

Hopedale's

55plus club

A Monthly Discount Day for Neighbourhood Residents age 55+

55plus Birthday Party

Thursday, Oct. 28
Noon - 3pm

Exchange your 55plus membership card for a new card.

Receive birthday cake, refreshments, a special gift, and your own birthday card that treats you to something special later on.

Bring along your friends! New members will also receive the same party goodies.

Join the Club this Thursday!

Good Neighbours to Know

Hopedale Mall

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Shop: Mon. - Fri. ~ 9:30 am to 9:00 pm • Sat. ~ 9:30 am to 6:00 pm • Sun. ~ Noon to 5:00 pm

Family members concerned

(Continued from page 1)

facilities," said Marcus Robertson, whose father lives on the fifth floor. "We were shocked that this proposal was not awarded beds in the allocation last fall."

Robertson presented a petition which he sent to Health Minister Elizabeth Witmer in July containing more than 1,400 signatures of those who support the HHS plan. He was backed by Margaret Silveira, who turned over more than 900 sheets signed by residents that also called on Queen's Park to back the HHS bid.

"We need these beds now, not two or three years from now," she said.

Silveira, whose father has lived on the fifth floor for two years, was reduced to tears as she recounted the "fear, stress and worry" that has plagued all their families over the uncertain future of their loved ones. Simply uprooting sick and aged people without regard for the intangible benefits of friends, family and the caring of current staff is simply unconscionable, said Silveira.

Following her submission, Ministry representative Richard Darjes said there was no need to apologize for showing emotion.

"Nothing is more important than family," he said.

Ward 6 councillor Kurt Franklin reiterated the Town's unqualified support for the HHS bid and said he was "astounded" when its last proposal was rejected.

Franklin - who said it would be a "real tragedy" if fifth floor residents were forced to move elsewhere - explained that the Town is still awaiting the zoning applications from private sector firms which were awarded beds in the last round. In the meantime, he said, construction could have been under way on the OTHS property.

One elderly woman, who characterized the government's past rejection of the OTHS site as a "huge crime," said the heart was taken out of Oakville when the high school moved. It's time, she said, to put the heart back.

Robertson, who presented the most detailed submission of the afternoon, spoke of the woeful shortfall of long-term care beds in Oakville and said it is hard to imagine a better location than the OTHS site, right next to the hospital.

The patients' proximity to loved ones and all they bring to their lives must also not be discounted, Robertson continued. The closeness of OTMH staff who are experienced in the health needs of seniors, in partnership with the

expertise of Extendicare, should likewise be taken into account.

"We believe that this initiative to meet a huge and growing community need in such a team fashion is an innovative approach that should be rewarded," said Robertson.

He said that all the intangibles that are cheerfully promoted on the fifth floor - everything from the sharing of the hospital's Youth Volunteers to visits by children's dance companies - should and must be included in the bid selection criteria.

"Regardless of the set criteria, your committee must have the courage and good sense to look at all aspects of a proposal when making such an important decision," said Robertson.

Another resident simply asked for the province's support "in the spirit of community good." Another woman cut right to the chase and told Darjes to go back to the Ministry and tell them to just "start digging."

Santa Claus Parade entry deadline Friday

Time is running out to enter a float in the 51st Annual Santa Claus Heritage Parade on Nov. 20th.

The deadline for entering a float in the parade is Fri. Oct. 29th.

This year's theme is "Millennium 2000...the past, present and future."

As the parade takes on preserving the past and building the future, participants will be decorating their floats in either the Past, Present or Future.

Those decorating in the Past (1827-1979) should focus on a specific year or event in Oakville. Information is available through the library or the Oakville Historical Society. Participants choosing the Present can look over the community or major events from 1979-1999. As for the Future, the sky is the limit.

Any businesses or community groups wanting to join the parade should call the Town of Oakville Parks and Recreation Department at 845-6601, ext 3154.

The parade will feature 10 marching bands and more than 19 Shriner units. The Shriners entries include a Harley Davidson motor cycle escort, antique fire truck, mini-cars, stunt performers, marching colour party and lots of clowns.

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Pumpkins must be received by 12 noon.

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1st Place \$100

2nd Place \$50

3rd Place \$25

Contest open to anyone and everyone.

Limit 1 entry per person

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