

# Driven from fire, seven find shelter at new rest home here



Mrs. Georgina McGill

Seven of the 51 senior citizens driven from the fire Wednesday Jan. 7, at the Meadowcroft Place rest home in Guelph found shelter at the new Halton Hills Rest Home in the former Legion building in Acton.

Preparations for the opening of the rest home, slated for Feb. 1, had to be stepped up, Katherine Kelly, owner of the rest home, said. "I got a phone call from Jane Polishuk, social worker at the Guelph General,

Tuesday afternoon," Mrs. Kelly said. The conversation was brief, the social worker was really busy, Mrs. Kelly said. The hospital staff wanted to know how many residents Mrs. Kelly could handle. They had been taken to hospital by taxis and ambulances during the fire.

Left purse  
One of the first victims to be transferred from Guelph Hospital to Acton, was Lois McCullough who arrived Tuesday night. Mrs. McCullough, born in Guelph but who has spent most of her life in Chicago, escaped through a

window and took refuge with other victims in a home across the street from Meadowcroft. "I got my coat, and started back for my purse," she said. "But I smell smoke, and left it," she said.

"I'm very happy to be here," Mrs. McCullough said. "The meals are good, and I spent a good night," she said.

One of the oldest residents to be transferred to the new rest home following the Guelph fire was Miss Georgina McGill, 93, who arrived from Guelph General Hospital a day after the blaze.

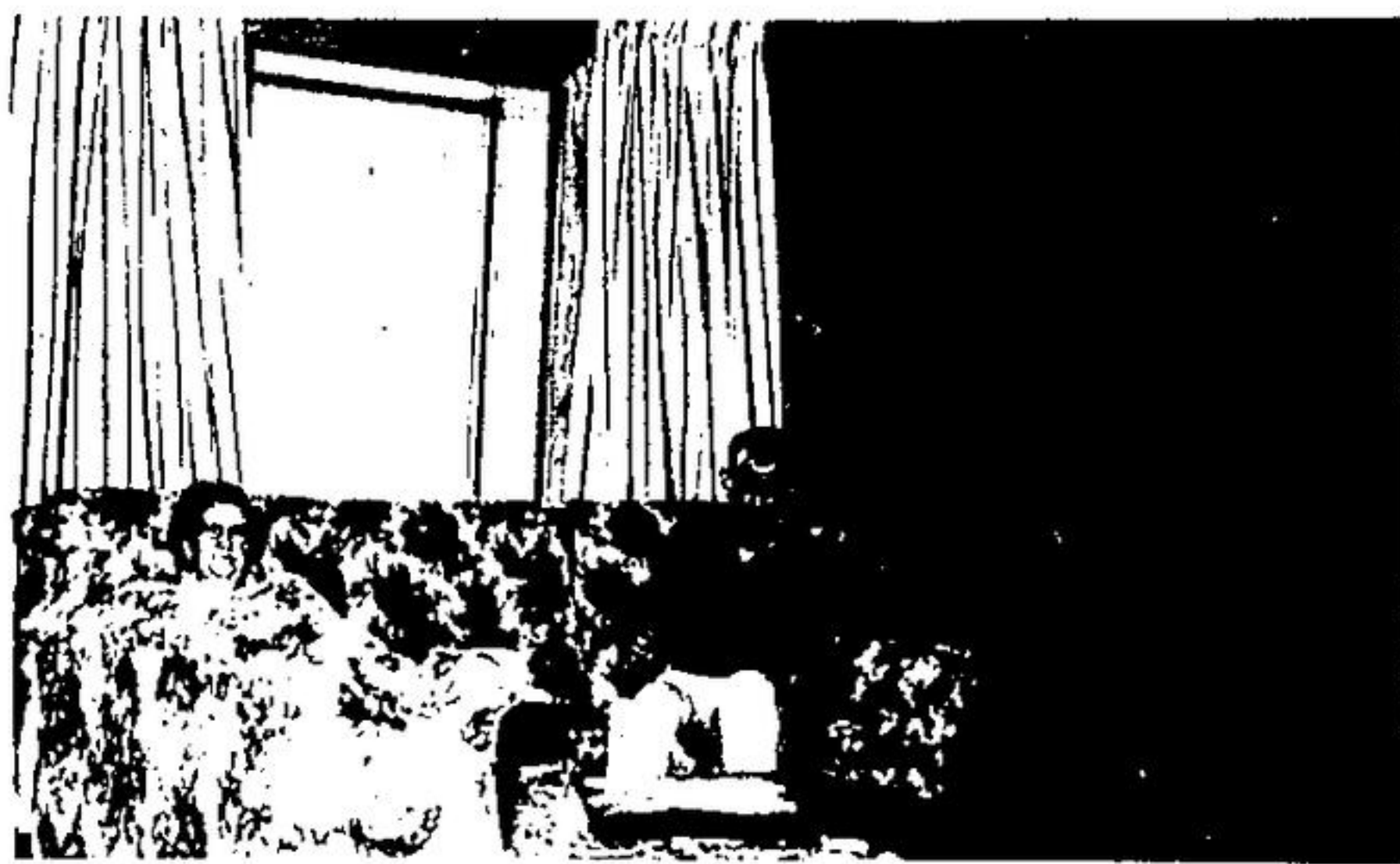
Rebuilding the interior of the building on Main Street has gone on for approximately eight months. Once word of the need for space to house fire victims reached Mrs. Kelly, the pace of work increased.

