

CAS needs more volunteers

Voluntarism is the key word of today Mrs. Helen Ball, President of Ontario Children's Aid Society told Halton CAS members at their annual meeting held at Halton Centennial Manor Wednesday.

She told members voluntarism was the ingredient lacking today. "In the by gone days, it was all they had. How ironic it is that now it is all we lack."

"We mean well but we don't do well. Thousands of people are withholding for a multitude of reasons, the input they could and should be making to the healthy development of the current crop of future adults."

Mrs. Ball credited CAS volunteers for volunteering and taking part. "People of all ages are babysitting, because they have imagination about a mother who is never free from mothering. They are tutoring and driving. They give parties, and they dress dolls. They help with budgeting and shopping. They act as volunteer probation officers, and as aunts and uncles for trips and treats. They knit and sew."

Hazards
"Recognizing the hazards in single parent situations, they are holding group sessions in child care, and group therapy sessions, speaking to outside groups about child abuse, youth in revolt, and such relevant topics; involving youth with youth in activities which benefit all concerned, holding career nights at schools, counselling; setting up neighborhood services."

Listing many other activities CAS volunteers find themselves engaged in, Mrs. Ball predicted the local CAS boards will remain in control of the societies as long as they are alert to local needs and uphold their tradition as the initiator of local citizen action to meet them.

The speaker reviewed the history of Children's Aid societies and of social reform for children from the early 1900's when abandoned children had a very

rough future ahead of them, up to the current time.

Long way
While social reform has come a long way since then the provincial president indicated there was a long way to go. Quoting from a report entitled The Troubled Child, she said present facilities available to children might have been adequate 20 years ago, but now are overwhelmed and falling. Some parts of Ontario have no services whatsoever for troubled children; for treatment they fall back on the embittering techniques of punishment and

shame. "The schools, social agencies, health services and courts all are equipped to establish beyond question that the child needs help. There is no help available."

A second report "the Celtic report" says 12 per cent of the population up to 19 years of age or no less than one million children in Canada require attention, treatment and care because of emotional and learning disorders.

Fewer to adopt
Mrs. Ball indicated the lack of newborn babies for adoption is a serious problem. She said the

number of private adoptions is increasing. Some unwed mothers have their children raised by friends or relatives or arrange an adoption through doctors or lawyers. The availability of contraceptives and abortions have also contributed to the problem.

"All these factors have contributed to the decline in the number of babies for adoption and the increase in the number of older children needing homes, when the mother later finds it impossible to carry out her plan to raise her child alone."

In the two year period between 1968 and 1970 there was a decline of 1,377 in the number of children of unwed mothers coming into CAS care. In 1968, 39 per cent of the unwed mothers kept their babies and in 1970, 42.9 per cent did so.

Private adoptions
Mrs. Ball said private adoptions are often arranged for

the convenience of the mother and the adopters but noted that this does not necessarily result in the best interests of the child.

CAS boards are finding that procuring foster homes is becoming more difficult. Although the once common practice of removing children in need of protection from their homes is employed as a last resort, the need is increasing and availability declining. Forty-two per cent of all children in care are between the ages of 10 and 17, she noted.

Although group homes are being opened they are limited by financial and other restraints. "Foster homes are still the backbone of a society's child care program and we must find ways to interest many more people in this vital service." In a four year period applications to become foster parents have dropped by 21.8 per cent or from 5,661 in 1967 to 4,428 in 1970.



VIEW FROM the bottom end of the spillway long reservoir. Things are normal again at the Scotch Block dam shows the fury of water as it is released from the mile and a half dam after the sudden emergency.—(Staff Photo)

Golden Agers change nights appreciate lively Irish night

By Mrs. Elsie Reed
An enthusiastic meeting of the Golden Age Club on Tuesday evening was thoroughly enjoyed by a good turnout.

Mrs. Dittich, secretary-treasurer of St. Alban's Anglican church was present to ask if it would be too inconvenient for the club to change their evening meeting to Wednesday night instead of Tuesday night as they have a chance to rent the hall every Tuesday night to another organization.

After discussion it was unanimously decided it would be very unfair to deprive the Anglican Board this extra revenue and that we could quite easily change to Wednesday night as the club only uses the hall one night each month.

