

Program for young people to help teens

By **KAREN SMITH**
The Champion

If you're out of school and out of work but still have the desire to prosper, Youth Services Canada wants you.

In a new government-funded training program, young adults can gain valuable job skills while contributing to the community — and even get paid in the process.

Youth Services Canada (YSC), created by the Milton Children and Youth Centre (MCYC), is now accepting applications from people aged 18 to 24 who neither have jobs nor are attending school.

The eight-month business training and life skills program will run five days a week, starting in early February.

"Whether you're a university graduate or a high school dropout, it doesn't matter," says Shane Pisani, project coordinator. "We're interested in everyone."

The program, in which participants are paid \$200 a week, provides students with job training while they assist in the development of the Odyssey Teen Centre in Milton.

First, students will develop life and business skills by attending various workshops and seminars led by volunteer professionals. Computer training, social justice education and leadership development are a few of the areas that will be covered, Mr. Pisani says.

Participants will then apply their new knowledge to the ongoing development of the Odyssey centre for youths aged 13 to 19. The drop-in centre run by MCYC currently operates out of St. Peter's School Tuesday nights from 6:30 to 8:30.

Participants will work toward developing a viable business and marketing plan in order to expand the centre, according to Mr. Pisani. This will include promoting the centre, fundraising, developing a rural outreach program and overseeing the facility's daily operation.

"Through this daily involvement with the centre and its youth, the YSC participants can pass along the knowledge and skills gained through their experience to younger generations," Mr. Pisani notes.

There will be room for 20 serious and hardworking students in the program, which has received federal government funding from the Ministry of Human Resources.

"We want people to come out who really see it as a way of bettering themselves," he says.

Also contributing to the program are Halton Adolescent Support Services, Youth Employment Services, the LINK Foundation, E.C. Drury High School, the Halton Regional Health Department, St. Paul's United Church and the International Women's Group.

The sooner you apply the better, Mr. Pisani adds.

"We're trying to get this up and running as soon as possible."

Send or drop off resumes with covering letters to Shane Pisani, project coordinator, at the Milton Children and Youth Centre, 917 Nipissing Rd. (corner of Thompson and Nipissing roads).

Applicants will be contacted for interviews, he says.



Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

A youth from the Odyssey Teen Centre enjoys a game of pool compliments of the Hardball Cafe on Highway 25. The pool hall donates use of the tables to youths one Saturday afternoon a month. The centre will soon expand thanks to a new program for young adults called Youth Services Canada. See story at left

Good talkers wanted

Community-spirited, high energy individuals with excellent communication skills are wanted.

Halton Adolescent Support Services, which comes to the aid of troubled youths, is looking for volunteer members of the newly-developed Speaker's Circuit.

The purpose is to inform vari-

ous community organizations about the agency's work, its clients and needs.

The job is suited for people who enjoy public speaking or are interested in developing their presentation skills.

A six-session training program will begin in February. Call 639-0025, ext. 232.

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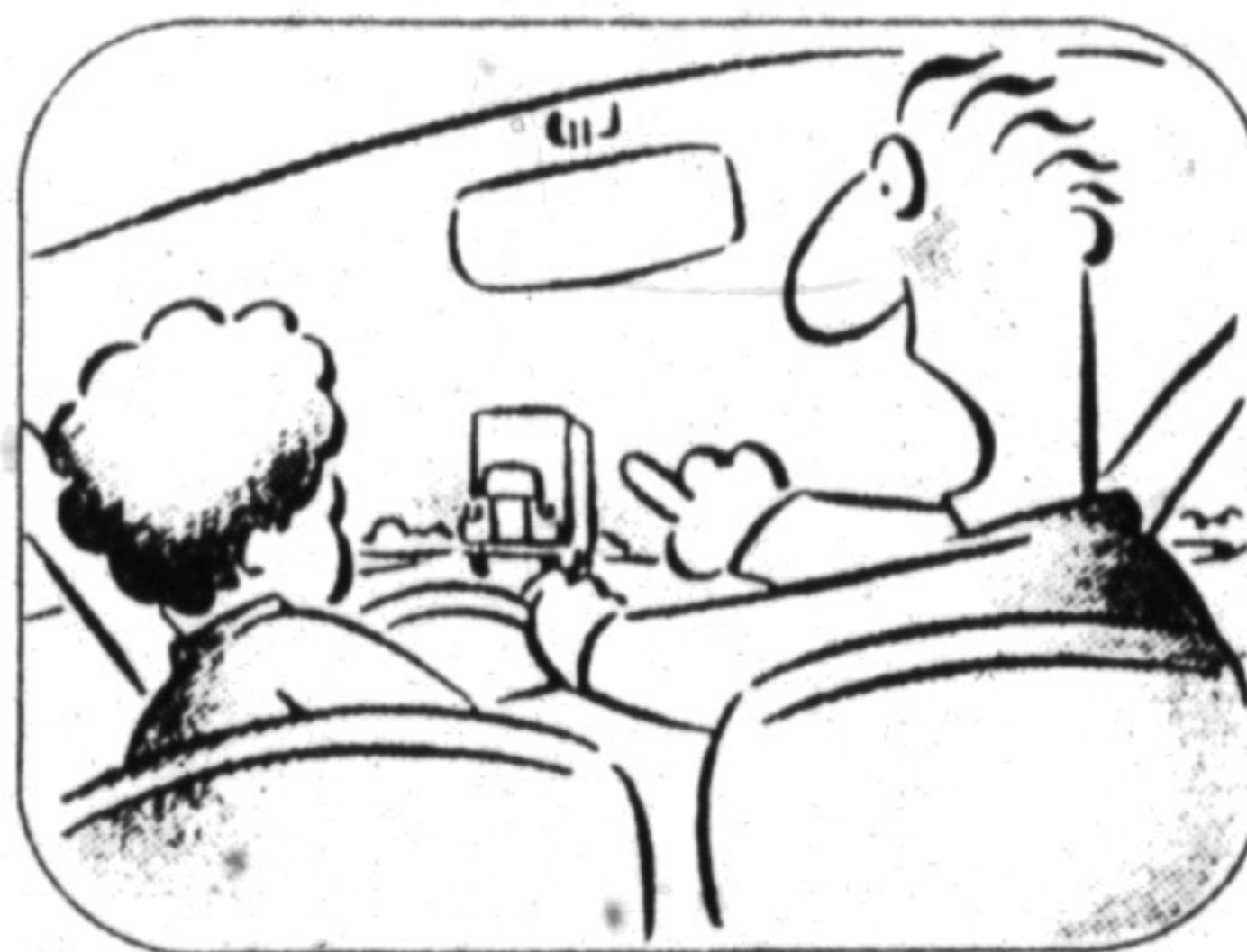
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