

Recession could be factor in increased child abuse

By WILMA BLOKHUIS
Special to The Champion

As last year's economy got worse, the number of child abuse cases reported to the Halton Children's Aid Society increased.

"There's absolutely more abuse" because of the economy, said Margaret Morrison, assistant director of services for the Halton CAS. Although unable to determine what percentage of the physical and sexual abuse suffered by children in the region could be directly attributed to the economy, she did say the number of children taken into care as a result of abuse is up sharply. "The most abuse cases we've ever had in the past is 30 children per month," said Ms Morrison. "Last year, we were averaging 50 children per month who suffered physical or sexual abuse. This is a most frightening statistic."

She added the ages of these children is also a concern as babies and children up to age 13 or 14 have required CAS protection from abuse. Ms Morrison explained the number of adolescents requiring protection has not increased as teens are "better able to protect themselves than the wee ones who are more at risk."

Most of the cases were children under 11, Ms Morrison said, noting that not all of the abused children were taken into care. "We were able to protect those who were being abused by a relative (other than their parents) in their own homes."

"There hasn't been a rise in our general intake as there has been with abuse."

Last year, the Halton CAS provided a total of about 71,500 days of care, compared to 60,435 days in 1990. The Halton CAS Outside Placement and Treatment Program, for "the most hard to serve children and the most costly," increased to 13,400 days last year from 11,750 in 1990. These were children placed outside of Halton Region.

"We've never experienced anything like 1991," Ms Morrison continued, adding a record 1,600 family service cases were handled last year. "The most we've had in past years was about 1,300 and one year we were up to 1,400, but never anything like last year."

Ms Morrison believes the increased caseload at the CAS is a "by-product of the poor economy because parents are laid off and feel stressed about not being able to provide for their children the basic necessities of life. This places children at an increased risk."

"Currently, the Halton CAS has over 200 children in our care each day, compared to under 200 last year, said Ms Morrison. She explained a major concern for CAS workers is that "we're admitting more children on average each month, and our discharges are not keeping up. Our in care population is rising."

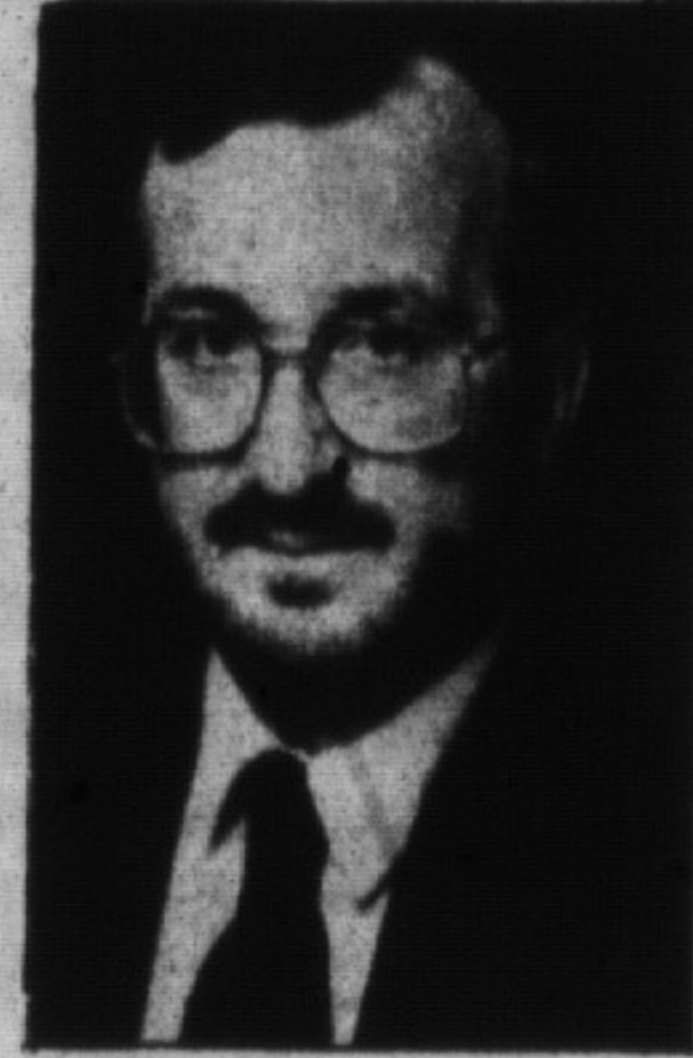
"Children can be in CAS care for as little as 10 days before being returned to their families, "while others grow up in CAS care."

Ms Morrison noted the abuse statistics do not include neglect, "as child neglect has not increased to the extent that child (sexual and physical) abuse has." She explained that a family which is "runs out of food and is reaching out for help" is not guilty of child neglect "unless there's a child not being taken care of. There may be some more families than in the past who are running out of food but that has not translated into increased neglect."

Last year, the Halton CAS provided 29,000 days of foster care through its residential services. "That's an increase of 48 per cent above the projected levels," said Ms Morrison, compared to almost 19,000 days of foster care in 1990.

