

Spaces left for parenting conference

By STEPHANIE THIESSEN

The Champion

Unfortunately, kids don't come with instruction manuals. Parents must do their best with the resources they have.

Recognizing that, the North Halton Ontario Early Years Centre will present a conference tomorrow designed for parents of children up to six years old.

It will run from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Ontario Early Years Centre, 917 Nipissing Rd. The cost is \$10 per person, which includes a light brunch.

"It's a one-day seminar filled with all sorts of parenting information," said organizer Kate Williamson. "Parents have the most important job, but there's no formal training. This is a way to help them with their jobs."

The keynote speaker will be Peggy Grall, who will discuss 'Parenting on the Same Page'.

"I'm going to talk about the challenges modern young parents have blending their two perspectives from their families of origin," Ms Grall said.

She explained that each parent comes with different ideas of how a family should work and how children should behave. It takes some work to merge the perspectives.

"It's about how to work as a team in parenting kids," she said.

Other topics that will be covered include siblings, childcare options, developing literacy skills, and nutrition tips for picky eaters.

Ms Williamson said 50 per cent of the registrants are dads.

"Dads are taking a more active role in parenting. Children need a father to look up to," she said.

Specifically for dads will be a workshop entitled 'The Footprints of Fatherhood' by Brian Russell. It will address how dads can create footprints in which their children can follow, Ms Williamson

The workshop on childcare options will feature a panel that will give parents four different childcare options.

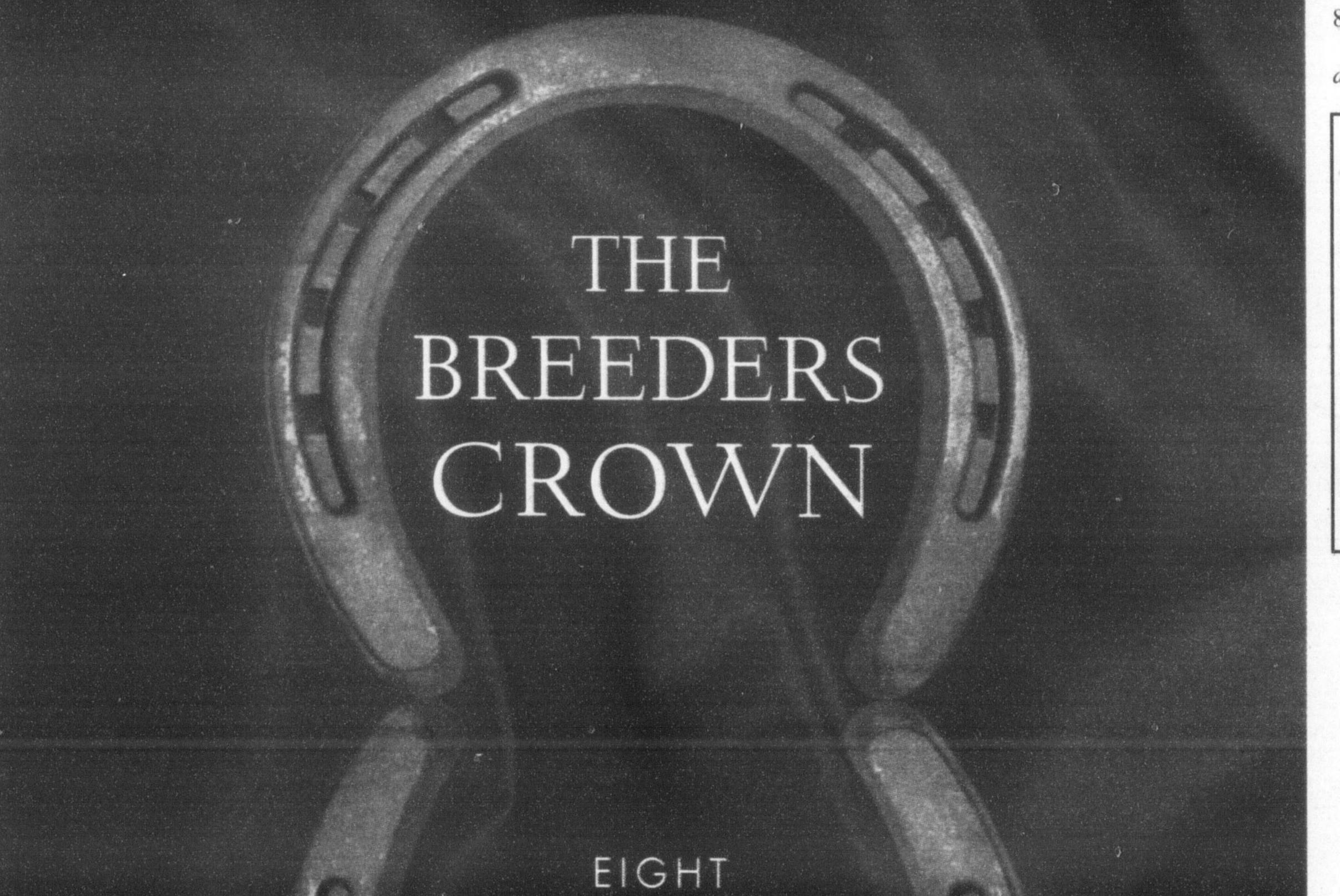
"One of the hardest things to do (when a parent returns to work) is get appropriate childcare," Ms Williamson explained.

Included in the panel will be a representative from the Halton Childcare Registry and a local childcare centre.

To register for the conference or for more information, call (905)

876-1244, ext. 13. Stephanie Thiessen can be reached at sthiessen@miltoncanadi-

anchampion.com.



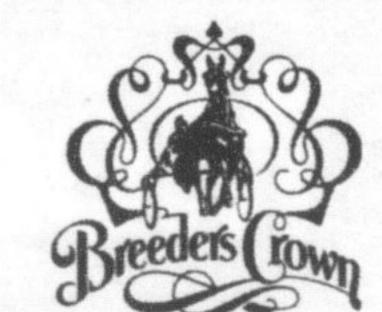
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