

Free Press

rockwood and district



George Elliott works at his rug hooking hobby at Eden House nursing home in Eden Mills.

In Eden Mills

Eden House is home to 33 happy people

It takes a special kind of person to work with the elderly so John and Gail Bouwmeester do their best to make sure the staff of Eden House are special people.

The staff of the 33 bed nursing home, just outside Eden Mills, is indeed special. After their regular shift they often volunteer to take the residents on special outings, most also become friends of the elderly residents.

On staff are registered nurses, registered nursing assistants, dietitians, nurses' aids, health care aids, housekeepers, cooks, an occupational therapist and an activity director. All work hard at making the residents feel at home.

Mr. Bouwmeester was pleased in June during Senior Citizens' Week, when it was also called Nursing Home Week. Most people do not know the difference between a nursing home and a rest home, and he felt the special week would help the public understand the differences.

There are many types of senior citizen accommodations. Firstly, Bouwmeester said, there is home care, where children and friends take care of them. A Victoria Order of Nurses employee will drop by every few days to assist in any way necessary.

He feels the next step is the senior citizen apartment for those who are able to live alone, but do not need the space of a house.

Those needing minimum care can be accommodated in a home for the aged. Bouwmeester pointed out he is not aware of any provincial regulations on this type of institution, but noted

there are strict municipal regulations.

Next, is the nursing home, the former social worker says. A step beyond this type of care is the rehabilitation hospital, and the chronic care hospital unit. An active treatment hospital is the last step in caring for the elderly of this country, he noted.

Mr. Bouwmeester is torn between his feelings about the government being involved. He said he doesn't think "they" should be involved, yet if they weren't one could move to various areas of the country and have different guide lines set down. If government was not involved, he said, there is always the home which would take advantage of costs, rules, care, etc.

"The competent operator understands the need for government regulations," he said.

The Bouwmeesters' decision to purchase Eden House was not a quick one he explains. His wife's parents, the Davidsons, originally owned the place, and Gail worked there as an RN. Bouwmeester started in 1975, after having been a social worker for the Ministry of Correctional Services and the Ministry of Health. When the Davidsons wanted to retire, they automatically looked towards their daughter and her husband to buy it.

Bouwmeester explains they were not immediately eager to devote their lives to it. He explained it is a 24 hour business, seven days a week, and they practically have to marry the job. After a year away, the couple decided they were willing to take on the task.

Bouwmeester emphasizes the most important aspect of a nursing home is that it is a home. There are no patients, only residents. It is a health care facility, licensed by the Ontario Ministry of Health, intended primarily for people who require 1 1/2 to 2 1/2 hours of nursing care each day, and medical supervision.

Residents are encouraged to look after their own banking, but are warned about keeping expensive jewellery in their care. Funds are placed in a trust account in the resident's name, and not signed over to the home. Residents' finances are audited annually by a public accountant to ensure no funds have been pilfered.

Nursing homes are big business, Mr. Bouwmeester says. Large corporations own many homes. He himself recommends smaller homes because of the home-like atmosphere. The larger the home, the more institutional it is going to be, he states.

With many smaller homes in the area, rather than one large one, residents are more likely to be able to stay close to home where family and friends are.

He noted however, that there are some good, large homes. He is not critical of them all.

George Elliott, one of the residents, noted "It's just like a club here, and we're all very happy."

He smiled as he continued his rug hooking, for which he has become very popular.

Rug hooking is not the only thing George is popular for. He is only one of the two men in a sea of 31 women, and he enjoys the attention he receives.

Death is inevitable in a nursing home, and the Bouwmeesters explain



Essie Rennie and Isabel Wilson enjoy the grounds at Eden House near Eden Mills.

Eden Mills

Area sick list includes three

by Mrs. G. MacDougall

Mr. and Mrs. Jack Archibald, Toronto, spent the weekend with Jack's sister and brother-in-law. Mr. and Mrs. Mansell Lowrie, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Rinehart attended a family gathering at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Jim Ruth of Hepworth.

Mr. and Mrs. Hugh MacPherson attended a family reunion on Sunday at the home of their daughter and son-in-law, Donna and Jim Walker of Hespeler.

Mrs. Jean Weale, a former resident, recently visited with Mr. and Mrs. H. Macpherson and the Gilbertson ladies.

Mrs. Roger MacDougall, Tara and Troy have returned from a week's vacation.

Sincere get well wishes are extended to Vince Montgomery who is a patient in Guelph General Hospital; to Mrs. Alma MacDonald, a patient in a Toronto hospital and to Mrs. J. Gilbertson who is spending a few days at her granddaughter's in Guelph, thus cancelling out an anticipated plane trip to Winnipeg to visit her granddaughter out there.

The Ball Club won their second O.R.S.A. game against Kent Bridge with a 3-1 score. In regular league at Brookville, they came out on top with a 5-3 score.

Jean Rinehart entertained friends at a 4.30 a.m. Royal Wedding breakfast, served while watching T.V. coverage of that special occasion on Wednesday.

A welcome to Mr. and Mrs. Munroe, and family, new residents of the subdivision.

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Don Legate on the arrival of a grandson, courtesy of daughter Debbie and son-in-law Bob Parsons of Acton.

Betty Francis and Jean Johnson were recent visitors with their mom, Mrs. W. McLean.

See story about Rockwood's star swimmer Alan Swanston on page B1



Staff of Eden House enjoy working with the senior citizens. Front row, Lynn McRae and Gail Bouwmeester and back row Sharon Brouwer and John Bouwmeester.

Ospringle

Teachers in class

by Doris Fines

July is the month when the tables are turned on school teachers, and they are the ones taking instructions. Anne Smith took a five week librarianship course at the University of Toronto, and Sandra Ferguson just finished a four week course in Special Education at Brock University, Hamilton.

George and Diane Zylawy spent a week in the Vancouver and Burnaby area. Mr. Zylawy was being interviewed for the position of Director of Planning and Development for the British Columbia Institute of Technology. As yet he hasn't heard what the response is, and is not sure what his decision would be, as he and his family like this area.

Mr. and Mrs. C.W. Armstrong of England visited for a week with Mr. and Mrs. Zylawy, Zachary and Adrian.

Mr. Armstrong is a Geological Consultant, and travels around the world on a week to week basis.

Mr. and Mrs. Gordon W. Leighton and sons Shawn and Michael of Markham, also spent the week-end with Mr. and Mrs. Zylawy and family.

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1 Brooke Shields - Martin Hewitt "ENDLESS LOVE" weekdays 7:00 & 9:25 - set sun from 2 p.m.

2 HELD OVER FOR A 5TH GREAT ACTION - SUSPENSE WEEK Harrison Ford in "RAIDERS OF THE LOST ARK" weekdays 7:00 & 9:25 - set sun from 2:00 p.m.

3 HELD OVER FOR A 2ND EXCITING WEEK "THE EMPIRE STRIKES BACK" weekdays 7:00 & 9:25 - set sun from 2 p.m.

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3 HELD OVER - 2ND WEEK! ONE OF THE BEST THINGS THAT EVER HAPPENED IS ABOUT TO HAPPEN AGAIN. "EMPIRE STRIKES BACK" MARK HAMILL HARRISON FORD CARRIE FISHER BILLY DEE WILLIAMS ANTHONY DANIELS DAILY 7:05 & 9:15 * MAT. SAT. & SUN. 2:00

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