

# Lifestyle

Wednesday  
January 29, 1992

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## Community Notebook

**Day Care Reform Forum:** A panel of politicians and various experts in the field of day care will take part in a general meeting organized by Safe and Sound Children's Centre. The purpose of the meeting tomorrow (Thursday) at Lions Club Hall, Memorial Arena, 7:30 p.m. is to explore the NDP's plan to fund non-profit centres exclusively. The panel will answer questions from the audience following presentations by guest speakers.

**D'Amico Skate-a-thon:** Easter Seals will benefit from the proceeds of the eighth annual John D'Amico Skate-a-thon Saturday at Memorial Arena. Participants will meet for breakfast at Maplehurst Correctional Centre, followed by the fundraising skate. The first John D'Amico Skate-A-Thon took place at Maplehurst in 1986 and has since expanded to Ottawa, North Bay, London and Thunder Bay. Skaters get pledges from sponsors, mainly inmates and staff at the various correctional centres. The event is sponsored by the Ministry of Correctional Services.

**Income Tax Clinic:** Information Milton will once again offer an Income Tax Clinic from seniors, disabled persons and single parents who financially qualify for the free service. For more information or to book an appointment call Information Milton at 875-4636 Monday to Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

**GO Transit Info:** There are some dramatic changes on track for GO Train service to Milton commuters and details of those plans will be displayed and discussed at an open house Tuesday, Feb. 4 from 4-8 p.m. at Herigate Inn. The number of trains travelling the Milton line will increase from the current 19 to 54 by 1997 — every 20 minutes at peak times.

**Deal for Golfers:** A GoGolf passport being sold as a fundraiser for the Ontario March of Dimes entitles purchasers to play 18 holes at 102 courses across Ontario for \$75. Most courses have chosen a two-for-one condition when the passport holder redeems his or her passport. That means two can golf for the price of one. Proceeds from passport sales go toward programs and services offered by the Ontario March of Dimes to assist physically disabled adults achieve independence. For a GoGolf passport call 876-4466 between 9 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

**Dean's List:** Kelly Picard of Campbellville has been named to the Dean's List at St. Lawrence University at Canton, New York. To be eligible for the distinction a student must achieve an academic average of 3.6 (based on a perfect 4.0 scale) for the semester.

**Breast Screening Clinic:** A new toll-free telephone number is available to put women over the age of 50 in touch with the nearest breast screening clinic. The sessions are free and no physician's referral is needed. The service has been established in light of the fact that one in 10 women will be diagnosed with breast cancer. The earlier it is discovered, the better the response to treatment. The number is 1-800-668-9304 and has been made available by the Ontario Cancer Treatment and Research Foundation.

## More foster parents needed in Milton

By KAREN SMITH

**B**OB AND CHERI Colgan haven't had one regret since becoming foster parents more than two years ago. "I could go to the extreme of saying it has probably worked out better than I expected," said Mrs. Colgan, 32. Her 34-year-old husband agreed.

The Vanier Drive couple, married 12 years ago, are one of nine foster parent families in Milton.

Eight children aged three months to 15 years have stayed with the Colgans for as long as four months or for as little time as a weekend since December, 1989.

"Most of them just slip right in and become part of the family," she said.

The children, in most cases separated temporarily from their parents, are sent to foster homes by the Halton Children's Aid Society (CAS), a child protection agency.

Putting the children in the care of foster parents is a win, win situation, according to Kim Elliott, foster care initiatives worker for the Halton CAS.

She said the children are able to live in a family-like setting while the parents resolve their problems and get back on their feet.

### Aren't always homes

While the CAS sets out to place the children in their own communities, there isn't always foster parents available in the area, said Teresa Pitman of the organization.

"When a child must be removed from his or her family, the adjustment is made more difficult if he also is moved to a completely different community," she said.

Only about 12 per cent of the region's foster parents live in Milton, added Ms Elliott, compared to 45 per cent in Burlington.

For the Colgans, becoming foster parents wasn't a sudden decision. "We had always talked about it," said Mrs. Colgan. "It's something we planned on doing."

A letter about fostering sent home by one of their two daughters gave the Colgans the final push to get involved.

"Somebody's got to do it," added Mr. Colgan who, in his spare time, volunteers as a children's baseball coach.

"It's not hard by any means," said his wife. "You hear horror stories, but we haven't had any."

### Kids take over

Their daughters, aged 11 and 8 years, welcome the new children into the Colgan household. "My kids are extremely out-going," said Mrs. Colgan. "The children come and my kids just kind of take over."

Potential foster parents are screened through personal interviews, background information, physical examinations, police checks, and financial records.

"We have to be really, really careful," Ms Elliott stressed.

Before any foster children are placed, parents also undergo a six-week training session teaching them how to ease the kids into their homes, and how to deal with any



Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

Cheri and Bob Colgan of Milton find foster parenting rewarding as well as fun.

problems should they arise.

"There are no typical foster parents," added Ms Elliott. But most are aged between 40 and 50 years.

"Some are grandparents who still feel they would like to parent," she said.

Any extra expenses for the children are re-imbursed by the Halton CAS, and foster

parents also receive a modest fee for providing room and board.

"I don't believe anybody does it for the money," said Mrs. Colgan. "It's the kids you're doing it for."

For more information on becoming foster parents, contact the Halton Children's Aid Society in north Halton at 878-2375.

## DEALS OF THE WEEK

### SIZE & TYPE

P17580R13 NW VECTOR  
P18580R13 NW VECTOR  
P18570R14 WW ARRIVA  
P21570R15 BLK EAGLE GT+4  
P21575R15 NW INVICTA  
P23575R15 NW INVICTA GL

LIST	PAIR INSTALLED
136 <sup>15</sup>	90 <sup>00</sup>
141 <sup>45</sup>	120 <sup>00</sup>
101 <sup>63</sup>	120 <sup>00</sup>
207 <sup>00</sup>	130 <sup>00</sup>
163 <sup>40</sup>	130 <sup>00</sup>
180 <sup>05</sup>	158 <sup>00</sup>

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