

PROJECT 1981

FWIO Board Directors accepted the proposal of Mrs. Arnold Wilson Board Director for Subdivision 2 as a project for the Year of the Disabled.

**ONE OUT OF EVERY SEVEN PEOPLE
IS HANDICAPPED!**

Shocking as this statistic may seem, it should breed an element of concern. No one is immune from becoming handicapped. Some are born with defects while many of us grow through stages of disability, from unstable youth to infirm old age.

The WOMEN'S INSTITUTE ARE ALWAYS UP FRONT IN THEIR CARING ATTITUDE AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE BASIC NEEDS AND RIGHTS OF CITIZENS OF OUR COMMUNITY. The serious problem of "accessibility" to the community by the disabled is being overlooked. Many physically disabled people are unable to make full use of public facilities due to physical barriers. Flights of stairs, high curbs, narrow doors, high reaching telephones all prohibit the disabled from using facilities to which, as a citizen they are entitled.

DEFINITION OF A COMMUNITY

These are just a few of the many barriers that isolate the disabled from their community. A community is defined as a "unified body of persons living in the same locality under the same laws." As long as the disabled are isolated and segregated, no city or town can be classed as a community.

CONDUCT SURVEY

If the W.I. Branches in each district of the areas would take the big step of conducting a survey to investigate the services available and the employment opportunities in each community we could reach across Ontario in 1981, the International Year of Disabled Persons.

ARCHITECTURAL BARRIERS

This is a specific area the general public give little thought to making mobility easier. A few guidelines are those who would be willing to work with the Physically Handicapped for a better life. They hope that volunteers will add their shoulders to the thrust that will ultimately bring architectural barriers tumbling down like the walls of Jericho. This would probably do more to increase the social, economic, intellectual and spiritual horizons of the physically handicapped than any other major area of reform. Lay the groundwork for the removal of architectural barriers so that the disabled can share the amenities of our society.



If you need a clearer vision of the need, you might occupy a wheelchair for a day; try to mount the curb at the market place, try wheeling your chair to the home of a friend, try mounting the steps of a city bus. These transportation problems have also made socializing a luxury.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

INFORMATION BOOKLET

For The Physically Handicapped
Community Information Centre
Metropolitan Toronto,
34 King St. E. 3rd Floor,
Toronto, M5C 1E5

Guide to Transportation for the Physically Disabled

This is available to municipalities. The procedures for obtaining financial assistance are also detailed. Contact:

Mr. Roy McEwen
Transit Office,
Ministry of Transportation and Communications,
1201 Wilson Ave.,
3rd Floor, West Tower
Downsview, Ont. M3M 1J8

Information about criteria for funding for ramps, door widenings, Etc. contact:

Ministry of Culture and Recreation,
77 Bloor St. W.,
Toronto, M7A 2R9

FILM—"City Limits"

Available through cost rental from Resource Centre, 9th floor, through the Ministry of Culture and Recreation.