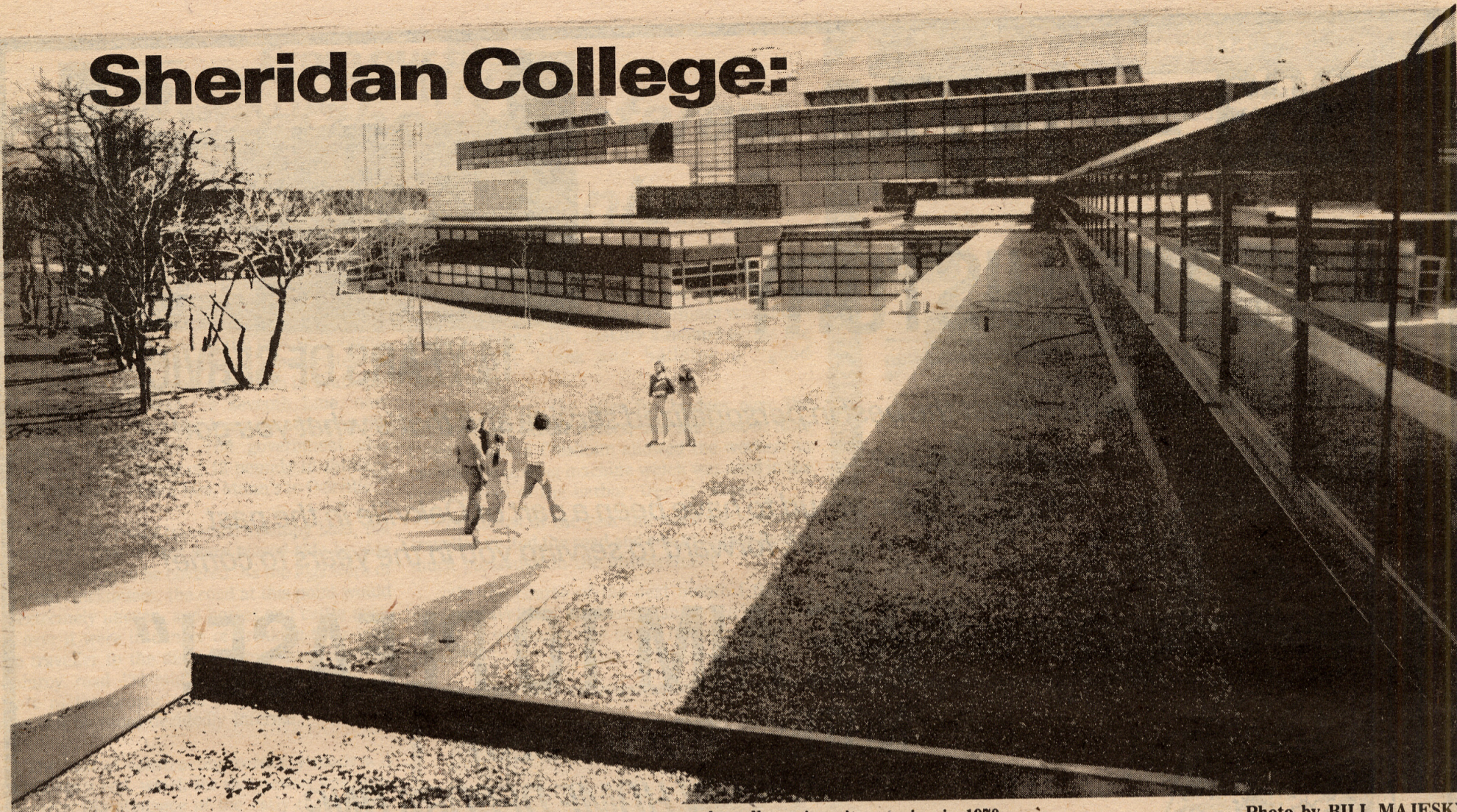


Sheridan College:



Sheridan's main Oakville campus on Trafalgar Road has been the centre of action at the college since its opening in 1970.

Photo by BILL MAJESKY

A 10-year success story

By WILMA DAVIS

The Sheridan College of Applied Arts and Technology is a lot like a healthy tree. From a seed of 380 students and an old Brampton high school in 1967, the college has grown by leaps and bounds to the point where full-time enrolment has reached 4,051 this year and branch campuses have sprouted in Oakville, Mississauga, Malton, Milton and Burlington.

In the process, the centre of action has shifted from the original Brampton campus to Oakville where the Trafalgar Road

main campus was officially opened in April, 1970.

Sheridan registrar Elizabeth Banister, who joined the college in 1968, says this phenomenal growth is in response to the needs of the Halton-Peel community.

"All programs have an advisory committee and if there seems to be a need for some kind of program or course, this group can help initiate the process for adding new courses," she says.

Courses like travel counsellor, modelling and intensive secretarial were created after a need had been shown for them.

"In some cases, though, courses were created first and then the graduates created their own job market. The animation course is one example of that. We didn't even have any Canadian instructors for the students so we brought them in from California and England," Banister says.

Graduates created jobs for themselves and today the animation course is one of the best-known in the province.

The visual arts division has shown the greatest growth, increasing from 81 students in 1967 to 1,007 in 1976. Applied

arts has jumped from 50 to 896 and business from 124 to 632.

