

Mary Burnett, community worker for this area.

Ontario Youth Opportunities may be for you

If you are between the ages of 15 to 24, and can't get a job because you don't have experience, and can't get experience because you don't have a job, then Ontario Youth Opportunities may be for you.

Ontario Youth Opportunities is a ten-point program that will provide young people with the chance to get training and experience required to help lead to permanent employment. Launched in May 1984, the Ontario Government has committed \$450 million over three years to Youth Ontario Opportunities.

The focus of these programs is on those young men and women who are having the hardest time finding and keeping a job due to employment barriers, such as limited education, or little or no work experience. A number of projects have been specifically designed for disabled young people and native youth, both on and off the reserves. Special attention has also been given to providing jobs in areas of high unemployment, particularly Northwestern Ontario.

Ontario Youth Opportunities includes wage subsidies to help young people get experience in business and community service; intensive training and counselling for those with special needs; special training for careers in the tourism industry and interest-free loans for young entrepreneurs to start new businesses.

Stewart Pelly, a 20 year old Kenora resident is working on an Ontario Youth Corps program. This new program creates meaningful work for young men and women who are

most in need of employment. Jobs range from clerical work for police forces to working on farm crews. Local groups are able to hire these young people with wage subsidies and support funding provided by Ontario Youth Corps, for a period of up to 26 weeks.

Through Youth Corps, Pelly has been hired as the Recreation Co-ordinator of the Ne'chee Friendship Centre, located in Kenora. Pelly's job includes running movies, organizing cribbage tournaments, and co-ordinating teen dances.

According to Pelly, "Working at the centre has been a real confidence builder. At the end of each day I feel proud that I've accomplished something."

For many young people the transition between school and work can be rough. After leaving school, they lack the practical experience needed to land permanent employment in their chosen fields. Employers, too, are often frustrated, letting jobs go unfilled because they can't afford the costs of training new workers. Ontario Career Action Program (OCAP) is designed to help young people and employers bridge this gap. OCAP offers up to 16 weeks of on-the-job training and work experience, with the government paying the full training allowance.

Vicki McMahon, 21, is working as an OCAP trainee at the Ministry of Natural Resources in Geraldton. McMahon is a Supply Clerk in the warehouse of the Geraldton Operations Base. As a Supply Clerk, McMahon is in charge of the fire equipment inventory, lending stock out, and the general continued on page 11

continued from page 7 really needs.

driving, Impaired although on a decline is still a serious problem. The Community Correction Worker confronts the offender and at the discretion of the worker they may be required to attend an alcoholic rehabilitation course at the Smith Clinic.

Mary prepares first offenders case history at the request of the court. Often the Judge requires more information an offender as to past history, work history etc. She meets with all persons serving probation on a very regular basis. Probation can last anywhere from three months to three years, and all persons are required to report to Mary.

Mary Burnett, as the Community Corrections Worker covers Terrace Bay, Schreiber, Jackfish, Rossport and Pays Plat. She served on the Corrections Committee for and is therefore has a good grasp of the aim and objectives of the community program. If you have any problems regarding alcohol or drugs, do not hesitate to contact Mary. She is a good listener, all meetings are confidential and if she cannot help she will do all within her power to get you in touch with people who can. Now that we have this service it is up to us to reach out for the help and council we may need. Mary's office is located in the old Town Office in Schreiber. Her telephone number is 824-3036.

