

Association for Mentally Retarded reviews busy year at annual meeting

Reports from most branches of the North Halton Association for the Mentally Retarded were heard Monday evening, December 5, as the association gathered in Sunshine School, Horsey, to hold their annual meeting, review the year's work and elect officers for 1967.

The Association operates the Sunshine School for mentally retarded children and the H.O.P.E. Workshop for retarded adults, both at Horsey.

"The past year has been virtually filled with interesting and productive activities," noted R. A. Kanerva, president of the association. "It has been in my opinion, a year of progress and a year of change."

Mr. Kanerva reviewed the year, noting that the Esqueing Educational Authority by authorization of the provincial government, has underwritten the operating costs of the Sunshine School, thereby allowing the association to launch the H.O.P.E. workshop.

He observed that "the operation of such a workshop centre is extremely expensive and is further complicated by our transportation requirements for which a bus has been purchased. I could conservatively estimate that our operating costs for the workshop will exceed \$10,000 annually and these funds must be raised by this association."

The president lamented the apparent lack of interest in the general public towards fund raising campaigns launched by the association.

A report was heard from Harry Isham on the Adult Services division of the association. Included in Mr. Isham's report was the financial statement of the H.O.P.E. workshop.

Over a period of 22 weeks, the workshop produced sales with a value of \$1,085.29 cash and \$200 receivable. After debits of \$665.47 are accounted for, the shop shows a balance of \$619.82.

A variety of donations, including \$600 jointly from Milton, Georgetown and Acton Ladies' Auxiliaries; a sewing machine and typewriter from North Trafalgar Community Club; \$25 from Milton Branch Royal Canadian Legion and other gifts; were put to good use.

Shadyrn were heard concerning "A Spiritual Development Program for the Mentally Retarded."

Discussion groups were formed with Rev. Christensen, Mrs. R. P. Jeffares and Miss Beth Crawford taking part in one about "The Spiritual Development of the Retarded Person in the Community."

Rev. Christensen concluded his report on the division with his resignation as chairman of the Spiritual Development Committee, noting that others in the same field should be contacted for the post, thereby bringing new members into the organization.

Mr. Christensen, editor of the Review Press, house organ of the association, supervised the maiden edition of the bulletin and one subsequent edition. Ms. Wellwood assisted with the typing.

The release of the bulletin was quite an undertaking," he said in his report. "A number of obstacles were met and overcome and I now feel the Review can be successfully cared for with co-operation and hard work."

Mr. Christensen was also chairman of the program committee during 1966, and he briefly recapped the events of the year.

In resigning his positions on the bulletin and program committees, Rev. Christensen thanked his committee members, Mrs. D. Hancock and Mrs. H. Mitchell, as well as Mrs. Jeffares. He also expressed his appreciation for Mrs. Wellwood's assistance on the publication of the Review.

A report on the H.O.P.E. Workshop was given by Mrs. Isham. She noted that the workshop now has eight trainees ranging in age from 16 to 40 years.

The projects undertaken include exclusive designed Christmas cards, artificial Christmas trees, re-strapping of lawn chairs, manufacture of knitting and tote bags, small toy clowns, flowers for wedding vehicles and others.

ken of for laxity in behavior, sociability or cleanliness, but seldom do they have to be enforced.

It is found that jobs must be changed frequently to prevent overdraught on the trainees' attention spans.

Trainees prepare their own lunches and coffee breaks, and the girls handle this while the boys maintain washrooms and floors in weekly turns.

The managers, who must find new contracts for the shop and maintain the building on top of her other duties, attended a course in "Small Business Management" as it affects Sheltered Workshops and Centres for the Mentally Retarded, August 31.

Other supervisory staff at H.O.P.E. include Mrs. H. G. Wood, who left a position at Milton District Hospital in August to join the centre full time after a period as a volunteer.

Mrs. Wood also drives the bus on its two hour route covering most of the northern half of the county.

Mrs. Syd Dance and Mrs. R. Wardle are two regular volunteer workers at the shop.

Mrs. G. Jeffares, principal of the Sunshine School, noted that in January, 1966, the school contained 24 pupils. One child left and one enrolled, keeping the attendance static.

The bazaar and tea were held June 10 where the senior pupils served 96 guests with tea and displayed crafts for sale.

