

Community Notebook

Meet the Candidates: Tomorrow evening (Thursday) will be the one and only opportunity to meet all of the Halton North provincial election candidates at a Milton location. The Milton Jaycees have organized a Meet the Candidates Night at E. C. Drury School for the Hearing Impaired beginning at 7 p.m. Candidates will give a five-minute speech and a question and answer period will follow. The hall will accommodate 300 people. There's no smoking in the building. Refreshments will be provided by the organizers.

Terry Fox Run: The 10th annual Terry Fox Run is slated for Sunday Sept. 16 at E. C. Drury School. Organizing the local event again this year is Bob Pecora who can be reached at the school, 878-0575. The fund-raising event for cancer research will start at 9 a.m. and continue until 3 p.m. Fund-raisers are invited to walk, jog or wheel around the 10km course on the school property.

Cold Turkey: Smokers who want help to become non-smokers could benefit from the Lung Association's 'Cold Turkey' smoking cessation program. The five-day program runs from Sept. 24-28 at Milton District Hospital. The fee is \$10. The remainder of the program cost is covered through Christmas Seals donations. To register call 632-8499.

Personal Development: A three-part seminar series is being presented at Halton Hills Public Library by Burch, Mezes Associates of Georgetown. Topics include enhancing your self-esteem; exploring intimate relationships and renewing a sense of community. Sessions run from 7-9:30 p.m. on Wednesday Sept. 12; Oct. 17 and Nov. 21. Cost for one seminar is \$25; two cost \$45 and three cost \$65. To register call Linda Burch or Clare Mezes at 877-6355.

Sliding Back: Take a step back in time at Crawford Lake Conservation Area on Sunday, Sept. 2. A hike and historical slide show will trace the history of the site where an Indian village has been reconstructed. Participants meet at the conservation centre at 1 p.m. The conservation area is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Feet First: The Victorian Order of Nurses will be in town three times in September to conduct foot care clinics at different locations. The first will be Tuesday Sept. 4 from 1:30-4:30 p.m. at Harmony Court, 111 Ontario St. The second clinic will be at Milton Community Information Services office at the Optimist Centre, 331 Commercial St. on Thursday, Sept. 13 from 9 a.m. to noon. Another clinic will be conducted at Bruce Street Apartments, 40 Ontario St. on Tuesday, Sept. 18 from 1:30-4:30 p.m. For more information or to make an appointment call 878-8800.

Let's Play Ball: Milton Chamber of Commerce is organizing a night at the Blue Jays, Friday Sept. 14. Tickets are available at the Chamber office for \$13. Organizers suggest participants use GO Transit to get to the game at SkyDome. The Jays take on Baltimore. Call 878-0581 for details or to order tickets.

International Literacy Year

Literacy training in the workplace can only increase productivity

By KAREN SMITH

READING AND WRITING happens so effortlessly for most of us, we take our abilities for granted.

But, according to the Southam Literacy Survey, five million Canadians don't have enough of these skills to handle common daily tasks. And the number grows larger every year.

That means one in five people have problems reading bedtime stories to their children, filling out a job application and figuring out the directions on a bottle of medicine.

The problem is too great for government alone to handle. Every year, illiteracy costs Canada more than \$10 billion, according to the Business Task Force on Literacy.

During 1990-91, the government plans to spend \$21 million to fight illiteracy, says Karen Bongard, workplace literacy co-ordinator for the North Halton Literacy Guild.

"A significant portion of the funding goes toward establishing workplace literacy programs where employers are involved in upgrading the literacy skills of their employees."

More job training

Ongoing job training is now more common than ever before, says Ms Bongard. Lower skilled jobs are diminishing and administrative, technical and higher level service jobs are on the rise.

In the past, employers had the option of hiring trained staff to fill positions requiring new skills.

"There simply won't be enough young people entering the workforce to meet our future skill requirements," she says.

This means existing employees will have to be trained — maybe several times. But training is of no value if employees cannot understand the language used in instruction manuals and in training programs.

"Many larger corporations with the foresight and the means are implementing literacy training programs in the workplace as a first step to further skills training."

Unions, too, are raising the issue of basic skills upgrading at the bargaining table, says Ms Bongard.

In 1987, General Motors and the Auto Workers Union jointly committed to give every GM employee equal opportunity to achieve highly skilled positions. GM workers now have access to basic literacy training at plant facilities.