"We needed ten beds, and ten dressers plus bedding," Mrs. Kelly said. The staff worked nearly round the clock, she said. Mrs. Kelly's daughter Patsy pitched in too. "I was surprised how well a 14-year-old could handle elderly people in an emergency," one of the staff said.

The Halton Hills Rest Home features two floors of bedrooms, dining and recreation areas. The smoke detectors, housed in ceilings, are hooked into the fire alarm system. "There is not a thing you can look at or touch that has not been approved by Mr. (Mick) Holmes," Mrs. Kelly said. Mr. Holmes is fire chief.

No estimate on the cost of refurbishing the old legion building was available. "Now, since Halton Hills Rest Home is open, I hope present and future owners will come up to our high standards," Mrs. Kelly said.

Closed  
Mrs. Kelly closed the residence she had for patients on Mill Street west, but the future of the nursing home on Highway 25 is still open, she said. Pat Keir, a registered nursing assistant who worked at the nursing home and is now connected with the new rest home, said having the home in town gives some of the residents an opportunity to go out and shop.



SOME OF THE RESIDENTS in the new Halton Hills Rest Home sit in one of the first floor front rooms. The two-storey building features dining and recreation quarters, and a smoke detection system which is tied into the fire alarm system.



LOIS McCULLOUGH WAS one of the first residents to arrive at Halton Hills Rest Home after the fire which drove 51 senior citizens from a Guelph rest home. Mrs. McCullough, who managed to get a coat on during the early morning blaze, was unable to retrieve her purse.



THIS PHOTO SHOWS ONE of the upstairs bedrooms in the new Halton Hills Rest Home. Ten beds had to be brought into the home to accommodate victims of the fire last week which forced 51 residents of a rest home out of their Guelph building. Several were taken to hospitals and then transferred to rest homes. Mrs. Kelly's new rest home received seven people from Guelph.

## M.P., Halton Liberals want comment clarified

Like many of his colleagues Halton MP Dr. Frank Philbrook will be returning to Ottawa this month seeking clarification of Prime Minister Trudeau's holiday season remarks about free enterprise.

"Everyone is looking for more clarification of his statements. They were really pretty general statements," Dr. Philbrook observed.

He said he has always been in favor of free enterprise and believes the government is too.

"It must be remembered that most western countries no longer have a straight laissez-faire free enterprise system. We have a mixed economy consisting of big business, big labor unions and big government and I think the Prime Minister was just pointing that out. We will realistically have a mixed economy with us in the foreseeable future too," Dr. Philbrook explained.

Halton's MP says he thinks he knows what Trudeau was getting at in his year end message to the nation.

Dr. Philbrook says the mixed economy system works pretty well but only if there is a spirit of co-operation among the three partners.

"Essentially I think Trudeau was saying the three partners have a responsibility to work together for the good of all Canadians and they can't accomplish much in an atmosphere of conflict."

The Liberal caucus member says that while the anti-inflation program is expected to last two or three years and the government

hopes it will solve the problems of inflation Ottawa must look years beyond the anti-inflation program's end.

"Trudeau was asking Canadians what the government is to do after the anti-inflation program is over and especially what can be done if it fails," Dr. Philbrook suggested.

He says he has received mixed reactions to the Prime Minister's statements from both Halton Liberals and residents.

"Some understand what he was saying, some don't. Some believe he wasn't saying anything new and others feel he was talking about even more government control and don't like that idea. Still other people I have talked to were both for and against free enterprise."

Dr. Philbrook says Halton Liberals would like to see clarification of the same as he does and added Halton Liberals aren't too concerned about Trudeau's comments.

Some Liberal associations are upset and vocal about the Prime Minister's views on free enterprise.

"I have been in touch with the Prime Minister's office and they say there has been

some misinterpretation. Trudeau's comments shouldn't be interpreted as a threat to free enterprise."

"The government wants to make the free enterprise system work in Canada as best as possible and maintain balance between the three big powers in our mixed economy. The government is concerned that competition is kept alive," Dr. Philbrook said.

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