

DISTRICT CHAPTERS OF BETA SIGMA PHI



ABOVE, presidents of the six chapters welcomed the new pledges. From left are, sitting, Judy Lawday, Zeta Alpha, Georgetown; Vivian

Petermann, Zeta Phi, Georgetown; Mary Newton, Xi Beta Upsilon, Brampton; Cynthia Partridge, Xi Delta

Beta, Georgetown; Carol Hynds, Epsilon Omega, Brampton; Ruth Booker,

Delta Xi, Brampton; and Gerry Bates, chairman of the co-ordinating committee.



(Photo by The Daily Times, Brampton)

SIX DISTRICT chapters of Beta Sigma Phi held an annual Preferential Tea to welcome new pledges at the

Brampton YMCA on Sunday, Oct. 23. Above, Susan Mooney of Georgetown, a member of the co-ordinating

committee, serves cake while Vivian Petermann, president of Georgetown's Zeta Phi, pours tea.

Core Of Basic Home Nursing Care Is Offered By Nurses Of The VON

Margaret McLeod heads a staff of seven nurses, which provides VON nursing care to Halton County. The amalgamation of the Oakville and Burlington VON branches took place at the beginning of 1973. Mrs. Irwin Noble, 17 Noble Court, and Mrs. Walter Blehn, 26 Queen St., are Georgetown representatives on the VON Board of Directors.

Mrs. McLeod talks with affection of the couple who are her next call. The car with the familiar Victorian Order of Nurses insignia on the door is obviously a welcome sight as it pulls into the Jones's driveway. Mrs. Jones (not her real name) has had two strokes, and has lost some of her will to take care of herself. Her husband is devoted to her; he prepares her meals and has arranged for a hair-dresser to call in regularly, but his strength doesn't allow him to assist his wife into the bathtub.

charge of the Oakville Branch of the VON, calls by twice a week to give Mrs. Jones a bath and check on her progress. "It's a real delight to see how the elderly take care of themselves," she says as she rings the bell.

The Joneses are only a part of her daily routine of house calls and administrative work. On her next visit she will give an injection to a patient with a long term heart problem, and review her medication to be certain that she is following the doctor's orders.

Then it's off to see a young mother who is making a slow recovery from extensive surgery. Mrs. McLeod will take her temperature, supervise the changing of her dressing and provide a little counselling. Young mothers with a housefull of children sometimes find it difficult to relax after coming home from hospital, and need a shoulder to lean on.

VON nurses all provide a core of basic home nursing care, usually at the request of the patient's doctor. They also assist in rehabilitation such as is necessary after a bad fracture, under the instruction of a physiotherapist.

Requests for calls often come from concerned relatives or friends. "In these cases we call on the patient, assess the situation, and if they don't have a family doctor or haven't had medical attention, we encourage them to seek it," says Mrs. McLeod. "People are apt to forget we're here; we're available to everyone in the community. There is a nominal fee for our service, but no one is refused because of inability to pay." A toll-free call to ZE-19230 will connect Georgetown and Acton residents with the Oakville office of the VON on a 24-hour basis. VON nurses are Registered nurses with public health training.

The VON also provides a Home Care Program for patients who are under active medical treatment at home.

This program is administered under the Halton Home Care Program in Oakville and northern Halton, and the Burlington Home Care Program in Burlington. It is not for the chronically ill, but provides active treatment towards the goal of a cure. A prerequisite for the Home Care Program is membership in OHIP.

The VON is celebrating its 75th anniversary this year. The Order was established in 1898, through the efforts of Lady Aberdeen, wife of the then Governor General of Canada, and the National Council of Women.

Even then, VON nurses showed their dedication by logging their way through the bush with a mule train to the Klondike. Four of them were dispatched by the newly formed Order to help in the medical care of miners who swarmed to the north in the gold rush of 1898.

UNIT PROGRESS FOR BED BUGS

Ashgrove Bed Bugs have now finished half of the present unit, Accessories for the Bedroom. The girls have learned the technique of corded bias piping, (used on a bedspread or cushion), lapped zipper insertion, (used on a pillow casing), and mitered corners, (used on a dresser scarf).

The members will now put these techniques to work when they complete either a bedspread or three smaller items choosing from: a pillow, chair pad and dresser scarf or waste basket, bulletin board, lamp shade and desk pad.

The highlight of the club's unit will come in early December when its Achievement Day is held. At that time, six different clubs will present their completed articles.

urs are the mode of travel now, and the uniforms have evolved over the years from the hobnailed boots and brown duck skirts, bloomers and gaiters of the Trail of '98, to the smart dark blue dresses of today.

Services too are constantly being updated and adapted to the needs of the particular community.

A new symbol was designed by Claude St. Antoine, of Touraine, Quebec, and came into use for this anniversary year. It is the shape of a house, with a V superimposed, and the letters VON below.

The VON in Canada serves from coast to coast in nine provinces and 84 branches with more than 800 nurses.

Ontario has 33 branches and a total of 412 nursing positions. Halton County is served by seven nurses, who provide a 24-hour, seven day a week emergency service.

The VON is a self-supporting and non-profit agency. Costs are covered by patient's fees; a grant from the United Appeal and in some cases the county, and from contract work done for the Department of Veteran's Affairs and the Workmen's Compensation Board.

Changes have naturally taken place since the Order was established 75 years ago, but

the nurses' interest in their work is still an intrinsic part of it. "We become very attached to our patients," says Mrs. McLeod. "The same nurse sees the patient regularly to provide as much continuity as possible."

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Make Grant To UNICEF

Countess of Strathmore Chapter, IOOE, October meeting was held at the home of Mrs. E. Wilson, Edith Street, Oct. 15.

Mrs. James Evans regent, presided and welcomed Mrs. Shirley Ballagh as a new member. Miss Jean Mackenzie reported about the bridge tournament and the members are selling Christmas cards and supplies. Mrs. R. Ballantine displayed a crib quilt made by one of the members and reported that a layette is being assembled to be sent north.

A wreath will be placed at the cenotaph on Remembrance Day and a donation has been made to UNICEF. Mrs. S. Penrice will host the November meeting and an auction sale will be held at this meeting.

A prize will be presented at the high school commencement by the chapter. Hostesses assisting Mrs. Wilson were Mrs. D. Charles, Mrs. K. Meers and Mrs. D. Lancaster.

Speaker for the evening, Kenneth A. Langdon, barrister, was introduced by Mrs. E. Forgrave. He spoke about the legal rights of women.

W. O. Mitchell Noted Author In Oakville

W. O. Mitchell, noted Canadian author of Who Has Seen The Wind, Jake and the Kid, The Kite, and other works, will be at the Central Library in Oakville on Nov. 8 at 8 p.m.

His latest novel is called Vanishing Point, a book about a teacher and an Indian agent on a reservation. Copies of Mitchell's work will be on sale in the library auditorium during the evening.

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