

# Meeting is set to discuss aid for 'Boat People'

By LORI TAYLOR  
Herald staff writer

The recently-formed Georgetown Boat People Committee is holding a public meeting July 18 for people interested in sponsoring Vietnamese refugees or providing assistance to sponsors.

The committee, will become the local chapter of Operation Lifeline, an organization working on behalf of the boat people. Committee co-ordinator Don Long said the response from the community thus far has been very good. Local

industries are coming forward with job openings, while individuals are donating clothing, furnishings and other necessary items to get a family of refugees settled in the area.

The meet is being held at Gordon Alcott Memorial Arena at 8 p.m. next Wednesday. Its purpose is to provide information on what is involved in sponsoring a family of refugees, how to go about applying, and what assistance people can provide if they are financially unable to afford to sponsor a family.

The federal government has already pledged to accept a certain number of refugees, and those arriving through the sponsorship of a Canadian family will be in addition to those arriving through the department of immigration.

**CAN'T SPONSOR**

Mr. Long pointed out that under the regulations of the department of immigration, an individual can't sponsor a family. Sponsorship must be carried out by a group of five people or a community organization. This is another service

the committee is hoping to provide to people interested in sponsorship; committee members hope to be able to put together groups of five to sponsor a family, through the interested people present at the meeting.

People interested in sponsoring a family must apply to the local office of the department of immigration, and it may take two to four weeks to process the application. However, Mr. Long said because of strong public reaction to the plight of the refugees, the

government is speeding up the process.

Immigration officials interview at least two of each group of five sponsors, Mr. Long said, primarily to establish whether or not the sponsors are financially able to carry out their commitment.

Sponsoring a Vietnamese family commits a sponsor to ensuring that the family has food, clothing and accommodations to get them through their first year in Canada, Mr. Long said, or until members of the family find a job. However many families make the adjustment in four to six months, he added. The sponsor has a moral obligation as well, to ensure that the family is adjusting well to life in Canada.

About 75 to 90 per cent of the refugees are ethnic Chinese, and about 80 per cent of the refugees don't speak any English. Howard McLean, acting as liaison officer with the department of immigration for the committee, said work is being done to set up intensive language courses to teach English to the refugees. In the meantime, the Chinese community is organizing a list of volunteers to act as interpreters.

clothing and food. Mr. Long emphasize that warm winter clothing in particular is needed.

"In terms of what Georgetown is doing, I think we compare favorably with the organizations across the province," Mr. Long said. He estimated that if Georgetown were to have the same ratio of refugees per thousand of population as that of the riding of St. Paul's in Toronto, where the movement started, there could be as many as 20 families setting in the Georgetown area.

**SAME SCALE**

"If you think of the size of the town, that's a substantial contribution," he said. "If every town was able to make a contribution on the same scale, we'd be a long way toward solving the problem."

One thing Mr. Long is hoping will come out of the public meeting is a person to act as a committee co-ordinator in Acton, where there has been little response as yet.

The committee is hoping to get the first of the applications filed in the next week or two, and if all goes ahead, the first refugee families will be arriving in town by November.



Al Gogan, Don Long and Howard McLean, members of the Georgetown Boat People committee, study some of the information they have received on sponsoring Vietnamese refugees. The members of the committee are operating as a branch of Operation Lifeline, an organization working to

encourage people to become involved in a sponsorship program. The Georgetown group is holding a public meeting next Wednesday at Gordon Alcott Memorial Arena to gather together the local residents who are interested in participating. (Herald photo)

## PUBLIC NOTICE

Trespassing complaints are being received by the police and Ontario Hydro in this area from property owners whose land is crossed by a Hydro transmission line.

The presence of a power line does not mean that the underlying property is owned by Ontario Hydro. Many power line corridors are not Hydro-owned, but are used under various forms of legal agreement.

Persons intending to enter on any property must have the permission of the owner before entering, or be liable to prosecution.



**BRAMPTON COLOUR & SOUND**

PRESENTS

**SOUND CHALET**

FEATURING COMPLETE STEREO LINES OF AKAI, TOSHIBA, & AIWA

COMPARE THE "SOUND" & "PRICE" IN OUR SOUND ROOM!

**13 NELSON ST W 453-4455**

16 years experience

**ON IMPORT AUTO REPAIR & SERVICE**

VISA **ANDY'S** VISA

**IMPORT AUTO SERVICE**

Glenview Plaza 71 Mountainview N. 877-1944

**SIDEWALK SALE**

3 Days of super bargain hunting  
Thurs. through Sat.,  
July 12, 13, 14.

The friendly place to shop  
**Shoppers World**  
Hwy. 10 at Steeles Ave., Brampton.

**SILVER'S**

**SUMMER CLEARANCE**

Men's Short Sleeve Summer Knit Shirts	Originally to \$17 <sup>00</sup>	<b>\$7<sup>99</sup></b>
Men's Pants	Originally to \$35 <sup>00</sup>	<b>\$19<sup>99</sup></b>
Arrow Kent Short Sleeve Dress Shirts	White, Beige & Powder Blue Reg. \$13 <sup>00</sup> Sizes 14 1/2-17	<b>\$9<sup>99</sup></b>
Ladies' SUMMER CLEARANCE Skirts Tops & Pants	Elan Coordinates Reg. to \$23 <sup>00</sup>	<b>\$15<sup>99</sup></b>
Blouses, Pants, Skirts, Sweaters & Dresses		<b>25 To 50% OFF</b>
CLEARANCE OF SUMMER STYLES Tender Tootsies		<b>\$7<sup>99</sup> - \$9<sup>99</sup></b>
Young Men's Cotton Poly Knit T-Shirts	Reg. \$14 <sup>00</sup>	<b>\$9<sup>99</sup></b>
Levi Hooded Terry Zippered Cardigans & Pullovers	Orig. \$18 <sup>00</sup> to \$20 <sup>00</sup>	<b>\$12<sup>99</sup></b>

**SILVER'S**  
DOWNTOWN GEORGETOWN