

Blue Hills Academy Seeks \$209,400 Anonymous \$25,000 Gift Swells Blue Hills Fund

BY MARGARET LADE
Blue Hills Academy, a residential treatment centre for emotionally disturbed children, has a building almost completed on CFRB Sideroad north of Oak Ridges. It has staff, and the first young residents are moving in this month.
But it needs \$209,400 to complete the two phase development program which will serve the emotionally disturbed children of York County.

"The campaign cabinet are confident that the private and corporate residents of York County will respond," declares Mr. Silcox. "The people of this county can certainly afford to put up the \$209,000."
Commenting on the needs of the emotionally disturbed children, Mr. Silcox continued, "Let me put it another way. The people of York County cannot afford to deny this service to the children of our county."
"No such service exists at this time, yet we see so much evidence every day of what is happening to our teenagers. We must do something to solve these problems for our children at an early age when they can be more effectively helped."
Secretary-Treasurer Arthur Johnson, vice-president of Ronson Products Canada, and a resident of King, pays tribute to the financial help given in the past two years by the York County Branch, Canadian Mental Health Association and Lions Clubs of the county.
"The finding of such money to finance the early stages of research and planning of a new community services is always most difficult and yet essential."
He also commented on the

assistance the board has received from other sources, "I cannot help but admire our sometimes maligned young people when I remember the donation we received last December from the students of King City Secondary School as part of the proceeds of their Walkathon. I can tell you that \$1,000 came at a very needed time."
In addition, some members of the board have made personal contributions, and some have signed personal notes at the bank against the Academy's overdraft.
"It is such demonstrations of concern and commitment that have given the board the strength and determination to make Blue Hills Academy a reality, regardless of any roadblocks that may appear on our path."
The project now under way will accommodate 12 children and staff, and the children will be referred to the academy through the special service department of the county school boards and hospital psychiatric departments.
The first phase includes a residence and a building for administrative facilities which will later be converted to a second

cottage residence.
The six-acre site will later accommodate a third cottage unit and an administration building, which the board hopes to have completed by the spring of 1972.
A typical home that will provide accommodation for 12 youngsters will cost \$75,600.
Mr. Johnson pointed out that in comparing this figure to private home large enough to house 12 children, it is important to understand that a building designed to provide public accommodation, particularly for children, must meet specifications set by fire marshal regulations, adding square foot cost to construction, extra stairs, more exits, larger doors inside and out, special materials and very different electrical installations from those found in the ordinary home.
Since there are no municipal

services available, said Mr. Johnson, a well had to be dug and a large pressure tank with piping for an independent water supply installed. Extensive sewer beds also had to be prepared and laid.
Mr. Silcox is confident the community will rally to the cause and provide the money needed.
"The kind of civic leadership given to this project over the last two or three years by a few private residents of this county is the kind of civic leadership that makes good things happen in any community," he declared.
"I admire them for what they have accomplished and the difficulties they had to overcome in the process. I believe that all of us should get behind this campaign to make Blue Hills Academy a real service this

