

Peers deliver warning on drug abuse danger

By KAREN SMITH

Two Milton schools are working co-operatively to spread awareness about the dangers of drugs.

Milton District High School students visited Sam Sherratt School last week to educate Grade 7 students about the harmful effects of drug abuse.

The three-day peer counselling program which began last Wednesday was made possible by sponsoring organizations Parents Against Drugs and the Council on Drug Abuse, said Rick Boychuk, MDHS vice-principal.

About 19 students from Milton District lead individual discussions with groups of seven or eight Sam Sherratt School students. Topics addressed included how to combat peer pressure and the effects of marijuana.

The hour-long sessions weren't all talk. Sam Sherratt students got involved in a variety of activities.

Mr. Boychuk said other drug programs have been organized in the schools but they haven't involved as much student participation.

"The difference here is it's being presented by people who are closer to their ages," said Mr. Boychuk.

The experience was rewarding for both parties in the program, he added. While Sam Sherratt students learned important information, Milton District students gained valuable leadership skills.


"I see it holding real potential for bringing similar drug programs into the schools," he said.

The Milton District students involved in the peer counselling program were recommended by their teachers. The students have named the program STOP which stands for Students Taking On Prevention.



Grade 12 Milton District High School student Lianne Stewart (right) talks about the dangers of drugs with Grade 7 Sam Sherratt School students. Lianne was one of 19 students from Milton District who visited Sam Sherratt through a peer counselling program on drugs.


Photo by JON BLACKER




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Meeting quells concerns over future of fairgrounds

By JANE MULLER

The Milton fair board gained some allies Thursday night through a meeting aimed at airing neighbour's concerns over possible development of the urban Milton Fair Grounds.

The meeting at the Lions Club hall was prompted after neighbours noticed the fairgrounds property was being surveyed. A subsequent informal poll of those living near the land indicated to meeting organizer Doug Mohun that many of his fellow neighbours were anxious about the fate of the property.

Last summer *The Champion* reported that the fairgrounds were being considered as a possible site for the Town's new multi-use recreation centre. It was through that article that neighbours became alerted to the Milton Fair Board's desire to relocate the 137-year-old agricultural fair.

Fair board members were not notified of the meeting, which was advertised through a brochure hand-delivered to those living close to the fairgrounds. Fair board secretary Marj Hall and Jim Livock, a former president of the fair board, were among the four representatives of the organization to attend the meeting. There were about 60 other people there.

Mrs. Hall said several who were at the meeting were aware of the fair board's need for volunteers, as reported in last Wednesday's *Champion*.

"I walked out with a couple of names of volunteers and I think some of them will attend our annual meeting (Thursday, Jan. 25)," she said.

Those at the meeting were told there should be no "immediate concern" about changes to ownership of the fairgrounds. The fair board secretary admitted the sale of the land, currently zoned as "open space" would have to go through two levels of government.

"I can understand their concerns. You always think of the worst coming in. But we left with no hard feelings. It was just a meeting to get information," explained Mrs. Hall.

"Things are far away, for sure," said Mr. Mohun, regarding development of the fairgrounds.

He said most of those who attended the meeting were simply curious and that the "fair board people explained their position."

Mr. Livock provided background on the operation of the fair and the grounds it occupies, the need for volunteers and the tight financial position of the organization. The fairgrounds is private property, run by the Halton Agricultural Society, a member group of the Ontario Federation of Agricultural Societies. The federation receives funding from the national and provincial governments.

Mr. Mohun said there could be another meeting in the spring for an update.



GONE WITH THE WIND

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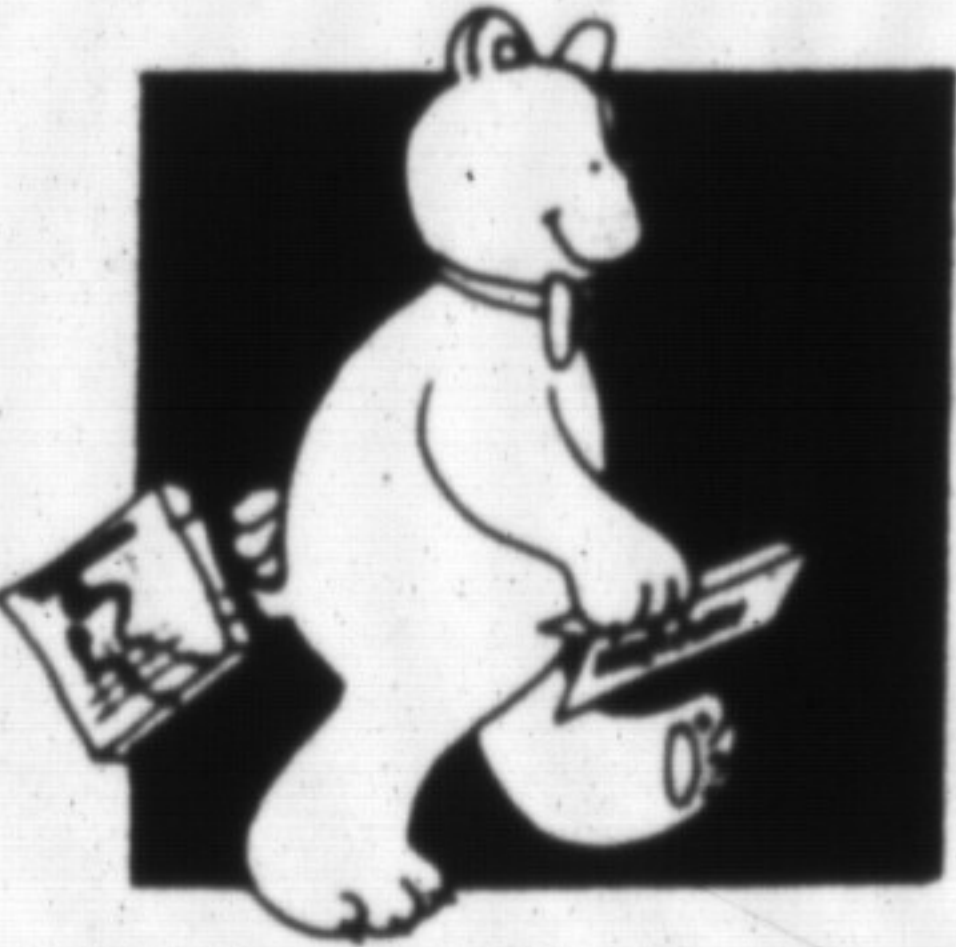
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