

DARE builds on character to fight substance abuse

Program tries to mould young minds before peer pressure takes hold

By **KATHY YANCHUS**
Special to *The Champion*

When warning kids about the dangers of drugs, it's not as simple as telling them to say no.

It's a matter of building a strong, independent little person, one who has the courage to say no. It's a matter of teaching lifeskills. With some children, this means reinforcing the confidence they have accrued at

home. In others it's a much more difficult job because a secure home life is lacking.

Whatever the personalities before him, Constable Stewart Flaming, of the Halton Regional Police DARE (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) program, has a tremendous responsibility every time he steps in front of a Grade 6 class.

Constable Flaming is keenly aware of that, but he is a firm

believer in the program — which reaches 3,000 Halton students every year — and its results.

This moulding of the young mind, as opposed to only filling it with the dangers of drugs, is evident in that most of the focus is on resistance skills, while one session deals with the various drugs.

"We cover personal safety, drug use and misuse, risk and consequences, resisting peer pressure

building self-esteem and assertiveness as opposed to aggressiveness, how to manage stress without the use of drugs, media influences..." explains Constable Flaming.

He has been one of Halton's three DARE officers for four years. He says the feedback is positive, and those comments are coming not only from students but teachers and parents, all of whom Cst. Flaming draws into his 16-week program.

"I ask them to discuss the things we've talked about at the supper table," says Constable Flaming. He has been approached by parents who say their child is much more verbal with them after they graduate from the DARE program, and by former DARE students who have expressed their gratitude to him.

The DARE program originated in 1983 in Los Angeles where "there were major drug problems in the classroom." Although Canada and the U.S. represent just five per cent of the world's population they are responsible for in excess of 60 per cent of all drugs used.

"It's an attitude problem," says Cst. Flaming, "because children see their parents smoking and drinking, they fall into the same lifestyle and see nothing wrong with it."

Although he has no statistics to back up the program's success, Constable Flaming is confident he reaches children and would like to reach more. As the program is set up now, "we're getting only three-fifths of the students... we require five officers," he noted.

While the U.S. has "in excess of 16,000 or 17,000 DARE officers," there are fewer than 10 in both British Columbia and Ontario.

Soon, DARE will receive certification as a registered charity. Already a fundraising committee holds regular meetings and fundraising activities. Anyone wishing to make a donation to the DARE program can send a cheque to the Halton DARE office, 1151 Bronte Road, Oakville L6J 6E1.

Frosty frolic for families

To celebrate the International Year of the Family, the Milton Children and Youth Centre has organized "Frosty's Family Frolic" for members.

The event will take place on Feb. 13 at Appaloosa Springs, south of 20 Sideroad between Guelph Line and Highway 25 on Town Line Road in Acton. A family sleigh ride, snowman building, and hot cider are featured. Admission is \$5 per person, free for children under three.

Tickets are on sale at the Milton Children and Youth Centre at 917 Nipissing Road. For more information call 876-1244.

Seminars at Erindale focus on kids

The 18th annual Shoreline Conference is a series of workshops for parents, educators and all those fascinated with pre-school and junior children.

On Saturday, Mar. 5 a selection of workshops will be offered by several popular presenters at Erindale Campus, University of Toronto.

Dr. Michael Lester will talk about the terrible twos, threes and fours; Ken McKay will speak on recycling for classroom puppetry; Dianne Banks lectures on hop tips for not-so-hot behaviour; Tom Perimutter speaks on making tv work for you; Aileen Wortley and Anne Murphy speak on making your child a lifetime reader; and Sharon McKay talks about streetproofing.

Carole Bertuzzi Luciani returns as the keynote speaker.

For registration contact Linda Ellis, registrar, 294 Peel Street, Acton L7J 1M8 or phone 853-0264.

Color Your World **\$25 MILLION** **Color Your World**

CLEARANCE

PAINT, WALLPAPER, WINDOW FASHIONS

FACTORY PRICE

PAINTER'S CHOICE
LATEX SEALER

\$10⁹⁶

3.78L

50% TO 75% OFF*

ALL IN-STORE WALLCOVERING

From **\$2⁹⁹**

SINGLE ROLL

FACTORY PRICE

PAINTER'S CHOICE
CEILING WHITE LATEX

\$12⁷²

3.78L

FACTORY PRICE

PAINTER'S CHOICE
EGGSHELL LATEX

\$16³⁶

18 decorator whites
3.78L

1/2 PRICE *velvet pastel*

SATIN-FLAT LATEX

\$20⁹⁶

Wide range of colors
3.78L

Introducing

ESPRIT CUSTOM MINI BLINDS From **\$27⁹⁹**

006 gauge aluminum, 10 fashion colors
Limited lifetime warranty

23" x 42"

40% TO 50% OFF*

SELECTED BOOKS

*Reg. book price. Matching fabric/accessories not included. Store books only.

CANADA'S BEST PAINT & WALLPAPER VALUE *"We Guarantee It!"*

IF YOU: are not satisfied with our product quality we'll replace the product or give you a refund; find a lower price within 30 days we'll refund the difference; are dissatisfied with our service we'll send you a voucher equal to 10% of your purchase. See in-store for complete details.

● Sale prices (excluding Factory Priced products) expire Mar. 1, 1994. Not all items available at all stores.

FRANCHISE OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE
CALL 1-800-387-7311

MILTON

525 Ontario Street

(at Laurier Ave.)

876-1855

STORE HOURS:

Mon. & Tues. 8:30 A.M.-6:00 P.M.

Wed. to Fri. 8:30 A.M.-9:00 P.M.

Saturday 9:00 A.M.-6:00 P.M.

Sunday 11:00 A.M.-4:00 P.M.