The afternoon meeting will still be the first Tuesday afternoon of each month and now the evening meeting will be the third Wednesday at 7.30 p.m. All members will please take note of the change in date. And be sure to come out to show we can easily adjust even at Golden Age!

Attend service
As this was Holy Week it was decided the club attend service in Knox Presbyterian church on Tuesday night.

A moment of silence was observed in tribute to Harold Bell who had been called to his eternal home. Sympathy was expressed for the family. Mr. Bell had helped many times with his music on the violin and he enjoyed a game of crokinole at the club.

As a lunch convener was needed, Mrs. Creasey was nominated, and agreed to take on the job. Please give her all the cooperation possible when your turn comes up. The "cuppa" tea and social hour over lunch is always enjoyed.

Books of tickets for a Centre for the United Senior Citizens to carry on the work of the organization, have arrived. Several members took books to sell as it

is felt this centre is badly needed.

Irish flavor
As the meeting was so close to St. Patrick's Day, it was appropriate that the entertainment would have an Irish flavor. Miss Bella-Maye Rozelle sang "Believe Me, If All Those Endering Young Charms", and pleased all with "The Bells of St. Mary's" as an encore when heartily applauded.

Miss Karen O'Rourke, with her mother as accompanist, delighted all with several Irish tunes — reels, jigs, etc. on the violin. She has won many prizes and awards for her wonderful talent and certainly is worthy of them all.

Mrs. McIntyre gave a couple of good readings.

Lively tunes
Mr. Fountain also brought along his violin and delighted the toe-tapping folk with his lively tunes. Joe Fuller also played the violin and showed that neither youth nor middle age have all the talent as he "sawed off" favorite old-time tunes, too.

Mrs. Mann was convener and M.C. for the lovely program. Mrs. Shoemaker and Mrs. DeVries have March birthdays and were saluted with the Happy Birthday song.
A delicious lunch was served by Mrs. Mason and her committee to conclude a very happy evening.

Vice-principals Acton schools

At a meeting of the Halton County Board of Education Thursday the board:

—Announced the name of the new school in the Orchard Park Subdivision in Burlington would be known as the Dr. Charles Best School.

—Learned vice-principal Ron Doll will move from Mohawk elementary school to Martin St. School in Milton. Dave Ballantine will leave his post as vice-principal at Martin St. to move to M. Z. Bennett in Acton and Mrs. Barbara Rennie will be vice-principal at Robert Little School in Acton while Mrs. Irma Coulson has been appointed vice-principal at J. M. Denyes in Milton.

(The M.Z. Bennett school has not had sufficient enrolment to have a vice-principal until now.)

—Appointed Mrs. Roberta Herensberger to Brookville Public School, Miss Janice Redough to Brookville School and Mrs. Karen Hoogendoorn to Fairview Public School.

—Accepted resignations from Mrs. Marlene Bauman from

Kilbride Public School; Mrs. D. Renaud from Brookville School; Mrs. Carole Peddle from P.W. Merry Public School; Mrs. Jo-Anne Tregunno from Kilbride Public School and Mrs. Ruth Green from J. M. Denyes. Mrs. Elizabeth Urquhart was granted maternally leave from Martin St. School.

Easter prizes at L.O.L. euchre

Winners of L.O.L. euchre Saturday April 1:

Ladies' high Debbie Dewar 138, ladies' low Irene Sanders; men's high Albert Pemberton 124, men's low, M. Fountain.

One hands, a three way tie of six each was won by Albert Pemberton.

Door prize went to May Swackhammer. Acton I.G.A. provided Easter novelties for high prizes. Rudolph's Bakery for door prize of Easter festive log cake.

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Bronze medalist

A very keen young skater, Kevin Parker, 10, placed third in the juvenile division at the Ontario spring championships in North Bay on the weekend. This is his first entry in competition like this, and he was the only entrant—of 401 skaters—from this area.

With him in North Bay for the competitions were his parents, Mr. and Mrs. E. Parker, R.R. 1, Campbellville, and his skating pro, Wilf Pocco. Kevin used to skate with the Acton Figure Skating Club but is now with the Guelph club.

He received a bronze medal for his third place win in free skating. There were competitors from the U.S. as well as Canada.

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