The additional 10,000 days of care provided by the CAS is a "horrendous increase for us to cope with in one year, and our foster families have been fantastic," said

see CHILD ABUSE on page 10



Noel Duignan
M.P.P. Halton North

OFFICE HOURS - BROOKVILLE

DEAR CONSTITUENTS

I will be holding office hours in BROOKVILLE on the afternoon of WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 29th at the NASSAGAWEYA COMMUNITY CENTRE.

If you wish to talk to me about provincial matters please call my Milton office at 878-1729 to arrange an appointment.

Noel Duignan, M.P.P.
Halton North

OPEN HOUSE LISTINGS THIS WEEKEND

SATURDAY 2-4 P.M.
78 Commercial
\$159,000.

Fion MacNeil in attendance
RE/MAX MILTOWNE REALTY CORP.
878-2365

SATURDAY 2-4 P.M.
633 Beaver Court
\$164,900.

Virginia Brazeau in attendance
ROYAL LEPAGE REAL ESTATE LTD.
878-8101

SATURDAY 2-4 P.M.
699 Middleton
\$159,900.

Joseph Peric in attendance
ROYAL LEPAGE REAL ESTATE LTD.
878-8101

SATURDAY 2-4 P.M.
341 Wilson Drive #59
\$139,900.

Barbara Crowe in attendance
ROYAL LEPAGE REAL ESTATE LTD.
878-8101

SATURDAY 2-4 P.M.
836 Maple Avenue
\$214,900.

Barbara Ramsden in attendance
ROYAL LEPAGE REAL ESTATE LTD.
878-8101

SATURDAY 2-4 P.M.
318 Laurier Ave. #14
\$135,900.

Sandi Kinsale in attendance
ROYAL LEPAGE REAL ESTATE LTD.
878-8101

SUNDAY 2-4 P.M.
523 Moorelands Cres.
\$219,900.

Linda Ertzly in attendance
REALTY WORLD (W.J. McCRUDDEN R.E. INC.)
878-1133

SUNDAY 1-4 P.M.
529 Conway Court
\$209,500.

Joan Tattire in attendance
RE/MAX MILTOWNE REALTY CORP.
878-2365

SUNDAY 1-4 P.M.
235 Bronte St. #44
\$134,900.

Jo-Anne V in attendance
REALTY WORLD (W.J. McCRUDDEN R.E. INC.)
878-1133

SUNDAY 2-4 P.M.
829 Cedarbrae
\$239,000.

Jean Snowden in attendance
RE/MAX MILTOWNE REALTY CORP.
878-2365

SUNDAY 2-4 P.M.
561 Childs Drive #38
\$124,000.

Linda McHugh in attendance
REALTY WORLD (W.J. McCRUDDEN R.E. INC.)
878-1133

SUNDAY 2-4 P.M.
548 Roseheath
\$179,900.

Sandi Kinsale in attendance
ROYAL LEPAGE REAL ESTATE LTD.
878-8101

SUNDAY 2-4 P.M.
1275 Derry Rd. West of Guelph Line
\$379,000.

Josephine Peric in attendance
ROYAL LEPAGE REAL ESTATE LTD.
878-8101

SUNDAY 2-4 P.M.
341 Wilson #40
\$139,900.

Joyce Hagevik in attendance
ROYAL LEPAGE REAL ESTATE LTD.
878-8101

SUNDAY 2-4 P.M.
1399 Progression Road, Carlisle
\$595,000.

Ross Runnels in attendance
ROYAL LEPAGE REAL ESTATE LTD.
878-8101

SUNDAY 2-4 P.M.
6502 McEwen Road
\$999,900

Carole D. Budworth in attendance
ROYAL LEPAGE REAL ESTATE LTD.
878-8101

SUNDAY 2-4 P.M.
171 Jessala Ave., Campbellville
\$399,000.

Barb Lafèche in attendance
ROYAL LEPAGE REAL ESTATE LTD.
878-8101

BERGSMAS'S

ANNUAL JANUARY PAINT 'N PAPER SALE

THE ONCE A YEAR SALE WITH BIG SAVINGS FOR YOU!

The once a year sale where you can save money on the huge selection of our UNIQUE WALLPAPER BOOKS

The once a year sale where you can save money on the huge selection of our UNIQUE WALLPAPER BOOKS

The once a year sale where you can save money on the huge selection of our UNIQUE WALLPAPER BOOKS

The once a year sale where you can save money on the huge selection of our UNIQUE WALLPAPER BOOKS

20%-50% OFF
ALL WALLPAPER BOOK ORDERS

UP TO **1/2 PRICE**

ON ALL IN STOCK WALLPAPER

NEW PAPERS ARRIVING ALL MONTH

FAMOUS BENJAMIN MOORE PAINTS



SALE ENDS SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 1992

FLAT LATEX \$12⁹⁹_{4L}
VELVET LATEX \$19⁹⁹_{4L}
VELVET OIL BASE \$21⁹⁹_{4L}

WALLPAPER KNIFE .10¢
EXP. JAN. 22/92 ONE PER CUSTOMER

MANY MORE SPECIALS IN THE STORE ALL MONTH

BERGSMAS'S PAINT & WALLPAPER

MILTON - 265 MAIN ST. E.
876-4922

GEORGETOWN - 272 GUELPH ST.
877-4193