

Large crowd for care of dying meeting

At least one of the aims of a meeting called to discuss the care of the dying and their families was achieved by a film "The Last Days of Dying" shown in the Glen town hall.

Eva Sansom, one of the three women who organized the meeting, explained they hoped to stimulate the audience to investigate their personal feelings about death, and the touching, yet inspiring movie, did just that.

Mrs. Sansom, who along with Barb Stephens and Karen Ferguson, were the forces behind the evening's discussion, said other aims they hoped to achieve were the consideration of the special needs of people with life-threatening illness, and affect on their families; to introduce the group some available services designed to meet these needs and to encourage people to offer their support to patients, families, and friends.

The movie showing the palliative care unit at Royal Victoria Hospital, Montreal, illustrated the team effort of doctors, nurses, psychologists, social workers and volunteers to minister to the whole person, and their families as well as continued support after the bereavement.

In the movie, which left many a tear-stained face in the audience, the focus of the Montreal hospital palliative care unit was explained as focusing on the quality of remaining life, rather than on the dying.

At the conclusion of the film, Eva Sansom pointed out there was no false hope given, "just a lot of touching between people and a lot of caring and listening."

XI Epsilon Chi Plan breast clinic

by Peggy Johnson
The 10 members of Xi Epsilon Chi sorority, Acton, have been enjoying a very busy past few months.

September saw the group reuniting and getting to know one another at a pool party at Ken and Terry Grubbe's. We also scoured our homes for articles for the joint garage sale we held with Theta Phi.

The chapter was also an anonymous Santa this year, helping to make a family's Christmas a little nicer. Now the New Year is underway and this month will see us on a sleigh ride and formulating plans for a Breast Examination Clinic we're sponsoring this spring.

October and November passed with busy times at Preferential Teas, business meetings and a gourmet dinner with our husbands at the home of Lorne and Sally Smith.

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She introduced Helen Isaac, Coordinator Home Care Services for Halton. Mrs. Isaac said the central factor of hospice care is the family home, and the definition of palliative care is no longer to cure but to keep comfortable. She said palliative care has been part of home care since the service began in Halton in 1968.

She claimed the outlook in hospitals is changing, and pointed out last year 28 patients in Halton elected to stay home and die, while in the last six months 29 patients have made the same choice.

The Home Care Coordinator stressed the home situation must be assessed and said the family members must be willing to provide the extra support.



Eva Sansom speaks to the approximately 80 people who attended a discussion on care of the dying at Glen Hall, Thursday night.

She noted the Victoria Order of Nurses, Public Health Nurses, and the Homemaker service as well as help from the Cancer Society and Halton Helping Hands all combine to provide home care when necessary. "We function as a team and have regular team conferences with the

Grace Hospital Palliative Care Unit, defined palliative care as alleviating pain without curing. She said the patient must be between 20 and 75 and dying of cancer to enter the Grace Hospital unit where at present there are 22 patients.

She told the group the two bedroom units are the least successful in keeping the patient's spirits up but said the four bedroom ones work better.

She stated the volunteers are considered as important a part of the town as anyone else and said they keep non-medical charts on the likes and dislikes of the patients and of any information given to them so they pass them on the next volunteer and the

team. She stressed the importance of training the volunteers and said sometimes their information is "the last piece in the puzzle."

Larry Dickson, a volunteer in the palliative care unit at Grace Hospital, said sometimes he reads to a patient, sometimes he helps feed them, but above all he simply listens and chats.

He explained he notes down the discussions and writes in the volunteer's books how the patient reacted to him. He said he frequently talks to members of the family, who seem relieved to talk to someone.

Dickson admitted there are sad times, but said he found it a rewarding experience "which gives me a good feeling."

Council notes region concern about Cher's

Halton Hills council "received and noted" correspondence dealing with Halton Region's concern about conditions at Cher Rest Home on Main St. Monday night.

Last month regional council rejected a request from the operator of the rest home, Travina Chervorlak, for a purchase of service agreement. A purchase of service agreement enables rest homes to receive financial assistance from the region for housing and feeding some residents. Before the region will enter into a purchase of service agreement a facility must meet standards set by Halton.

A staff report indicated Cher Rest Home didn't meet the region's standards.

However, council went further and passed a motion calling for Halton Hills to be informed "of our concern about the conditions of Cher Rest Home, Acton, in that it has not complied with requests to protect the health and welfare of its occupants."

Monday Councillors Terry Grubbe and Dave Whiting presented a motion that the report and comments from the region be received and noted and that the region be informed that Halton Hills is considering a

bylaw which will regulate rest homes and makes reference to fire, building and hydro regulations and the public health act.

General committee last week deferred any decision on its proposed bylaw to give rest home operators a chance to look it over and make comments at next week's meeting.

Leathertown (Continued from page 1)
Grubbe said she wasn't aware of the leather history here when she moved to Acton, all she heard about was the smell. But the smell is good, it's healthy, she said, because when there is a tannery smell that means Acton's making money. The Leathertown project must reacquaint residents with the industry's heritage.

