



JOYCE
BEATON

How do you see yourself at 80?

How do you see yourself as an old person? What age do you consider is old? Would you cringe at the thought of ever being referred to as a senior citizen? At what age are we old?

Old age creeps up on us. We notice it first in lack of physical strength. We become tired, not necessarily mental fatigue but rather losing the means of getting around easily.

Sometimes old people are victims of the limitations they put upon themselves. When they were younger they thought a nursing home or old-age home was a place you went to die. They put a ceiling on their lives. They remember how their parents were at their age or how a beloved uncle became senile and are sure they will do the same.

Will you be alone?

The first 40 years of our lives, we don't think much about growing old. When we do, our thoughts are very revealing. Some of us see ourselves as very lonely people sitting passively in our little rooms waiting to die. Others feel age releases some of the inhibitions and enables us to speak our minds freely—with nothing to lose.

I see myself with time for myself. Time to dream. Time to do what I want to do when I want to do it. Obviously a sign I must feel restricted now. I envision a time when I can flaunt convention, write what I want to when I want to. Age seems to be a lessening of responsibilities and a time of freedom.

Will you be free?

Then why don't old people feel free? Perhaps they are victimized by a society that expects them to act in a certain way. When they are no longer physically able to care for themselves we provide homes for them. We also provide the rules.

At a time in our lives when we need love and physical contact more than ever before we are deprived of it. If we don't have our families around us to kiss us, who will? If we are lonely who will hold us in their arms while we fall asleep? Why do we insist upon segregating the sexes because they become old? What business is it of ours to restrict sexual activity if that's what's needed?

Will you be busy?

Why do we insist people keep busy? Why do we consider it "sad" to see old people sitting doing nothing? With their busy days behind them, what's wrong with gazing out the window and reliving some of the happy times of long ago? What's wrong with pulling the pictures out of the album time and time again?

Is the word senility a convenient peg upon which to hand the nonconformity of the aged?

Old people are the completion of the 10-year-old child, the sophisticated young person and the established middle-aged. Their hearts still yearn and their feelings can still be hurt. In most cases it's just the body that wears out, but our mental condition can affect our physical.

Will you be bored?

Loneliness, boredom and depression can be the plague of old age. The time to prepare ourselves for this inevitable state is now. I don't mean financial preparation, but envisioning ourselves as old people.

I heard of a lady who was visited by a conscientious young curate inviting her to a weekly meeting at the church where "we have a number of elderly ladies meeting for prayer, talk and tea." Her reply was "No, thank you, I don't care for the company of elderly ladies, I prefer to associate with young people."

She was 86 at the time. Joyce Beaton's books "Alive and Well" (\$3) and "Now It's My Turn" (\$3.95) are available from Golden-Gold Publications, Box 134, Milton, Ontario and at the Book Shop and Kobo's Nook in Georgetown.



Three guest skaters at local ice carnival

Georgetown Figure Skating Club announced that "Guest Skaters" at the carnival "That's Entertainment" will be Kevin Parker - 1976 Novice Mens Champion of Canada and Kris Barber and Patricia Fletcher - 1976 Novice Dance Champions of Canada.

Kevin Parker won the Junior Mens Championship for Central Canadian Divisionals held at Guelph in January, 1977.

35th annual meeting held by craft group

The Arts and Crafts of Georgetown held its 35th annual meeting last week at the home of Betty Chamberlain. President Ruth Campin reviewed the years activities, which included the promotion of courses in silversmithing, caning and stitching.

Several members have attained personal success and recognition in their own field of creativity, among them Lotte Zonnenberg who designed and crafted the Mayoral chain of office.

The Slate of Officers for 1977 reads as follows: Because the Immediate Past President Dorothy Goodwin and her predecessor Helen ARG, have both moved away from the area, the position of Past President remains in abeyance.

Founders member-Mamie Moyer, President-Ruth Campin; First Vice-Jane

Jumar Dance Event and after having placed third in Sectionals and Divisionals will also be in Calgary this week competing in the Canadian Figure Skating Championships.