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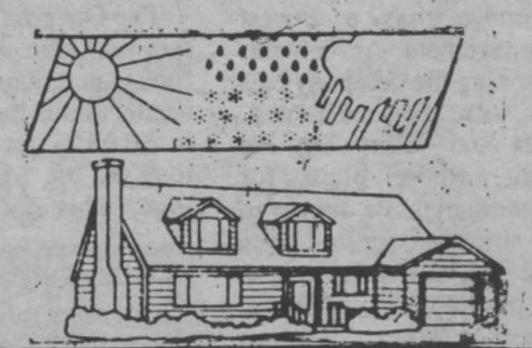
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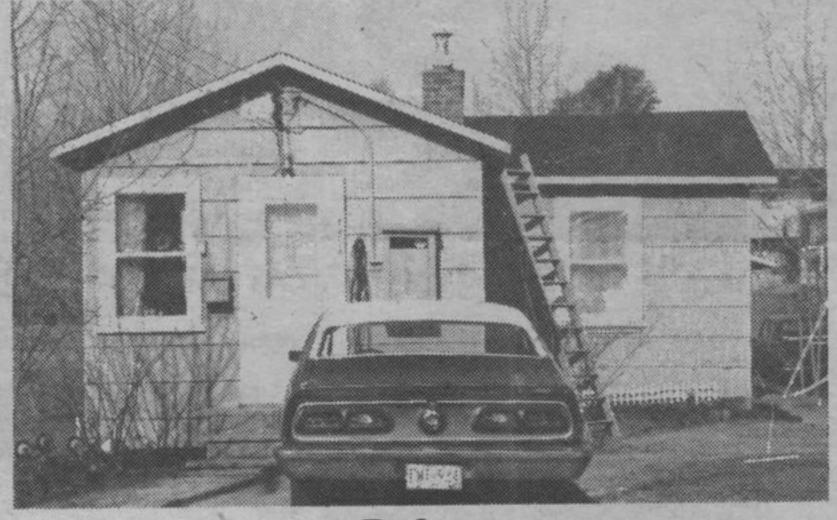
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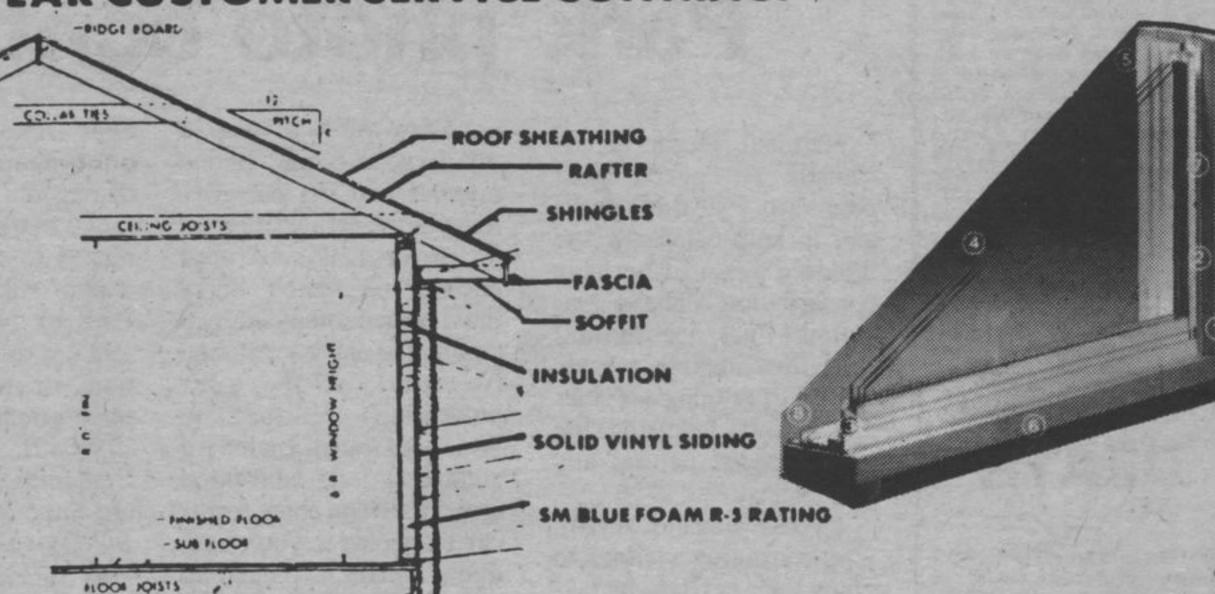
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