

Couple teaching students about AIDS

• from COUPLE on page 1

Mr. O'Connor's experience with the disease has made him realize how ignorant people are about HIV and AIDS. That's why he decided to go public and increase awareness of the virus.

"It's being spread heterosexually," he said. "Women are contracting HIV at an alarming rate, and a lot of babies are getting it (from their mothers during pregnancy)."

In Canada and the United States, more than 30 per cent of people with AIDS are not gay or bisexual men. In Central Africa where AIDS is more common, it affects men and women in equal numbers.

The O'Connors speak to students in schools about how to protect themselves from HIV. They also educate hospital staff who are sometimes unaware that the virus can't be spread through casual contact.

Unfortunately, said Mr. O'Connor, people listen to him because he's considered by society as an "innocent victim" of AIDS — being neither homosexual or a drug user.

"It's sad, but true," he said. "Some people think that if you're gay you deserve to get AIDS."

"Nobody deserves to get this," added Mrs. O'Connor. "We can't stand the thought of somebody else getting this disease."

A former student of Holy Rosary School and Milton District High School, Mr. O'Connor moved to Cornwall when he was 16 years old to take a job at the Fifth Wheel Truck Stop. He previously had been working at the Milton location.

HIV forced Mr. O'Connor to leave his general manager position at the Fifth Wheel in Cornwall. He missed too much work due to illness and couldn't hold the position effectively.

Day-to-day living with the virus means he takes medication regularly, and must be careful to stay away from people who have colds, or other communicable illnesses. He often feels fatigued.

HIV was discovered as the virus which causes AIDS in 1983. But like many viruses, HIV affects different people in different ways. It can live in the body for many years with no visible effects.

Some people have HIV in their system, but don't show any symptoms of infection. Many of these people are remaining healthy.

Others with the virus show some symptoms of AIDS-related illness, but don't have a life-threatening disease.

Some victims' immune systems are so damaged by HIV that they develop serious illnesses such as pneumonia.

When people with HIV contract a serious illness — ones which almost never occur in those with healthy immune systems — they are said to have AIDS.

So far, most people diagnosed with AIDS have died within two years. However, as the medical profession learns more about how to help the body fight the virus, AIDS victims have been able to live longer.

It cannot be predicted how many people with HIV will stay healthy or which ones will develop AIDS.

Canada Brick plant nixed

By ROB KELLY

The Champion

Several new developments regarding the proposed Canada Brick plant project took place at Milton town council Tuesday night, of which the chief one was that the company president said he was no longer interested in it.

Also, an irate group of Milton Heights residents blasted councillors for their "arrogance" in previously backing the brick plant proposal.

Finally, Ward 2 councillor John Challinor failed in a bid to kick start discussions with Canada Brick that would be centred on whatever plans the firm has to rehabilitate its land, now largely unused save for a large quarry. Mr. Challinor depicted his suggested discussions as open-ended, in that they would also delve into why Canada Brick has decided not to construct a plant in Milton, and whether the move would be reconsidered.

Mr. Challinor ended up withdrawing that motion when it met with resistance among councillors who didn't want to make any new overtures to Canada Brick after they had just finished apologizing to the Milton Heights residents for not involving the homeowners more in earlier discussions about the proposal.

By the time Mr. Challinor made his motion, late in the meeting, the residents had left, apparently under the impression the matter was closed.

Over the last month several dev-
• see COMPANY on page 9

What's New?

at Milton Mall

EVERY SUNDAY

SUNDAY SHOPPING NOON TO 5 PM

UPCOMING EVENTS

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sept. 12 Community Open House

Sept. 16-18 Horse Show
Smart Talk Network

Sept. 19 "APPLE PIE CONTEST"
1:30 p.m.
C.A.V.E.A.T.

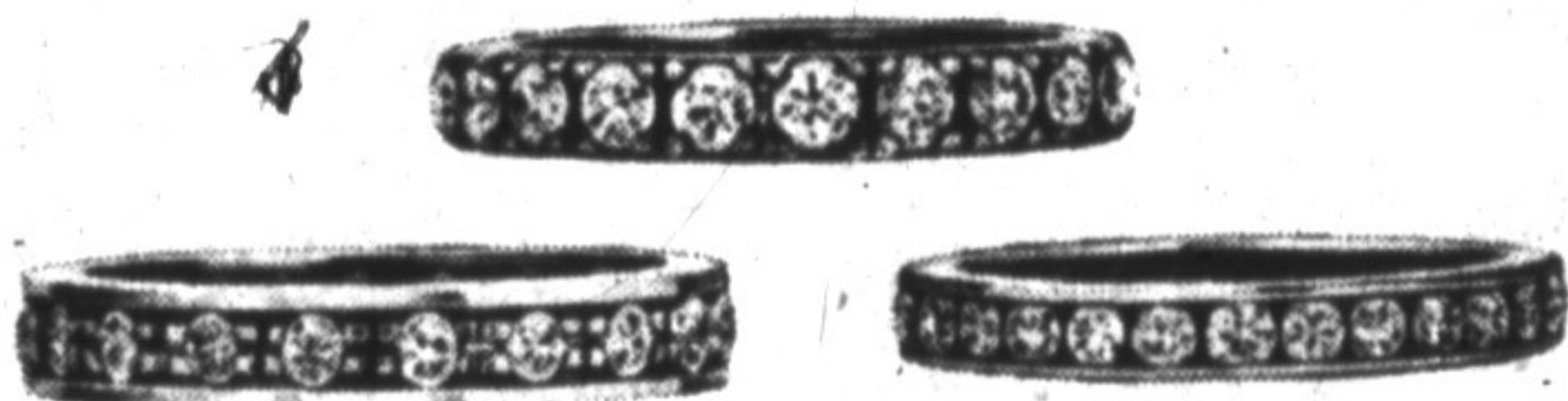
Spectators will have a chance to win Gift Baskets courtesy of BEETROOT DELIGHTS

Sept. 20 Pot Pourri Gift with Purchase

Sept. 25 Peggy's Fashion Show 2:00 pm

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