

**HALTON'S PEOPLE**

# Ex-teacher tackles 'men only' jobs

By **MAGGIE HANNAH**  
Herald staff writer  
Georgetown's Janet Duval is a woman who prides herself on tackling jobs and activities usually considered 'men-only' domains.

Mrs. Duval has already been a teacher, union executive member and is currently sitting on the board of governors for the University of Guelph.

Mrs. Duval has a long record of community work. She is fueled by a desire to re-pay a society she feels has treated her well.

"I really feel I should be doing as much community work as I can because I've been blessed with so much since the day I was born," she says. "I've been given so much — good schools, good hospitals, good community facilities that I owe it to the community to do everything I can to repay what's been given to me."

Mrs. Duval and her husband Paul, moved to Georgetown five years ago. At that point she was teaching Family Studies and some consumer education courses at Mayfield Secondary School north of Brampton.

Part of her family studies course include money management in higher grades and Mrs. Duval found many of her students needed training worse than she expected.

**FIRST THINGS**

"One of the first things I'd have them do was estimate the amount of money they'd need to live on once they left school," she says. "A surprising number of them would say if they had \$200 a month they'd be all set."

She found her students to have a very conservative background. All of them were bused to school and many of them came from farms.

"In the higher grades we'd do a role model of how they'd divide up the work in the home if they were working wives," she says. "They were terribly conservative in their outlook of what they'd ask their husbands to do. Maybe they'd get him to do maintenance and repairs or look after the lawn but they couldn't accept asking him to dust or dry dishes. I'd remind them that they supposedly worked as many hours a week as he did but they just couldn't conceive of asking him to do 'women's tasks'."

She left teaching before her son was born in 1977. While she was at the school however, she served as president of the local branch of the Ontario Secondary School Teachers Federation. During her term in office she had an all woman executive. It was quite a year, she laughs, and says how upset the school's principal was, the night of the nomination meeting when he saw what was happening.

"He jumped up and started nominating all the men who were sitting there in hopes some of them would accept the nomination," she laughs. "But none of them wanted it and we wound up with an all-women executive. He was a very nice fellow but one of the jock type who doesn't believe in women running things".

**TOTAL IGNORANCE**

The number of women who sit back in total ignorance of what's happening with their family financially because they leave their husbands to manage all business matters for them is surprising, Mrs. Duval says.

"I'm always hearing women say 'oh, I couldn't do that' when I suggest they tackle some sort of job in an organization," she says. "I know how nervous I was about some of the things I've done. I didn't know how to do many things when I first started, but I learned".



Janet Duval is a teacher by profession and a student by inclination. Mrs. Duval loves to tackle new projects because of all the things she learns in the process and says she

owes it to society to do all she can in the way of service work to repay all she has been given as she was growing up.

(Herald photo)

"When I volunteer to do something, I deliberately look for the things that aren't normally considered to be a woman's job," she says. "I learn so much more tackling new things".

She admits she also does it to try and stimulate other women's awareness of what women are capable of doing if they try.

"I don't feel aggressive," she says. "I agree that you can't change people by pushing. You have to change their way of thinking first. Until women feel free to tackle anything, legislation won't help us much."

Not doing the ordinary woman's job has landed Mrs. Duval with a number of unusual tasks, among them sitting on the finance committee of St. John's United Church board and writing the receipts for

income tax purposes for church supporters. She also edits the church newsletter and helped to organize a women's weekend at the church during which the women conducted the whole service.

"We even changed the words in the hymns to make them non-sexist," she says. "Have you ever stopped to realize how biased the Bible and the hymns are?"

**UNIVERSITY OF GUELPH**  
Mrs. Duval is also a member of the Board of Governors at the University of Guelph. She graduated with a Bachelor of Science from the university in 1971 then took her teaching training at the College of Education, University of Toronto the next year.

It was when she graduates that she was first asked to sit on the board as a representative for the alumni. She has held the position for two terms

Mrs. Duval says being on the board is a learning experience and she has enjoyed it.

Mrs. Duval is on the planning and property committee of the board but government freezes on grants for university expansion have made it almost a name-only type of committee. She is also on the board's membership committee and is helping to select her own replacement.

**WOMEN'S CLUB**

Mrs. Duval belongs to the University Women's Club and convened the cross country skiing group for the club this winter. She is also interested in Amnesty International and is part of a group from the club investigating the possibility of organizing such a group in Georgetown.

She also belongs to the club's sub group which is fighting for a "decent library" for Georgetown and supports the cultural centre since it seems the superior answer to the problem.

Mrs. Duval belongs to the Georgetown racquet club and plays squash three or four mornings a week. Her experiences at the club awakened her to just how much chauvinism still exists.

