



**Champion**

# COMMUNITY Page

## Community Living Month aimed at bringing more attention to the developmentally disabled

*Local support network has been around for almost half a century*

By **FANNIE SUNSHINE**  
The Champion

Since 1955, Community Living North Halton has serviced persons living with developmental disabilities.

"Our organization provides support and services for people with developmental disabilities and allows them to take their place in the community in whatever way they can," said John F. Bedell, executive director of Community Living North Halton, which includes Milton, Georgetown and Acton.

May is Community Living Month. In recognition, Community Living North Halton held a bike-a-thon in Georgetown earlier this month and will take the group to a Toronto Blue Jays game.

"I don't think people realize intellectually disabled people are lonely," he continued. "Even if a few people have a better understanding of what it's like for them, the better."

### Many services available

The organization offers a variety of services, including adult residential assistance and recreational activities with an emphasis on community integration. It also provides resource consultants to pre-school children with special needs and their families and employment opportunities.

"For our residential services, we seek no more than five people whenever possible," Mr. Bedell said, adding the organization prefers the term developmental disability opposed to mental retardation as the latter tends to label people.

Although most people he's run into have no knowledge of what Community Living North Halton is, he said the name better reflects the services offered.

"The name is not well known but hopefully people will come to know it. Some people think it has to do with housing, seniors or physically disabled people."

Mr. Bedell said he believes misconceptions people have about persons with developmental disabilities are due to "fear of the unknown."

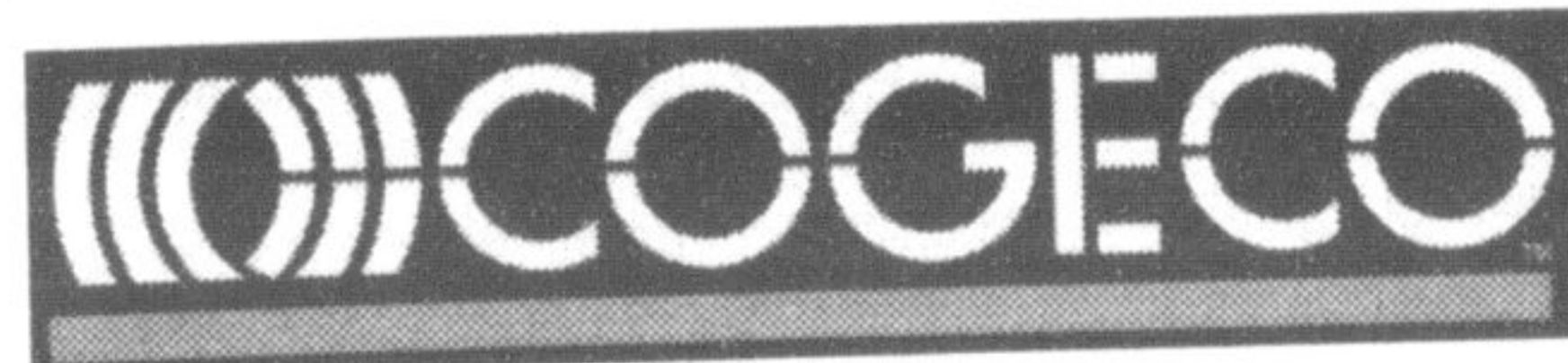
"If you don't know, you're fearful. It's a fear factor."

For information about Community Living North Halton services or volunteer opportunities, call (905) 878-2337, ext. 23.



Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

Angie McGilvery (left) and David Hill of Community Living North Halton keep busy assembling car wash pail kits, which is one of the many activities at the Main Street support services facility.



Keeping North Halton turned ON

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### COGECO 14 Programming Schedule – May 13th - 20th, 2002.

| Monday, May 13th                                   | Tuesday, May 14th                                  | Wednesday, May 15th                                    | Thursday, May 16th                                | Sunday, May 19th  | Monday, May 20th                       |
|--|--|--|---|---|--|
| 9:00am Plugged In! – Late Week Edition             | 9:00am Plugged In! – Early Week Edition            | 9:00am Plugged In! – Early Week Edition                | 9:00am Plugged In! – Early Week Edition           | 9am, 10, 11am & 12:30pm Plugged In! – Late Week Edition | VICTORIA DAY HOLIDAY<br>No Programming |
| 10:00am Sunday Replay                              | 10:00am Monday Replay                              | 10:00am Tuesday Replay                                 | 10:00am Wednesday Replay                          | 5pm, 6pm & 7:30pm Plugged In! – Late Week Edition       |  |
| 5pm, 6pm & 7:30pm Plugged In! – Early Week Edition | 5pm, 6pm & 7:30pm Plugged In! – Early Week Edition | 5pm, 6:00 & 7:30pm Plugged In! – Early Week Edition    | 5pm, 6pm & 7:30pm Plugged In! – Late Week Edition | 5:30pm Money Week                                       |  |
| 5:30pm With Good Taste                             | 5:30pm Seniors Showcase                            | 5:30pm Kids Connection                                 | 5:30pm Money Week                                 | 6:30pm Seniors Showcase                                 |  |
| 6:30pm Money Week                                  | 6:30pm Optimist TV Bingo (Live)                    | 6:30pm Swap Talk (Live)                                | 6:30pm Neighbour to Neighbour                     | 7:00pm The Issue Is...                                  |  |
| 7:00pm The Issue Is...                             | 6:30pm Halton Hills Council – May 6th/02           | 8:00pm Auto Experts (Live)                             | 8:00pm Neighbour to Neighbour                     | 8:00pm Neighbour to Neighbour                           |  |
| 8:00pm SportZONE Live                              | 8:00pm   | 9:00pm "Celebration of Student Excellence" HDSB Awards | 8:00pm Halton Region Council – May 6th/02         | 8:00pm "Celebration of Student Excellence" HDSB Awards  |  |
|  |  |  |   | 9:00pm "Celebration of Student Excellence" HDSB Awards  |  |

Keeping North Halton Turned ON!