Friends talk about grandchildren, exchange pictures and reminisce about old boyfriends

(Continued from page B1)

Pat came here in 1941 from Guelph, Fern hails from Acton and arrived in 1935 and Eileen came to Oakville in 1939 from Kapuskasing.

They attended the former Westwood School, Brantwood and Old Central and graduated from the old Oakville Trafalgar High School in 1948.

We had the most fun while we were in high school," remembered Fern, thinking back to the Teen Town Dances that were held at the Victoria Hall now the Oakville Curling Club.

We used to meet Friday nights at the Modern Cafe or the neighbouring Savoy Cafe, located next to where Oliver's of Oakville is today, in 1947," said Helena.

While most of the others went to work, Fran attended teachers' college at the University of Toronto and taught for 33 years in this area. She is jokingly considered "the only smart one" by the group.

Helena worked in the Oakville Beaver's classified department for 18 years, Fern was a legal secretary, and Jasey did secretarial work.

Pat worked at Long Manufacturing for 30 years, Marilyn worked for her brother Bill Orr, owner of Bill Orr Paint and Wallpaper, and at Oakville Trafalgar Memorial Hospital.

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"I was snapped up at 16 and married for 51 years," said Eileen, adding she's the youngest in the group and was the only stay-at-home mom.

Jasey is the only great grandmother. "We were still in high school when

the Second World War ended. I remember knitting for Britain," said Helena.

Meeting annually, "we talk about old boyfriends, grandchildren, exchange pictures and share a lot of laughs" she said.

"We enjoy each other's company." Everybody has a copy of a picture, taken in 1947, of 10 of the original dozen friends standing in front of the old Savoy Café.

The others include Nancy (Smith) Johnston, who moved to Vancouver Island, and Betty Green who is believed to be living in the United States - the group has lost contact with her. Deceased are Elaine Pettersen, Delores Richmond and Muriel 'Shep' Shepherd.

The group began holding Christmas reunion lunches in 1980, when 'Shep,' who had moved to Red Deer, Alberta "came that year and we all got together," said Helena. "We've been getting together ever since."



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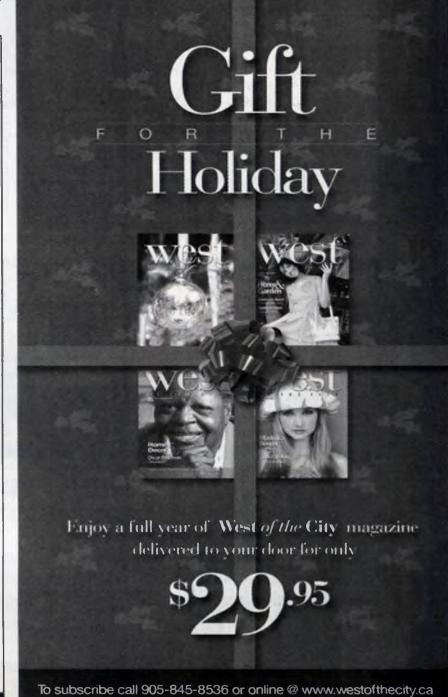
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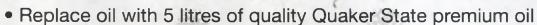
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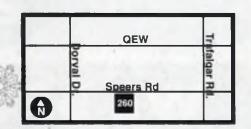
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