

Big Brother duos headed for the skies in 'Airlift'

By RICHARD VIVIAN

The Champion

Milton-area Big Brother pairs will take to the sky tomorrow as part of a program offered by the Canadian Owners and Pilots Association (COPA).

The event — dubbed 'Airlift' — will see Big Brother and Big Sister pairs from across southern Ontario gather at Burlington Air Park for a day of aviation.

Four Big Brothers duos from the Milton area will participate.

Throughout the day, participants will have the opportunity to learn about planes, the history of COPA, and go for a 20-minute

ride in one of the many volunteer pilots' planes.

"Most of the kids going to an event like this would not otherwise have an opportunity to be in a plane of any kind," said Lee Shepherd, a Big Brothers of Halton case worker.

"So this just gives them an idea of what it's like to be up in a plane and maybe learn a little bit about flying."

This is the 20th year COPA has hosted the event and they're commemorating the anniversary with some added gifts for the little brothers and sisters.

Before take-off, each child participant will be armed with a disposable camera to document their adventure.

"Some of the kids have been back several years running. Some even from 20 years ago are back as adults. But for a lot of them, they're first-timers," explained John Stairs, COPA Airlift 2001 chair.

"Normally, the kids come back with a grin you can't wipe off their face for four days," he laughed. "We've rarely had anyone get sick. I think we've had maybe two people barf in the 20 years."

Though Airlift is scheduled for tomorrow, it all depends on the weather, warned Mr. Stairs. "We insist on good weather. This is not supposed to be a white-knuckle experience. This is supposed to be fun and we want them to come back."

Conference to address violence issues

Are you concerned about violence in your neighbourhood, school or workplace?

Halton Regional Police Service will host the third annual 'Victim-Less' conference today and tomorrow at the Halton Regional Centre, 1151 Bronte Rd., in Oakville.

The conference is held in partnership with Sexual Assault and Violence Intervention Services of Halton, the Halton Multicultural Council, Halton Health

Department and Halton Community Consultation Committees.

It's a community policing conference designed to bring together citizens, police personnel and community groups to focus on the physical, emotional and economic impacts of violence on various groups in society.

A variety of speakers will participate in the conference.

Topics include discussions relating to the

power structure in today's society, homophobia, ageism, criminal harassment and stalking crimes.

A Holocaust survivor will speak on intolerance and a seminar on 'Hate on the Net' will also take place.

The conference is a proactive event designed to alert people to these global issues which affect Halton.

For more information, call (905) 825-4747, ext. 5064.

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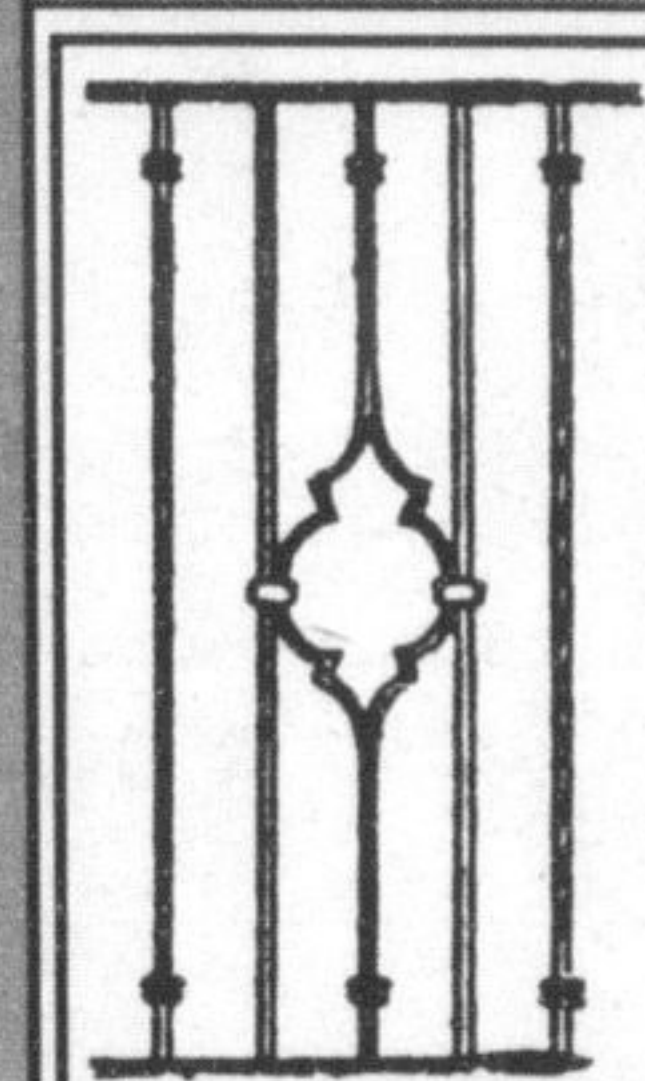
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