

## Foreign students meet in Drury English

**By LISA McVEY**  
**Special to The Champion**  
 Students from Syria, Sweden, Kuwait and Brazil are now learning English as a second language at E.C. Drury High School. The school has become the north Halton centre for ESL (English as a Second Language). "It is wonderfully rewarding to work with these highly motivated and positive students," says Cathy Gray, Drury's sole ESL teacher, whose responsibilities include the assessment, teaching and monitoring of each ESL student.

Some ESL students are refugees, some landed immigrants and one is visiting just to learn English. They all must be assessed quickly to deter-

mine their English comprehension as well as proficiency levels in math and science.

Although they haven't been here very long, all the students agree they like Canada.

Eighteen-year-old Kees, from Brazil, loves Canada's weather and says "learning any language is hard," but his knowledge of English is good considering he's only been in Canada for three months.

Brothers Risak (18) and Diea (16), agree Canadians are generally friendly and accepting of others. They lived in a village in Syria until three months ago, where they knew everyone. Here they find there are many people they don't know — Milton is

a much bigger "village". Diea said school is different here from Syria, where students wear uniforms.

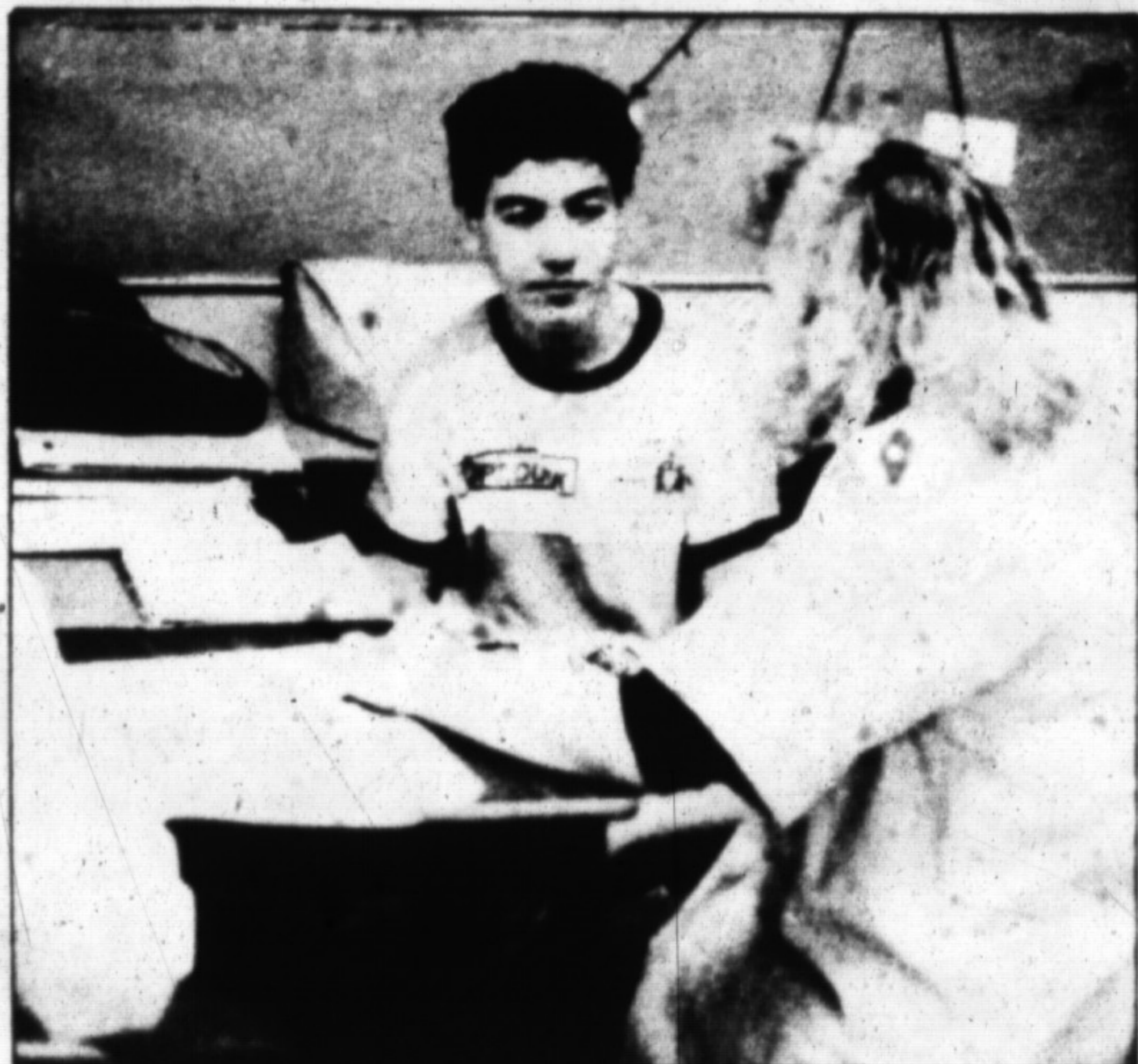
Husni is from Kuwait. He likes Canada's vastness but doesn't like the climate. In Kuwait, air conditioners are a fixture in every room. He and his family left Kuwait a few months before it was invaded. "I'm glad I'm not there now," he notes. Husni likes E.C. Drury because it's a bigger school than he's used to and the teachers are not as strict as they are in Kuwait. The students, he says, are about the same.

Haia is also from Syria. Although she is shy about her English, she is making great progress.

Per has lived in many different countries, including Belgium and Sweden. He notes that, surprisingly, relations between teachers and students in Sweden are much more informal than in Canada.

These students are all progressing well, but could use some extra one-on-one work with volunteers. If you are a parent or a student willing to contribute some time, please call Ms Gray at E.C. Drury High School (878-0575).

*Lisa McVey is a student volunteer in the English as a Second Language program at E.C. Drury.*



Diea Al Fanous is learning to speak English at E. C. Drury High School with the help of student volunteers like Lisa McVey.

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