With a little bit of luck maybe Halton Hills residents will be able to catch a glimpse of them on television as the Championships are being televised if not, Kevin and Kris and Patricia will be here in Georgetown, Feb. 12 and 13 to entertain Halton Hills and area residents.

In the photo above Terri Lamb and Carol Snow practise for the carnival. Tickets for the event are selling fast, a club spokesman said.

Evans; Second Vice-Alice Watson; Recording Sec.-Audrey Deere; Corres. Sec.-Agnes Oliver; Treasurer-Dorothy Brantford; Social Convener-Bernice Fogal; Programme Con.-Alice Watson; Craft Con.-Pat Beer.

Following the meeting, the members enjoyed a social hour, with refreshments served by Jen Thompson, Ann Lidbury, June Evans and Margaret Bell.

Two Y directors return from Peru visit

Two Georgetown YM-YWCA board members returned from visiting YM-YWCAs in Lima, Peru, full of enthusiasm for a project planned there.

Bruce Duff and Tom Johnson of Georgetown, who returned home from the five day trip Jan. 11, will show slides and relate their experiences at the local Y's annual meeting Feb. 23.

They accompanied Y executives Al Whittle, of Guelph, Doug McEwan, of St. Catharines, and Marlon Creery, of Hamilton, on a military aircraft to South America to learn about the needs of their Peruvian counterparts.

A project, which Mr. Johnson described as "the most articulate document I've ever read," outlines a pyramid plan to help educate the many impoverished peasants.

Ghettos, composed of 30 families living in roofless bamboo huts or 10' x 10' adobe structures with access to one water faucet, are common sights, said Mr. Johnson, who said the majority are impoverished, illiterate peasants.

The 200-page report prepared by two sociologists explains the state of Lima and details the staff, money, time and material requirements necessary to improve the standard of living through educating unskilled labourers.

For example, the present treasurer of one of Peru's Ys was once a slum peasant who, through Y contacts and self-

help, now owns a travel agency, works as a stock broker and speaks four languages.

Another former ghetto resident educated himself through the Y and at the age of 35 owns a construction company and an elegant home attended by servants.

The Lima Y's project, in conjunction with Canadian Y's, is geared to duplicate these achievements on a large scale basis. Using the pyramid system, the educated will train the unskilled who in turn will teach others marketable trades.

To make this project successful, Canadian aid in the form of money and materials

is needed.

The Canadian International Development Association (CIDA) or government banks may arrange to transfer money to Lima since mail service is unreliable, said Mr. Johnson.

Another alternative is sending goods, since prices there are "inflated"; for example, Mr. Johnson said a pocket calculator bought at a Georgetown department store for \$10 is worth \$300 in South America. Similarly, a Dodge Van truck costing up to \$4,000 here is priced at \$10,000 there, he added.

Other supplies needed in Lima, located in a desert, include raw materials and

equipment for building and decent homes and wells. Lima is a crowded city with a few factories, surrounded by a large agricultural area.

While Canadian's pledge monetary support for the mass-training project slated to begin September 1977, Mr. Johnson said North Americans can also benefit by adopting some of the South American philosophies.

He found the attitude differences difficult to ver-

balize, but said the people in Peru emphasize a humanitarianism over making money.

"Knowing those people was a very moving experience which I'll never forget," said Mr. Johnson, who described them as "open and demonstrative." Although there is "a lot of corruption", people "accept each other" and "aren't afraid to show affection and emotion", he added.



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Cemetery group seeks Halton plot approvals

Toronto General Burying Grounds has approached regional council seeking legislation allowing it to purchase land in Halton for cemeteries.

Regional council last year delayed action on a request from the body seeking further information on why it sought Halton approval.

"Our preliminary studies indicate to us that current population growth combined with population projections for the relative short term will leave some communities without adequate cemetery and cremation facilities," General Manager H.F. Clark said in a letter tabled last week at administration committee.

Toronto General Burying Grounds is a non-profit organization established in 1825 and administered by a board of seven trustees for use by residents of Toronto and surrounding districts.

"There are no shareholders and all money received... is used for the administration, upkeep, development and perpetual care of the properties," Mr. Clark said.