"I thought we were making fair strides with equality," she says, "until I ran into a few of the men at the club. They were very upset when women were allowed to join. I don't know what it was, if they thought they had a nice little male bastion over there, or what. After all, the membership voted to allow us to join so they must have wanted us. It was just a little group who were really upset to have us invading their club".

These same men tried to prevent the women from voting at meetings and went so far as to suggest that women should be charged an extra \$200 for the privilege of speaking at meetings.

"I really thought we were making strides until I met them," she says.

Mrs. Duval met her husband while they were both working at the Ontario Water Resources Commission in Toronto during the summer. He is also a graduate of the University of Guelph and now works for Carter Products in Mississauga. He was well aware of her outlook before they married. Mrs. Duval says although he wasn't raised with a particularly liberated background,

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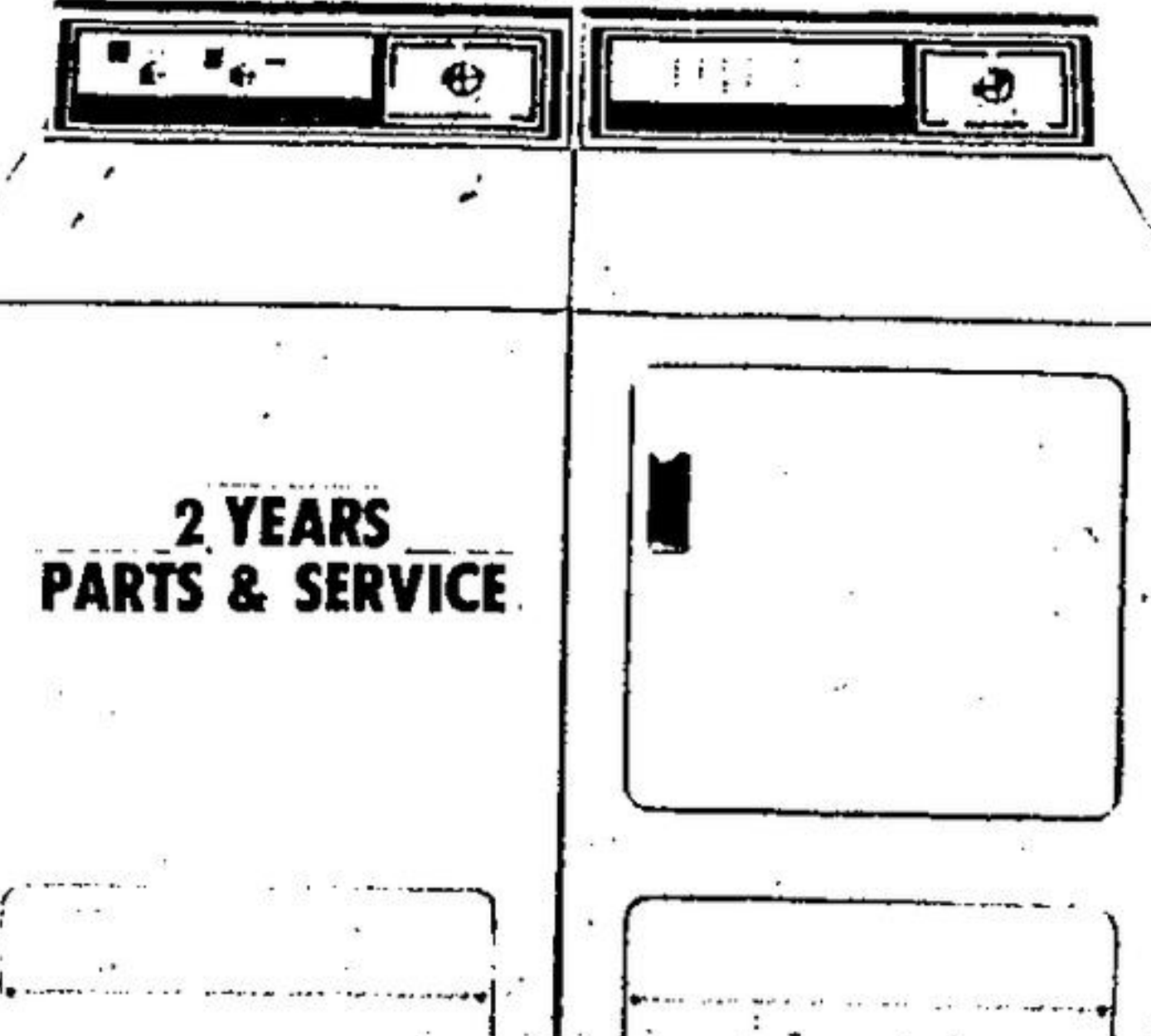
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