

Halton Hills Make a Wish to aid stricken children

NHL official Bryan Lewis has received the assistance of Ken Bellamy, publisher of the Georgetown Independent and The Acton Free Press; Constable Rod Beaumont, safety officer of the Halton Hills Police Department, and Arend Roos, owner of Roos Travel, in Georgetown, to form a steering committee to organize a non-profit organization, called Make a Wish of Halton Hills.

Make a Wish of Halton Hills is a non-profit organization with one goal—to brighten the lives of children stricken with serious and life-threatening illnesses. It is done in a simple way. It tries to grant every child it can his or her single, special wish.

Questions and answers will tell you just how this organization works.

How can we start Make a Wish of Halton

Hills? During April of 1983, Bryan Lewis approached Publisher Ken Bellamy and Arend Roos to see if their companies could offer assistance in the formation of Make a Wish of Halton Hills, serving Georgetown and Acton. Once the organization's aims and goals were explained, they offered their valued and full support. Constable Rod Beaumont, and his close association with children was sought, and again he too, time permitting was willing to assist in the formation of Halton Hills Make a Wish. We could like to have a doctor, clergyman and a few other interested and willing people to complete a committee that would oversee the operation on Make a Wish. We will have officers, fund raisers, volunteers whose sole purpose will be to gather resources to begin granting wishes.

Does any other group do What Make a

Wish does? No other Halton Hills group we know of is dedicated solely to granting wishes for children with serious and life-threatening illnesses. What's more, the work that Make a Wish does is entirely voluntary. Virtually every penny we can muster is devoted to making children's wishes come true. Other than the cost of a child's wish, the only expenses foreseen at this time, is letterheads, envelopes and thank you cards. The efforts to put a wish into reality are all voluntarily.

Who does Make a Wish of Halton Hills help? Any child of Halton Hills, under 18, who has been diagnosed with a serious and life-threatening illness could have a wish granted by Make a Wish. The child's disease, condition, background and financial situation don't matter. All we require are the physician's and family's permis-

sion to help, and the resources to do so.

How do you go about granting a wish? We will start by creating a "bank" of resources; money; volunteer time and talent; empty seats on airplanes, accommodations at motels or resorts, and so forth. Virtually any type of contribution is useful. "Wish" children can be referred to us by almost anyone: doctors, friends or relatives, service agencies, families. A special committee reviews referrals, interviews potential wish recipients and tries to fulfill wishes as quickly and completely as possible.

What sort of wishes are granted? Most wishes will be simple ones, often involving trips away from the hospital. Similar groups have fulfilled wishes ranging from trips to Disneyland to a day on a farm, from tickets to a football or baseball game,

to a visit by a favourite athlete. We don't know what wishes will be asked to fulfill... but the fact is, most children's dreams are ones they could fulfill themselves, in time. These children simply can't wait. That is why we are so determined to make their special wishes, whatever they are—come true.

OTHER PERTINENT INFORMATION
1) We will co-operate completely with the doctor's wishes in fulfilling his young patients' dream.

2) We will try to submit press releases and other publicity materials so the donors and people involved get the recognition they deserve.

What sort of contributions are needed? Anything and everything. Time. Personal Help. Facilities. Equipment. Money.
(Continued on B7)



newsmakers

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Comfort part of a delegation to Britain on social issues

by Anne Redfearn

The women of Greenham Common live in almost primitive conditions, camping in rude shelters and cooking on open fires. But their vigil, an anti-nuclear demonstration which has continued for the past two years, goes on. Eldon Comfort observed on a recent trip to Great Britain.

Comfort and nine other church officials from several denominations across Canada had been invited to Great Britain by a group of church officials there to observe the churches' participation in areas of social concern. They were there for three weeks, and the highlight of the trip was a brief visit to the Women for Peace demonstration at the United States Air Force base at Greenham Common, near Newbury, about an hour's train ride west of London.

The delegation had gone there to present a banner from an anti-nuclear group in London, Ont. Comfort watched and took pictures while the women received the banner, climbed the fence to hang it up, and were hauled down by a couple of police officers.