Sheridan has become the community college in the province for visual arts. Since the colleges were conceived by the provincial government some have developed expertise in certain areas and Sheridan has made its name in visual arts.

Banister says enrolment is starting to level out and she predicts about a three to five per cent increase in 1977-78.

"We don't have a lot of choice really. Money is tight and in some courses we are at the limit as far as facilities are concerned. Some programs will be able to accommodate more growth for quite some time," she notes.

Forty-seven per cent of the students attending Sheridan are from the Halton-Peel regions with an additional 47.9 per cent from the rest of Ontario. Another 3.4 per cent are from outside the province while about one per cent are foreign students.

"I think it is a good time for the enrolments to level out," Banister says. "We have had such phenomenal growth, maybe it's time we sat back and decided where we're going and what we've done. Maybe some things could be improved."

In the meantime students who are applying for admission to any community college in the province should have had their applications in by mid-February.

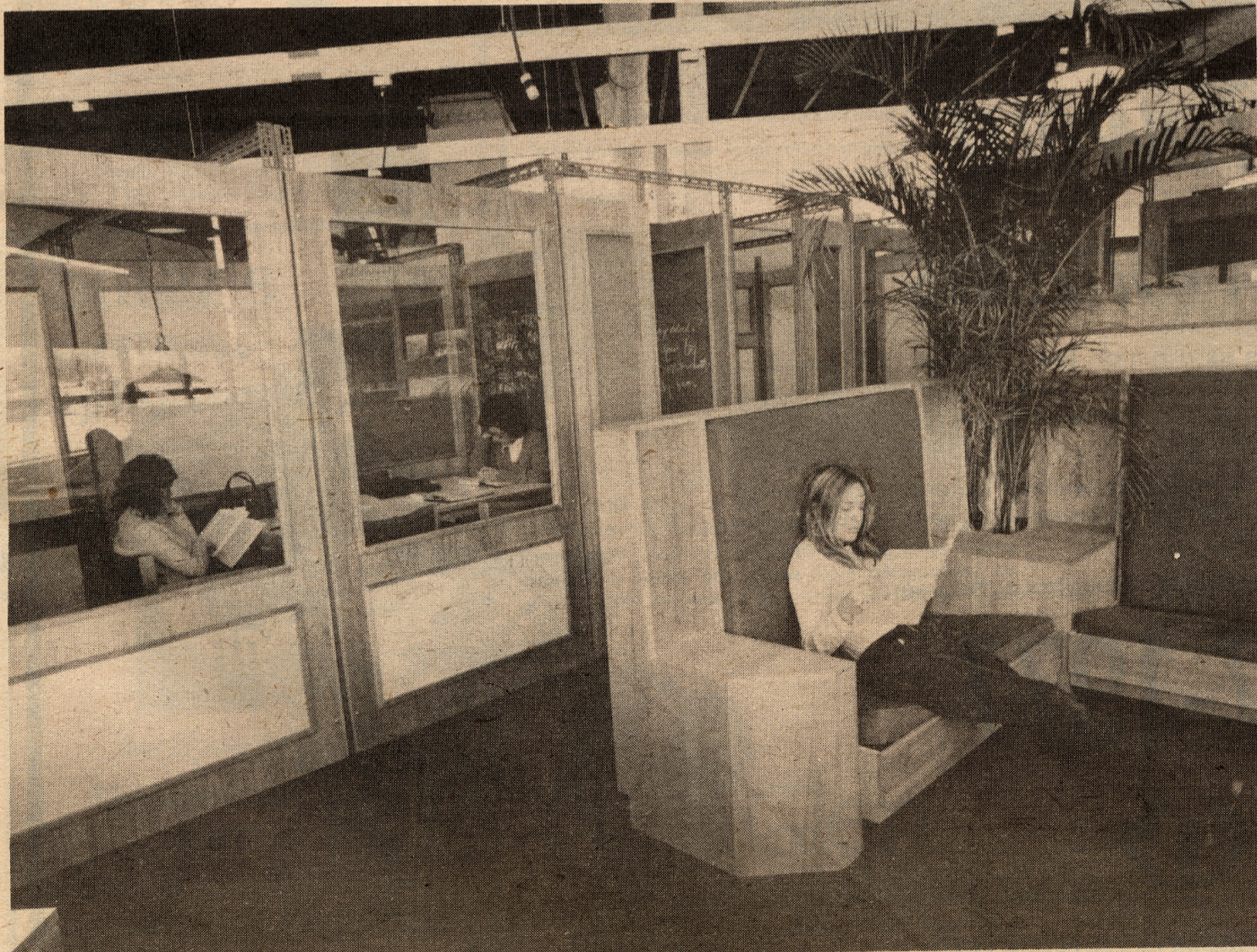
According to the community college mandate, the only admission prerequisite is a Grade 12 diploma.

"Our admissions are strictly first-come first-served and all registrars in the province decided on a Feb. 15 deadline for applications and March 15 for letters of acceptance to be sent out. That way we hope to be fair to everyone who applies," Banister says.

At Sheridan, applicants from Halton and Peel regions are given first priority — particularly for courses with limited admissions.

Aside from the regular day-time students enrolled Sheridan also serves another 12,000 people enrolled in continuing education, retraining and management development and training programs.

Official 10th anniversary celebrations for the college will be held April 1, 2 and 3.



Most courses at the college have been developed in response to the needs of the Halton-Peel community.