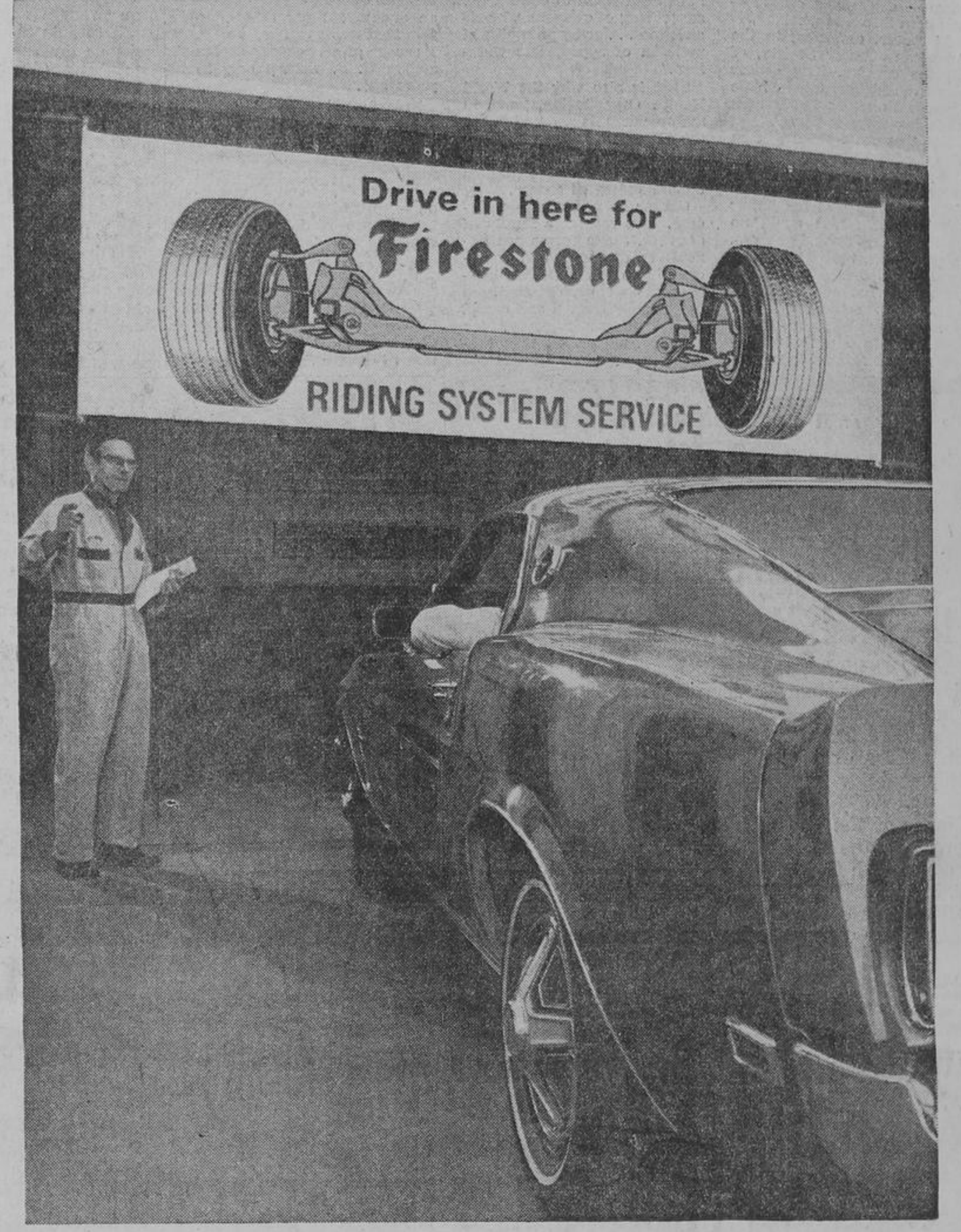
spring for those unfortunate young people and believe in what Blue Hill Academy is trying to do to meet the needs of emotionally disturbed children," said Mr. Silcox.
Asked about the gift, Russell MacDonald, Superintendent for Area 4 for York County Board of Education and president of the Blue Hills Academy Board of Directors, said he did not know who the donor was, that they wished to remain anonymous.
However, said Mr. MacDonald, he believed the money came from a member of an old Newmarket family, and hoped that, through the press, they would be made aware of how much their gift was appreciated.
"Of course we are hoping that others will come forward with whatever support they can give us," said Mr. MacDonald. "We need the smaller gifts as well if we are to complete our project."
Unfortunately we can't afford

to do a broad grassroots canvasses of the county. We have been advised that this would be too expensive. However, if anyone would like to have more information as to what we would be doing with their donation, they have only to write the Blue Hill Academy (RR 2 Aurora), or call 773-4323, and we would be happy to have someone call on them personally. In the meantime, we shall try to reach as many as we can," Mr. MacDonald declared.
He added that leadership and support are already forthcoming from among the doctors and educators of York County, and that the dentists and lawyers were in the process of organizing themselves.
In addition, said Mr. MacDonald, a group of leading businessmen are presently being organized to carry out a canvass of the corporate citizens of the 14 municipalities that make up York County.



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First Major Gift

\$10,000 Comes From United Church

The campaign to raise \$209,400 for Blue Hills Academy for Emotionally Disturbed Children is off to a flying start. Campaign chairman Robert Silcox of King last week announced the academy development fund has received a gift of \$10,000 from the Board of Evangelism and Social Service of the United Church of Canada.
At the same time Arthur Johnson, vice-president of Ronson Products, Canada, also a resident of King and honorary treasurer of Blue Hills Academy, said he has been advised by the Board of Evangelism and Social Service, that the church has also agreed to make an interest-free loan of \$20,000 to the academy for their development program.
"Both monies have already been received," said Mr. Johnson, "and I can tell you that it has come at a most opportune moment

for us. We very badly needed that money to keep our doors open so that we can continue our building program and be ready to serve the county this spring."
In making the announcement Mr. Silcox said Board Member Glen Ferguson of King has spearheaded the request for assistance from the church, and has been discussing the plans of the academy with church leaders in York County for over a year, keeping them informed of progress.
Mr. Ferguson said that local church support became very evident at a meeting of York Presbytery of the United Church of Canada in October, 1969, where Blue Hills Academy was given the opportunity to present its case and need.
At this meeting, a body of Ministers and lay readers of the church in the county came out with a strong re-

commendation to their national headquarters in Metro.
In a letter to the academy board, Rev. Charles Forsyth, secretary of the Board of Evangelism and Social Service, said that the board was very impressed with the plans of the academy and what it was trying to do for emotionally disturbed children, an area in which the church has been interested for many years.
Blue Hills Academy is just completing construction of the first phase of a two-phase project to provide residential treatment for emotionally disturbed children.
The cottage-like residence and administration building is located on a six-acre on the CFRB sideroad north of Oak Ridges.
This is the first such service that will be available to families of York County.

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