The board administers nine facilities in Toronto, Scarborough, North York and Vaughan Township. Development is taking place for new properties in Brampton and Richmond Hill.

ANNUAL MEETING VON HALTON BRANCH

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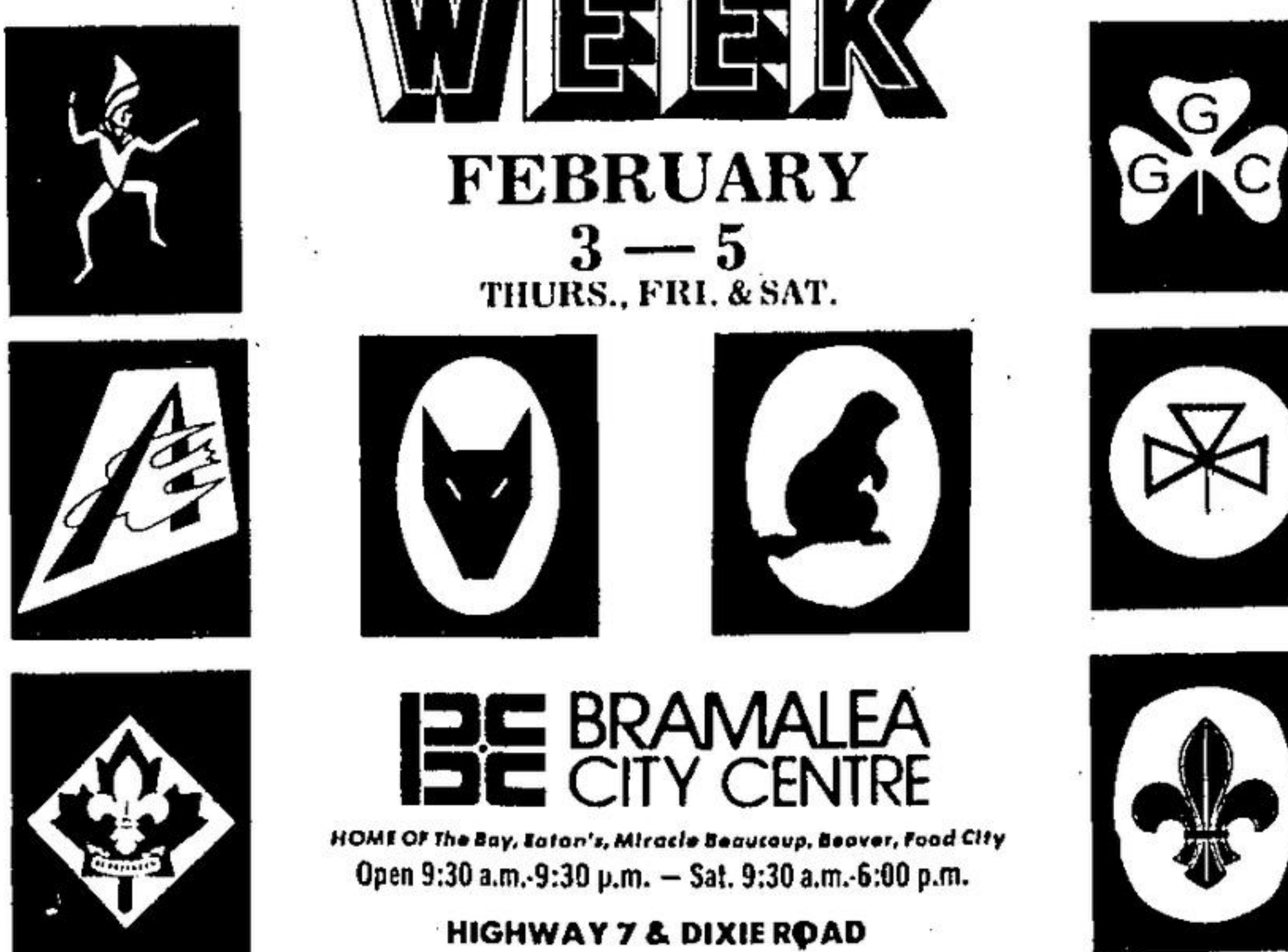
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