

Exotic disease kills four in Halton Region

By NORMAN NELSON

A rare illness that has killed four Burlington residents in the last year is being investigated by Halton Region's health department.

The four victims, all more than 60 years of age, died from Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease.

"We want to find out if there's any common link or whether it's just a coincidence," said Dr. Rita Shahin of the health department. "And chances are that there isn't a link. There seems to be no connection."

While four cases in one community is unusually high given that the chances of acquiring it are one in a million, Dr. Shahin pointed out that, provincially, the incidence of the disease has not risen above the average six to 10 cases a year.

She added that the Burlington cases pose no added threat to the Halton population.

"It has to be inoculated in the body, such as through a cornea transplant or a growth hormone transplant," she said. "It is not spread through direct contact. Family members of victims have never developed it."

Suggestions have been made that the disease is linked to a similar ailment in Sheep called scrapies, which Dr. Shahin said is much more prevalent in England than in Canada.

The disease was believed to have spread to the cow population in England after slaughtered sheep stricken with the disease ended up in cow feed. It has been tagged 'Mad Cow' disease in Great Britain.

This link, however, has yet to be proven, Dr.

Shahin stressed, and neither has the further conjecture the human population may be at risk through exposure to meat from a contaminated cow.

What is known, she said, is that the cattle, sheep and human victims all suffered similar

After 30 years

MDHS guidance counsellor says goodbye

By KAREN SMITH

Under the guidance of Tom Houldcroft, it appears little can go wrong.

The admired Milton District High School student services department head has devoted the last 30 years to teaching and counselling students.

At the end of June, the 58-year-old will retire and leave behind a respectful reputation of integrity and competence.

Ann Kelly, a Milton District guidance counsellor for the last seven years, knows Mr. Houldcroft's talents well.

"I think he's tremendous," said Mrs. Kelly. "He has great integrity, good organizational skills and he's flexible, compassionate and very easy to work with."

Grade 13 student Steve Henderson, 18, who has known Mr. Houldcroft for the last four years, will vouch for his service to students.

"He's a funny guy who's easy to get along

with and he's a friend as well as a guidance counsellor."

Both parties agree that Mr. Houldcroft will be greatly missed by both staff and students.

Over the last 25 years, Mr. Houldcroft has looked after many of the school's administrative responsibilities and has worked closely with the vice-principals.

He is also a master at encouraging and guiding students to help them make the right career decisions. And he follows his own advice.



Tom Houldcroft

progress of the disease is rapid, resulting in death in a few months. It is invariably fatal.

The major symptoms, explained Dr. Pollett, are loss of ability to think, loss of balance and random jerking. The health department's report is expected in two or three weeks.

"If I could do it all over again, I would pick the same job because I enjoy it so much," said Mr. Houldcroft who resides in Milton with his wife Verna. He is also the father of three sons and a daughter.

He said students today have different ways of expressing themselves, but they come to him with basically the same problem — "trying to find something (job) they will enjoy in life."

Upon moving to Milton from Timmins in 1961, Mr. Houldcroft began teaching mathematics at Martin Street School. The Kapuskasing native transferred to Milton District High School in 1963 and later became a guidance counsellor.

His retirement plans include relaxing at the cottage, travelling and volunteering his time at Milton Gospel Hall where he will put his administrative talents to work.

—The Canadian Champion, Friday, June 1, 1990

CADWALLADER
ELITE FURNITURE
ROXTON GALLERY
AND OTHER FINE FURNISHINGS
42 Bronte St. South, Milton

875-2797

401	Steeles	Hwy 25
Bronte Rd.	Main	
LCBO	Derry	Hwy 25
Hospital		

MON - THURS 10 am to 6 pm
FRI 11 am to 6 pm
SATURDAY 10 am to 5 pm

Home hardware building centre

LUMBER CENTRE

Fix-up Specials **SAVE UP TO 50%** MFG. LIST PRICES

in stock Woodgliders, Octagon Units and Display Window Units. Hurry! Stock is limited.

Do-It-Yourself Door Lites

Introductory Offer

PRICED from \$129.99

SERVING MILTON AND AREA SINCE 1972

SCHUYLER HOME CENTRE
385 STEELES AVENUE EAST, MILTON

878-9222
or
878-4139

Hours:
Mon.-Fri. 8 a.m.-9 p.m.
Saturdays 8 a.m.-6 p.m.

HomeCard, VISA, MasterCard

THANK YOU

HALTON TOURISM WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE FOLLOWING FOR THEIR PARTICIPATION IN MAKING

RALLY Round HALTON

A SUCCESS:

BRIARWOOD INN BRONTE B.I.A. BRONTE CREEK PROVINCIAL PARK BURLINGTON BREWERY BURLINGTON MALL BURLINGTON V&C BUREAU CHUDLEIGH'S APPLE FARM CITY OF BURLINGTON COPPER KETTLE PUB CORBETT SPORTS DOMINION SEED HOUSE EDDIE'S PLACE FORD OF CANADA FOREVER CHRISTMAS HOWARD JOHNSON'S GAIRLOCH GARDENS HOLIDAY INN HALTON BOARD OF EDUCATION HALTON CONSERVATION AUTHORITY HALTON COUNTY RADIAL RAIL MUSEUM HALTON HILLS TOURISM COMMITTEE HALTON REGION MUSEUM HALTON ROMAN CATHOLIC SCHOOL BOARD JOSEPH BRANT MUSEUM THE KEG	McDONALD'S - OAKVILLE/BURLINGTON/MILTON METROLAND PAPERS MILTON VISITOR ASSOCIATION MUDDY DUCK OAKVILLE B.I.A. OAKVILLE CENTRE FOR PERFORMING ARTS OAKVILLE MUSEUM OAKVILLE PLACE OAKVILLE TOURISM COMMITTEE OLDE HIDE HOUSE ONTARIO AGRICULTURAL MUSEUM ROYAL BOTANICAL GARDENS ROYAL CANADIAN GOLF ASSOCIATION SCRIMSHAW'S SPRINGRIDGE FARM TERRA COTTA INN TIM DONUT LTD. TIM HORTON STORES IN HALTON TOWN OF HALTON HILLS TOWN OF MILTON TOWN OF OAKVILLE TUTTMAN GARDEN CENTRE VENTURE INN VILLAGE SQUARE WETHERBY'S
---	--

Halton
A World Class Place To Be

"Burlington, Halton Hills, Milton and Oakville"