"When they realized I was taking pictures, the police got mad at me and called me a communist and said a few other things," Comfort described. "Things are pretty polarized over there around the nuclear issue."

He described the existence of the protesters as "Troglodyte." "The protest has been going on for two years, and the whole action has become a rather ho-hum issue for most people over there," Comfort said. "But they still get support. On Easter Sunday they had 17,000 women protesting at the air force base."

Although the protesters rotate, many of the women Comfort saw had been camped there, living in crude shelters, throughout the winter.

The trip was an interesting one. During his stay in East London observing some pro-



Eldon Comfort has been very involved in the anti-nuclear campaign.

grams there, Comfort's room was broken into and his passport and airline ticket stolen. "Replacing the ticket was no problem, but there was a lot of confusion around the passport."

Churches in England were surprised that Canadian churches are so active in social issues, Comfort said. "The churches there, particularly the Anglican Church, are trying to go about things more diplomatically. They organize ratepayers groups to help improve housing in slum areas, and they provide meals to people in the inner cities who are unemployed, but if you ask the man on the street if he sees the church doing anything, he's say 'No'."

The churches are active in areas of poor housing, unemployment, racial unrest, Third World problems and in Community development, he said. "We saw some pretty grim things in the slum areas." In large cities, unemployment can run as high as 50 to 70 per cent, Comfort said. In areas where there are several ethnic groups living, the problems take on a different dimension. Riots complicate other everyday issues of health, housing, and employment.

Along with the drop-ins, free lunches and programs to ease racial tension, the churches also administer job training programs funded by the government and try to provide employment opportunities through church renovations and other activities, he added.

And, even in England, the churches fight apathy, particularly in the poor housing sectors. "In East London, the government owns 98 per cent of the housing, and a lot of it has become rundown and turned into a slum. People living there are apathetic and have low expectations of their living conditions. The church groups try to raise those expectations."

Comfort also spent some time in the Midlands, observing church program there.

About a year ago, English church officials had invited a delegation from Canadian churches to observe and provide an impartial report on church activities in Great Britain. Comfort received a call from the moderator of the United Church asking him to be one of the 10 members of the delegation, which included Anglican, Roman Catholic, and United churches. "At that time I refused, because I was planning to spend a year in Zimbabwe. When the Zimbabwe trip didn't materialize, I was asked to join the delegation as one of the 10 chosen had dropped out."

The visit will be reciprocated in the future, with a delegation of British officials from churches coming to Canada.



Erin glider pilots like wafting

One group besides gardeners and anglers who come out of hibernation each year at this time is the glider pilots, anxious for another season of soaring over Southern Ontario.

Glidern in this part of the country need dry fields, so that gliding activity can start again at clubs like the Erin Soaring Society.

Each weekend and holiday from April to November the Erin glider pilots tow their sailplanes up for practice and cross-country flights as well as instructional flights for new members and introductory flights for visitors. Some of the club members camp at the field on the weekends but many drive in for the day as it is usually less than an hour by car from where most members live.

A few pilots fly their own gliders but most use the club's single place or two seaters when their turn comes to fly. Club members also fly the tow plane to pull the gliders up for their flight. When the weather conditions are not good for gliding, there are other activities such as driving the tractor to cut the grass runway, maintaining the club house and flying equipment.

Glider flying is a fun way to fly; it is

relatively easy and inexpensive compared to powered flight. Club membership provides the training new members need to obtain their glider pilot's licence.

Glider flying also has its challenges; learning to control an aircraft in flight, then flying solo is an experience pilots always remember. Keeping a glider in the air by finding rising air currents can be a challenge because every day the weather conditions are different and the pilot must learn to find the lift or he will have to return to the field to land.

After experience is gained there are tasks the glider pilot may undertake to earn badge awards for height gain, duration and cross-country flights. The soaring season in Ontario is never long enough for a glider pilot to accomplish all the challenges of soaring flight.