This year's Chamber directory will have a Leathertown theme and will include information about the industry's history and the science of tanning. Mrs. Fleming said. Both she and Grubbe thought there should be an emphasis on leather history in the local schools and possibly leather products could be used as prizes, like they are for Back to Acton Days poster and essay contests, for school competitions.

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The results of efforts by some busy quilters are two colorful quilts to be donated to the Halton Women's Place. Left to right: Dorothy Simmons, Elsie Reed and Truus Veldhuis worked on the quilts. It took them only a week to do both. They also work on many of the quilts for Trinity United Church.

Y challenged be alternative to government services

The YMCA faces the challenge of being an alternative for human services to government funded agencies in the 1980's.

That was the message Frank Savola, an official of the Metro Toronto Y, left with the crowd of about 20 people at the Murray Memorial YMCA annual meeting last Wednesday night.

He noted at one time the Y was the only organization offering human service programs, but over the years the various levels of government have stepped in and taken over much of the job the Y once handled. Also in the past 20 years, Savola said, many more people have become involved in their community and committed resources to helping the less fortunate.

The guest speaker viewed government involvement "in the provision of human services as a positive step, but also felt there has been a negative side. Savola observed far too many people are depending on government to do everything, that people and communities doing things for themselves is no longer a value held in high esteem. "We want all our problems legislated out of existence."

With government doing so much for people now some suggest the Y should disband.

Savola sees real hope



Guest speaker Frank Savola is welcomed to the Murray Memorial YMCA annual meeting by retiring chairman Keith Robbins.

This is a dangerous idea and the concept must be wiped out, Savola warned.

The Y's future role should be to provide human services alternatives to the bigger, government sponsored social service systems. By being small the Y has an advantage over government, it can respond quicker to community needs.

Savola said being a viable alternative is the Y's challenge for next two decades and "won't be easy."

Savola sees real hope

for meeting these challenges because Y's are starting to work together and share resources. Y's are bringing their strengths together, Savola observed, and this has demonstrated elsewhere that they can then be an effective alternative. "It is fundamental to our democratic system that there be alternatives."

The modern Y must be a partnership between the volunteers and staff. Savola said the day of staff simply following volunteer orders must end and both

groups must be "active partners, working hand in glove."

Savola sees real hope

Y programs on the rise

Murray Memorial YMCA said goodbye to 11 retiring directors at last Wednesday's annual meeting.

Peter Andrabi, Carol Clark, Jim Daley, David Hunter, Bill Mainprize, Chip Petrillo, Mona Petrillo, Dot Redekop, Sue Robbins, Art Tribe and Dave Whiting have all retired.

The 1981 board of directors consists of Ina Boyle, Lloyd Broostad, Gordon Chapman, Joyce Finley, Ken Grubbe, Doug Leys, Jack Melnen, Joan Phillips, Keith Robbins, Carl Rosenquist, Lynda Ruse, Wayne Ruse and Brian Weber.

In his report outgoing chairman Keith Robbins noted expansion of both facilities and programs continue to be a pressing Y need.

However, Robbins noted, while there isn't more space and squash courts some strides in achieving the goals has been made. The hiring of Eileen Dix as the Y's first part-time staffer has produced an increase in

programs even in the short time she has been on the job.

The growth of programs will put more pressure on already cramped facilities and the new board of directors will have to meet the expansion challenge which has the past two years remained elusive.

Robbins thanked Georgetown Y officials

Michael Brady and Joanna Dobbins for their help, adding he hoped the dialogue and co-operation begun with Georgetown will continue. He also thanked the Y's Men and Y's Menettes for their "vital support."

Treasurer Ken Grubbe's report showed the Y's revenues were a little larger than costs in

1980, \$1,497.43.

There was strong response to the programs in fall, winter and spring and 117 people were active members of the Y.

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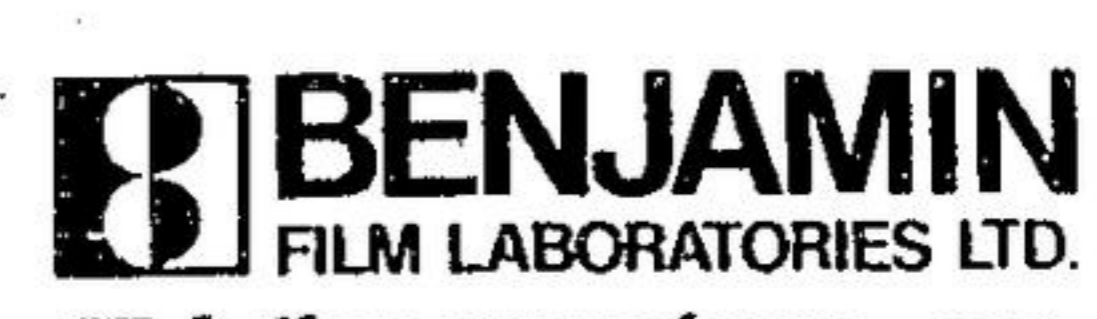
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