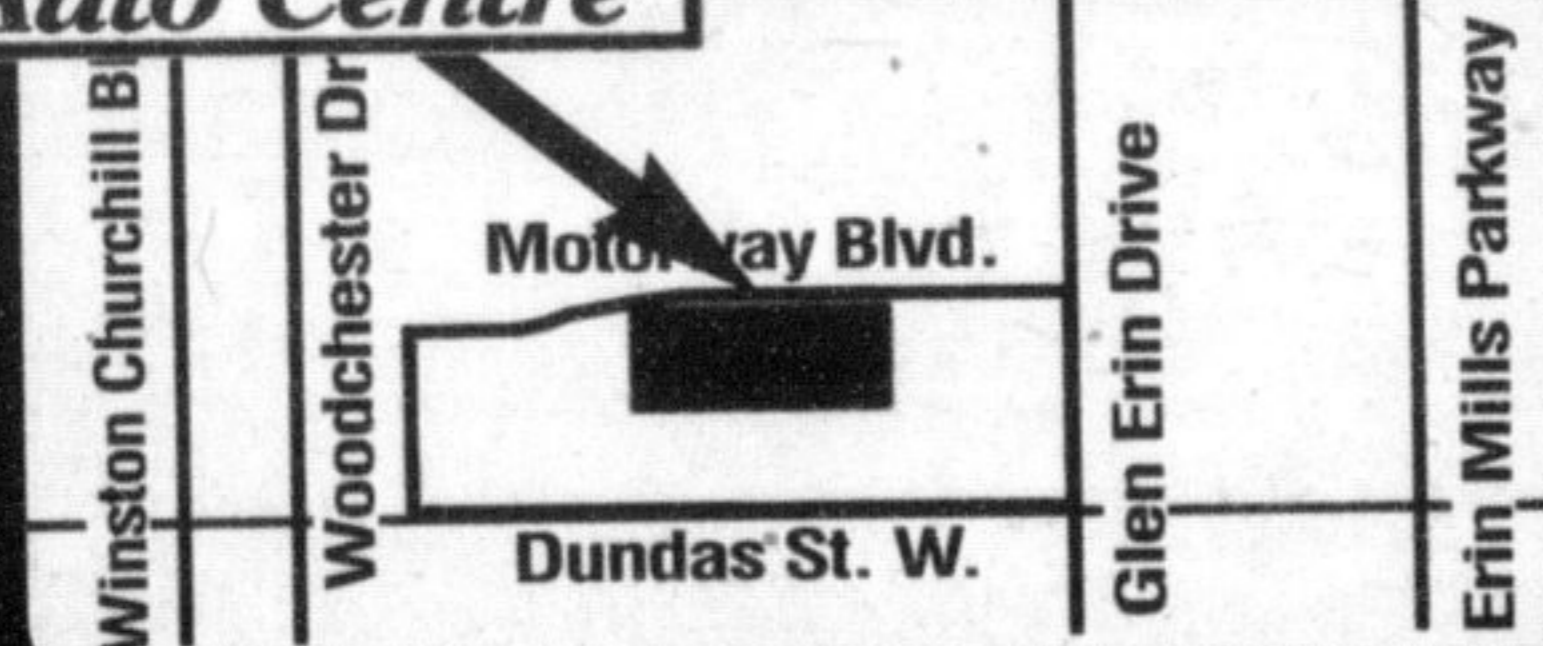
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