

POOL CHAIRLIFT AT WOODINGFORD LODGE, 1981

To mark the International Year of the Disabled, the seventeen branches of Oxford North District Women's Institute pooled their monies to a sum of \$8080.00 for the purchase of a hydraulic chairlift to be installed into the therapeutic swimming pool at Woodingford Lodge, 423 Devonshire Road, Woodstock.

On April 6, 1981 it was moved by Mrs. Roy Ross and seconded by Mrs. Carl Clark that \$500.00 be added to the fund from Grace Patterson Women's Institute to which the membership agreed. Dedication in Woodstock took place July 6, 1981.

The pool is opened to any disabled person in Oxford County. The chair is used to raise and lower patients into and out of the pool, and is easily hand operated. It is used regularly in special swim programs and for exercises by the multiple sclerosis and arthritic societies.

Mrs. Harold Kerr
Curator, 1981-1987

SLEEPING CHILDREN AROUND THE WORLD

The month in which a Grace Patterson Women's Institute member celebrates her birthday, she contributes a sum of money to the Birthday Box, part of the collection from which goes toward 'Sleeping Children Around the World'. Since 1980 Grace Patterson Women's Institute has been part of the project through Oxford North District Women's Institute for the organization, 'Sleeping Children Around the World'.

Murray Dryden of Islington, Ontario with the help of his wife, Margaret has become the sandman for Third World children through the organization they developed in 1970 called 'Sleeping Children Around the World'.

Mr. Dryden has a fascination for photography, his favourite subject being sleeping children, and from this an urge to have children everywhere have a warm bed. In the Depression Years his own hardship led him to sleep perhaps on a bench or in a boxcar.

With the help from the YMCA in India and the Salvation Army in Indonesia he gave \$3000.00 to have 200 slumber kits made locally there. Then, each slumber kit comprised of a small mattress, a rubber sheet, cotton sheets, a blanket, a pillow, pillow cases and a mosquito netting plus pyjamas. This was the beginning and he travelled to those countries to photograph the recipient children with their gifts.

He feels the kit program fulfils a need. For the first few years the Drydens went mostly to hostels and orphanages, but eventually they worked their way into private homes. For a \$25.00 donation a kit can be provided and depending on the climate it usually contains fourteen items, but in the colder countries warm sweaters and toques are added and in other countries a kit may contain a dress or shirt and trousers in place of pyjamas depending on the child's needs.

Mrs. Dryden hand-makes the label of the donor's name and address and the name of the child's country that is affixed to each kit. Every year wherever the gifts are to be given, Mr. Dryden goes with his camera to capture the child's picture. Everyone who contributes a kit receives a colour photograph of the recipient of the kit. The mother and child who receive the kit also receives a photograph. Mr. Dryden says it may be the only photograph the mother has of her child.

No administration costs, travel or publicity has ever been charged to the fund. Tremendous support from people, churches and groups is received, and the Salvation Army continues to be involved.

Mr. Dryden received the Order of Canada honor in 1981.