



It's Your Business

with JANE MULLER

## Designing woman starts J & L Designs

Milton has its own 'designing woman' who has moved her business from her home to Main Street.

Lynda Leaver has had an interior design shop on her mind for 15 years and now that her three children are grown, she's plunged into the business. After spending more than two months preparing the 202 Main St. shop for last Saturday's opening, Lynda admits she feels like she was born with a paint brush in her hand.

The fruits of her labours, with no small contribution from husband Jon (he's the 'J' in J & L Designs) are evident in the shop bearing little resemblance to the men's wear store it was.

It's an uncluttered display of unique finds. The modern simplicity of the large black and white tiles that make a checkerboard of the floor contrasts with the richness and detail in the classic and traditional wooden antique pieces.

The front of the shop features traditional displays on glass shelves. The hand-made ceramics from Portugal, picture frames, wall sconces in a floral pattern, silver serving pieces, sculptures and plaster cherubs are allowed breathing space on the shelves.

The shop is designed with a bedroom setting at the back and a livingroom area at the midpoint. These 'rooms' display the appropriate furnishings and added touches. There are pleasant surprises blended into these backdrops, including refinished garage sale and flea market finds.

Decorative antique bird cages, Greek-style columns that are downsized to accommodate a glass table top, statuary or plant, framed prints, cushions, throw rugs and privacy screens help set the scene. In the bedroom's open closet hang a selection of 100 per cent cotton nighties with eyelet collars and the bed is decked with piles of cushions.

A quilt stand is draped with small rugs, tapestry wall hangings and a lace duvet set. The living room is dominated by a huge European antique armoire. Lynda says she intends to keep the shop well-stocked with armchairs as well as smaller wooden antiques.

"I'm offering realistic prices so people can find things they can afford, like for a shower gift for example," she explained.

J & L Designs will be open bright and early Saturdays until the Farmers' Market closes after Oct. 27. She has designs on market customers, offering a selection of baskets that are perfect for collecting the fresh produce available along Main Street.

### Shopping List

They had to deliver the \$2,268 worth of goods Nancy Little bought at Miltovere Vanity Fair in a truck. Mrs. Little spent almost half of her winnings in the \$5,000 shopping spree from Showcase Milton at the Main Street store.

She's got enough towels to last a lifetime, a total of eight sets. The lengthy shopping list also included bathroom accessories such as: Hand-painted ceramics from California; a custom-made Esquire shower curtain and matching window valance; two white lacquer quilt stands; bath mats; a floral wreath; a jardiniere with topiary arrangement; a 24-inch hand painted vase; a boo-boo bunny; various cushions and shower curtains; decorator table cloths; placemats and table runners from Belgium; a Spanish napkin holder; napkins and a hand-crafted rocking horse made in Milton.

Brenda Catalano, the store owner, says her big spending customer came away with a truck full of "incredible quality and volume."

# Region says feds bailing out of funding

By NORMAN NELSON

Halton Region's hospital home-care program will be forced to do some belt tightening because the Province didn't come through with as much money as expected.

"We really took a beating — it really hit us in the old stomach," Halton's medical health officer, Dr. Graham Pollett, told a regional health and social services meeting Monday.

The health department also lashed out at the federal government's controversial cost-cutting measure of capping welfare subsidies to Canada's richer provinces, including Ontario. The matter is currently being contested before the courts.

Halton social services commissioner Bonnie Ewart, in her report to the committee, accused the federal government of "slowly dismantling Canada's social safety net."

The trend, she stated, is evidenced by such measures as: The partial de-indexation of children's benefits and the income tax system; clawbacks of

universal old age security and family allowances; withdrawing federal funding for unemployment insurance; freezing transfers to the provinces for post secondary education, health care and criminal legal aid; reducing spending on housing.

"Limiting the growth in federal (social assistance subsidies) is the latest in a series of regressive measures which indicate that the federal government is lessening its financial responsibility for social welfare in Canada.

"The predictable effect of these national fiscal and economic policies is poverty."

The harsh tone was a little too much for Burlington councillor Ralph Scholtens, who thought it was government bashing.

He didn't mind chastising the government for capping the social assistance payments, but said it's another matter "to suggest they're causing the breakdown of the social safety net."

Councillor Walter Mulkeiwich, however, agreed the feds have been "dismantling the social net."

"Put it in print and let the people know about it," he urged.

Regional council, at its meeting next week, will decide if the rebuke makes it to Parliament Hill.

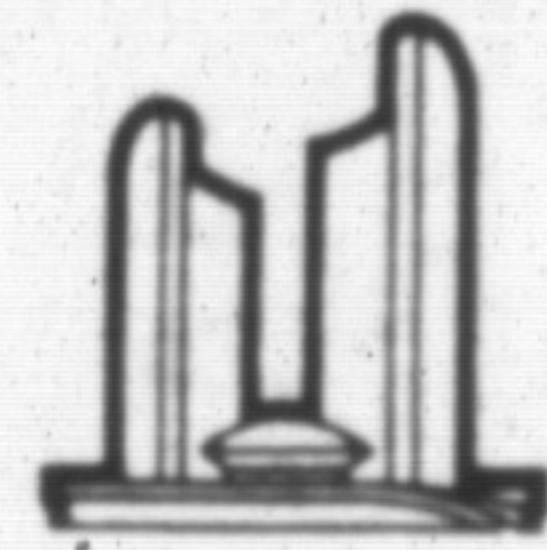
Meanwhile, Dr. Pollett said the provincially funded home care budget of just more than \$7.5 million came in about \$215,000 short of the requested amount.

Service cutbacks, he said, could mean fewer home nursing visits to recuperating patients and trying to get them off the program faster.

He added that if the budget simply can't be met, "it remains possible with supporting documentation to submit a supplementary budget... the Region will not be financially responsible for any such deficit."

Halton also received bad news regarding another component of the the home care program, which provides medical services to students in schools. The provincially approved budget of \$764,000 came in about \$80,000 less than anticipated.

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