

Life is not hopeless handicapped prove

The doctor's office has a seemingly endless flight of stairs leading to the examination room. Washroom cubicles are too narrow for a wheelchair to enter. Streets have high curbs, and fast cars.

All these things, and many more, are taken for granted by most people. However, for the physically handicapped, every day is a challenge with this type of obstacle to overcome.

Acton and Georgetown have many such people, who through the hard work of a few local people, are coming out and enjoying themselves with others with the same, or similar problems. Friends-In-Deed was formed by these people, most of them with handicaps themselves.

Mrs. Emily Price, of Acton, an arthritic patient is one of the hard workers involved in this group.

Growing pains
As a young girl living in Georgetown, Mrs. Price often complained to her mother about pains in her joints. "Growing pains" was the quick answer, which immediately closed the conversation.

However, years passed, and the child's pains grew to be adult pains. Her joints became swollen, and the pain was constantly with her. Life started looking grey to Mrs. Price. She married and had children, but felt she had become a burden on them.

Deep depression eventually set in, as well as confusion. For a while she was in and out of hospitals in Guelph, but her depression was mounting.

It was through doctors Mrs. Price started to receive help from the Canadian Arthritic Rheumatism Society (CARS) therapist.

Because of mounting tension with the depression and the constant pain, ulcers soon formed to add on to the problems. At one stage, Mrs. Price was in the hospital with bleeding ulcers and decided in one last desperate move to write to CARS in Kitchener.

Turning point
This proved to be the turning point in her life. The year was 1966, and Mrs. Price was at the lowest point in her life. As she waited each day for an answer to her letter, she was unaware it had been forwarded to Holbrook hospital in

Hamilton. She soon got word to be checked into the hospital for rehabilitation.

In the next two years she was in and out of the place. She could feel the depression slowly lifting as the people in the hospital told her to get used to the fact that she would be the rest of her life in a wheelchair. As she looked around she could see she was not as badly off as some people.

Mrs. Price was taught how to do her housework from the chair, and soon learned how to accept it. She slowly understood how to lead a happy life with her husband and family.

During her trips back and forth to the Hamilton hospital, her family was at her side giving the love, understanding and co-operation she needed.

In the spring of 1969, Mrs. Price was forced back into the hospital with a bad flare-up of arthritis. During this stay, she was given a spark of hope for walking again. The doctors told her of a new operation to stop the pain. It was a major operation and required many months of hospitalization and rehabilitation.

She had until the fall to make her decision as the woman would be put through months of tests and therapy.

During the months Mrs. Price was at home making the decision which could change her life, she always dreamed she was walking. She never saw herself in the wheelchair. "I think this is what made me decide to go through with the surgery, for I felt if I wasn't to be any better, at least I couldn't be any worse."

Mrs. Price and her family decided to go ahead with the operation. "At least that terrible, terrible pain would be gone, and I had already resigned myself to the fact that if I had to spend the rest of my life in a wheelchair, I would do it cheerfully."

The surgery was a success, and a once wheelchair patient came home walking. It took a lot of willpower, strength, and determination, but Mrs. Price was walking. The average person usually took a year to be walking, which she feels kept her working all the harder. She was able to be out of the hospital in five months. Her family and friends

helped her more than she could ever express. "Without the help and co-operation of everyone, I couldn't have done it on my own."

Mrs. Price would like all other handicapped people to see that even though ten years ago, she did not have the will to live, she now has found her niche in the world, and has overcome not only most of her physical handicaps, but also the great depression which seemed to envelop her into thinking there was nothing to live for.

"It takes a lot of co-operation from everyone, especially families, to try to understand the problems and difficulties we have to face, for they have to face them too."

In the last five years, Mrs. Price has been able to go camping and on a bus trip to the East coast. This month they leave for three weeks on the west coast.

She is secretary-treasurer to the Friends-In-Deed group, for the physically handicapped and is always recruiting new members. Her love of life is genuine, as she knows what it is like not to care for it.

She still needs her canes, and frequently uses the wheelchair, but Mrs. Price is able to walk. Her kitchen is made so the counters and cupboards are within her reach. She does housework and plays with her grandchildren.

"There is hope for the physically handicapped," is the message she would like to convey to all those who feel they are alone in the world. There is always someone in worse shape than you are—you just have to get out of your shell and find these people.

Her depressions are gone, although she still has her ulcers. Her arthritis is dying out, and her pain is not as severe. Someday she will be without pain.

The main problem of the handicapped person is not what is wrong with them physically, it is the world around them. They are not able to go to a great many places as staircases are inevitable. "Most builders do not think of wheelchairs when they build fancy new buildings." To go to church means to sit in the aisle.

Washrooms forbid the husband or wife from helping his/her spouse, and cubicles



FINCUPS

Carrier of the week

BRENT HOLMES is carrier of the week. Brent goes to Robert Little school and is in grade seven. He enjoys motorcycles and delivers newspapers on Church St. and Willow South.

Offer tips summer barbecuing

Barbecue season is here and Halton Region Fire Prevention Committee has some tips on safe barbecuing.

Never dump coals in a garbage receptacle, as they may not be right out.

One final tip from the committee—don't try barbecuing on a very windy day.

Be sure you use a solid igniter or CSA-approved fire starter, says the Committee. Use proper barbecue fuel, never gasoline, lighter fluid or naphtha.

If the fire won't start or goes out, don't add barbecue lighter fuel—it could cause a flare-up and injure you.

Keep children away

The committee says it is dangerous to light a barbecue on an apartment balcony, in a garage or within 10 feet of any building. Also be sure children stay well back from the fire as a change in wind direction can send the flames toward them.

Once your barbecue is finished, either leave the hot coals in the barbecue to burn themselves out, or extinguish them thoroughly with water.

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HOLDING HANDS affectionately are Did and Emily Price. Mrs. Price, afflicted by arthritis for many years, now has a cheerful outlook and is a prime organizer of the new handicapped club.

Churchill

Church picnics illness news

Churchill Community Church Service was well attended on Sunday morning with the new time at 10:30. Rev. Walter Fosbury took for his sermon "For the Lord's House." The choir anthem was "Walking with God."

Picnic
Sunday School and congregation picnic was held on Sunday with a picnic lunch at the church after the service. Mr. Clarence Denny then gave transportation by bus to Kattlesnake Point Conservation Area west of Milton.

Supervisor Wally Ella and Mrs. Mike Cooper assisted by other young people, then gave the races, games, and relays. Around 40 attended.

After the sports several took walks through the woods on the trail paths to the look-

out point, which was interesting.

Personals
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Kerr and family attended Vermanton United Church anniversary at Thunderland when Mrs. Kerr's sister Miss Nancy Knox was guest speaker.

After the service the families met at her other sister's, Mr. and Mrs. Grant Down at Thunderland for dinner on Sunday, June 15.

In hospital
Friends and neighbors are sorry to hear that our correspondent Mrs. Fred MacArthur is a patient in Guelph General Hospital, with a heart condition. The doctors are planning on putting in a heart pacer. Her friends wish her the best of luck and a

speedy recovery and hope she will soon be home.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Kerr attended the banquet and dance reunion of the Junior farmer overseas delegates held last week in Guelph.

Slaying reward

The Ontario government is offering a \$5,000 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the person or persons involved in the slaying of four-year-old Cynthia Kathleen Williams of Hamilton.

The child's body was found in a shallow grave in Glanbrook Township on April 30.

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