At the end of the day's flying the club members return the gliders and the tow plane to the tie down area. Then there's time to relax.

The Erin Soaring Society is located on Amaranth Concession Road 6-7, west of Orangeville, about 10 km north of Highway 9. Members are there most weekends and holidays until November, and visitors are always welcome at Erin Soaring.



Dog days time for technology

Remember the good old days when summer camp meant pure recreation?

It's a sign of the times when the usual components of these programs are combined with high technology at a computer day school.

John Robson, librarian at George Kennedy School, Georgetown, is offering such a program for young people aged 9 to 15 at the Rockwood farm. There is also an evening course for adults.

The organizer claims computers are "very motivating" although demanding.

"They love it," he says of children's reactions to computers.

The key to the program offered each week from July 11 to August 26, is the individual attention participants receive. From novice to advanced calibre students, each will be tested and instructed at their level of knowledge.

A maximum of 10 students will be accepted into each class but as many as 20 participants will be part of the course each day. The other half day will be devoted to sports and crafts.

No transportation is provided to the camp, which costs \$75 a week, however Robson will help organize car pools.

The first of the adult programs which run from 7 to 9:30 p.m. Monday to Thursday, starts July 11. The fee is \$35 for two weeks of classes.

The initial course is an introduction to word processing and is ideal for adults getting back into the work force and requiring these skills, according to Robson. No previous experience is necessary, however, for either that or the other two adult courses.

For further information about the computer camps, Mr. Robson can be reached by calling 519-836-8007 or by writing to R.R. 4 Rockwood, N0B-2K0.

School may be out for the summer soon but that doesn't mean a child's education must stop. John Robson of Rockwood is offering a computer camp which combines crafts and sports with individualized computer instruction. Halton Board of Education is also in the act with two week computer courses this summer for grades 6, 7 and 8 students. John's dog Ebe sheds old dogs can learn new tricks and so can adults who enrol in the adult computer course he's offering.

Agricrew readies to assist local farmers

by Jane Muller

What consists of four people, costs about half the minimum wage per hour and will do anything from plucking chickens to haying and picking vegetables?

The answer is an Agricrew. A program sponsored by the Ministry of Agriculture and Food in conjunction with the Ontario Youth Secretariat, Agricrew is designed to assist local farmers during their busiest season.

The four member crews will do anything but use chainsaws, creosote or drive farm vehicles on public roads or work at second storey construction or higher. These four restrictions leave this group of laborers open to most tasks farmers require of temporary help.

Available from June 27 to Aug. 19, the Agricrew will work for one employer for a maximum of five days at a cost of \$80 per day.

"The program seems very popular. Last year we had to turn away some people," explained co-ordinator Judy Wilkinson.

Book Early

Responsible for crews in Halton and Peel, Miss Wilkinson said she already has jobs set up for August. She advises farmers who want to utilize a crew to book at least a week in advance.

"It is to the farmer's advantage to book early," she said.

There are three Agricrews available in Halton and Peel in this, the program's sixth season of operation. There was no lack of students applying for the jobs which ended up with about a 50/50 split between the

males and females.

The willingness of the students to work in agriculture makes the teams an asset to the farmers who hire them, according to Miss Wilkinson.

"Probably farmers are more confident because they are hired as a team to do farm work," she said.

General clean up and painting jobs are needed for rainy days when inside work is required to keep the Agricrews busy.

The local Agricrew is made up of Burlington residents Bruce Bowker, Paula Pirie, foreman John Fisher and Acton resident Shirley Murray.

The 20-year-old Agricrew co-ordinator said she was looking for enthusiasm, an ability to accept responsibility and work with a team in selecting Agricrew members. Experience with farm labor was also a requirement for candidates aged 16 to 24.

Town receives \$9,850 grant

The Town of Halton Hills has received \$9,850 in grants from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, under a program called Municipal Acton, '85.

The management systems grant will cover \$2,250 for computerized cemetery records, \$1,800 for a bylaw enforcement and licensing records system and \$5,800 for a works department data base.