The local inspector's wife, the provincial inspector's wife and the association president's wife pooled tea. The event created a \$132.30 profit.

A closing concert was held June 20 in the hall of Holy Cross Church, followed the next day by a picnic at Terrier's Pony Ranch.

A display was placed in Milton Fair, with proceeds of \$5. A visit by the senior pupils to Riverdale Zoo was staged Sept. 14, the first time this had been done.

Bill Roberts, a nationally famous artist, has been donating his time and talent to instructing the senior pupils.

Volunteers working at the school include Mrs. Deumer, Mrs. Caves, Mrs. Bickers, Mrs. Dales, Mrs. Gray and Mrs. Baardolf. Mrs. Wood helps whenever possible.

A total of \$250 was spent on physical fitness equipment and the principal feels that some medals may be going to the school during the 1967 Centennial physical fitness tests.

In closing, Mrs. Jeffares thanked all those responsible for donations and noted that the students will be taken on a trip to Toronto to view the Christmas lighting, the Queen Elizabeth Building Fairlyland, and that a concert will be held at the school Thursday, December 22 at 10 a.m. with parents of students invited.

It was reported the Rotary Club of Georgetown would donate and decorate a Christmas tree for the H.O.P.E. Workshop each year.

A dinner at the Lido Restaurant in Milton preceded the meeting at the home of Mrs. Cannon. At the meeting members exchanged gifts.

Kanerva returned president of Association for retarded

President R. A. Kanerva of Milton was re-elected for his second term as head of the North Halton Association for the Mentally Retarded on Monday evening, December 5, when the Association met to review the year's work, hold their annual meeting, and elect officers for the 1967 season.

Representatives from the committees gave reports on activities during 1966, and Mrs. H. Isham presented a cheque for \$1,000 from the Milton Ladies' Auxiliary to the Association.

Other officers selected included first vice-president Harry Isham, second vice-president Jack Barton, recording secretary Mrs. J. Coulighan, corresponding secretary Mrs. G. Wood and treasurer Mrs. I. Ricchia.

Committee chairmen for the coming year include Mrs. R. A. Kanerva, membership; Bob Kanerva, program; Fred Bickers, property; Mrs. R. A. Kanerva and Mrs. H. Isham, bulletin; R. Banner, publicity and public relations; H. Isham, adult program; Mrs. A. Kingdom, home care; B.

Cannon, fund-raising; R. Ross, recreation; Dr. C. Hillz, research; Edna Dance, scrapbook; and Mrs. May Slater, residential care.

Discussion periods were held following the swearing-in of the officers and the subject, "should provisions be made for the care of a retarded child?" was debated.

The general trend of thought showed that most Association members favored having definite clauses in one's will for the care of a retarded child, in the event of death or incapacitation of the parent.

A light lunch was served following the meeting, at which time members were invited to get acquainted with one another.

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Sunshine Auxiliary gives school \$1,000

A cheque for \$1,000 has been given to the North Halton Association for the Mentally Retarded, by the Sunshine School Ladies' Auxiliary, Milton Branch.

At a meeting on December 1, members of the auxiliary received a financial report for the year and made the donation.

It was tremendously successful and we would like to thank everyone who helped," an official said.

Mrs. Harry Isham was named president of the auxiliary for 1967. Other officers include Mrs. F. V. Cannon, vice-president; treasurer, Mrs. Jess-

ie Hamilton; recording secretary, Mrs. Cole; correspondence secretary, Betty Wellwood; ways and means committee members, Nancy Kanerva and Mrs. Haringa; and phoning committee members, Mary Rusk, and Edna Dance.

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Hints on preventing fires ... for a merrier Christmas

Here are a few hints on how to prevent fire in the home at Christmas time.

First, place your Christmas tree in a bucket of water to prevent it from drying out and if possible, give the tree a fire retardant treatment.

Never use candles or open flame on a Christmas tree nor expose it to direct heat such as radiators etc.

Before placing the tree lights, have them checked by a qualified person for broken sockets, frayed wires and loose connections, and don't allow smoking or use matches near the tree.

When the needles of the tree are getting dry, do not hesitate, throw the tree away. If the tree does catch fire, don't panic. A bucket of water well applied may control the fire.

Even if all the material used in the decoration of the tree is supposed to be fire resistant, check it carefully anyway. Good advice is to use only non-combustible materials.

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