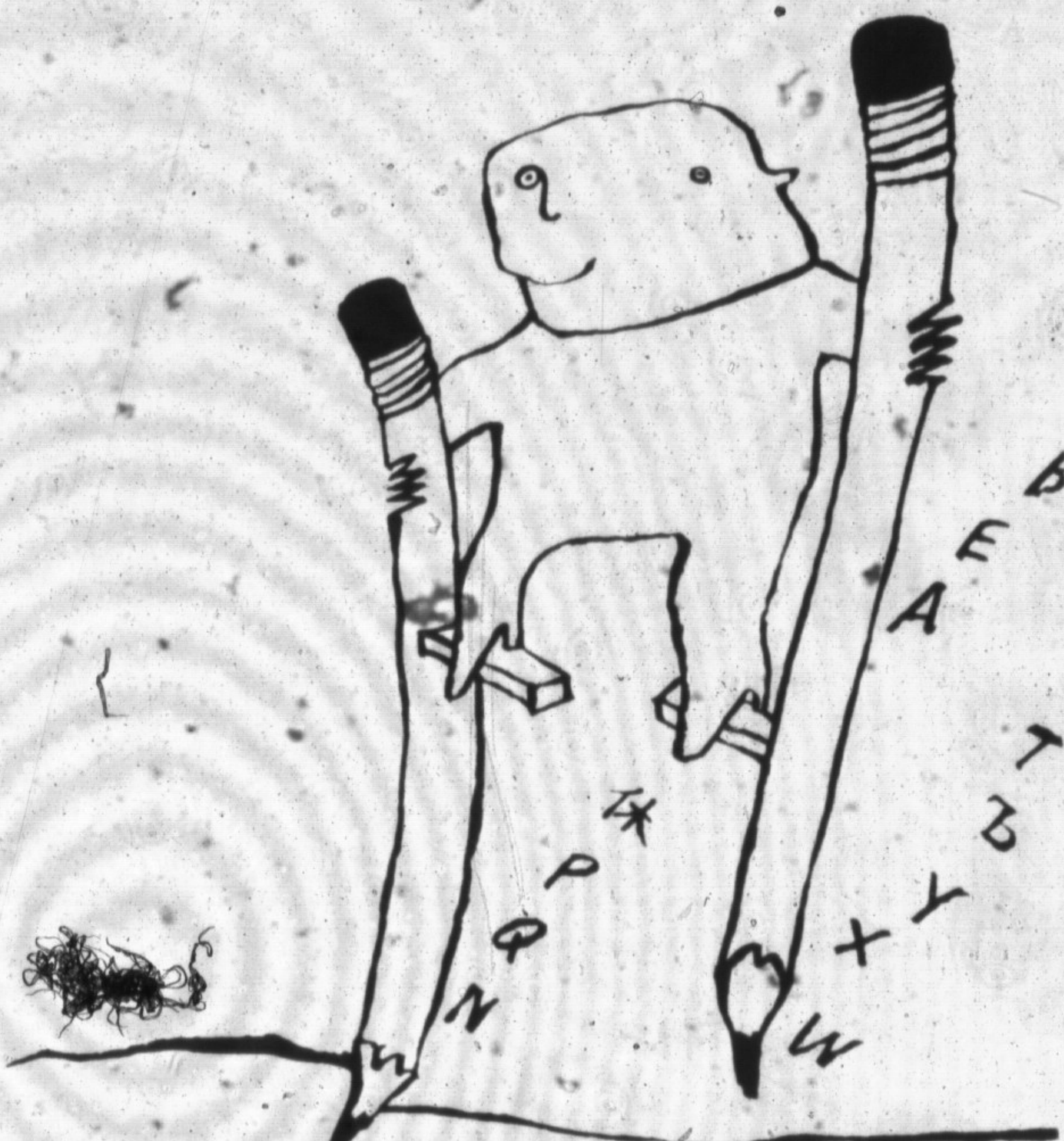
While major corporations may have significant training budgets, smaller companies are unable to make similar provisions.

Confidential

To ensure literacy programs are available at all Milton businesses, the North Halton Literacy Guild is offering confidential, subsidized employee training.

By involving their employees in the Workplace Literacy Training Program, companies can expect increased productivity as a result of the improved morale of employees who learn to read.

The program comes at an appropriate



INTERNATIONAL LITERACY YEAR

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time as 1990 is International Literacy Year. Literacy — Making a Difference is the theme of an International Literacy Year conference which will be held in Milton and Mississauga Oct. 19 and 20.

Conference

Focusing on workplace literacy, the first day of the conference will be held at the Peel Board of Education headquarters in Mississauga.

The next day, the conference moves to Bishop Reding Secondary School where a series of workshops will be held covering many aspects of literacy.

"Everyone is invited to get involved or attend the conference," said Kathy Mills, manager of adult basic education for the Halton Board of Education. "We are putting together an exciting and varied program that should offer something for just about everyone."

Also as part of International Literacy Year, Canada's Literacy Volunteer Awards

program will identify and honour the community's volunteers and organizations which have made a significant contribution to literacy.

Nomination forms are available at Milton Public Library and must be returned by Sept. 30.

Sept. 8 is International Literacy Day when the North Halton Literacy Guild will salute all practitioners, advocates and tutors, as well as pay particular tribute to the courage and hard work of learners.

Third year

The guild, which serves Milton, Georgetown and Acton, is now in its third year of operation. It aims to reach out to the one in five adults in the community who cannot read adequately.

Individual tutoring is conducted in an atmosphere of confidentiality, and the focus is on the learners' needs.

Call the North Halton Literacy Guild at 876-4756 for more information.

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