

Experience '80

The greening of the Credit Valley



Gladys Vinall, left, one of the original staff of Halton Helping Hands, the home support service in Halton, was the guest of honor Thursday evening at Kincourt. The party held in her honor was a method Helping Hands co-ordinator Barb Stephens, right, came up with to show Mrs. Vinall that her efforts are appreciated. The inscription on the cake says it all, Mrs. Stephens said. (Herald photo)

Halton Helping Hands

Gladys Vinall honored for lending a hand

Halton Helping Hands staff and clients gathered Thursday at Kincourt to honor Gladys Vinall for her work on behalf of the program.

Helping Hands co-ordinator Barb Stephens presented Mrs. Vinall with a plaque as a token of the appreciation which staff and clients feel for Mrs. Vinall's efforts. Mr. Vinall also received a plaque for his support of his wife.

Mrs. Stephens hastened to point out that Mrs. Vinall is not retiring from Helping Hands.

"This get-together is to honor her for six years of exemplary humanitarian service to the community through Helping Hands."

Helping Hands is a home support service providing assistance in the home to those who can't quite manage on their own. The organization originally started in south Halton, but the need for a similar program in the north

quickly became apparent, Mrs. Stephens said.

SIX YEARS A co-ordinator was hired for the north, and Mrs. Vinall was the first staff member to be hired. She has now been on the job for six years.

"A home support service is very hard to get going," Mrs. Stephens said. "You have to struggle through the funding, you have to struggle through the organization. We couldn't have made it without Gladys' help."

The fact that Mrs. Vinall doesn't drive has not proven to be a particular hindrance to her work for Helping Hands, Mrs. Stephens said. Whenever she can, she walks to her clients' homes, be they on the other side of town or in Acton. Where possible, her husband drives her to her clients' homes.

"People sometimes get the wrong impression about house

cleaning," Mrs. Stephens said. "You have to be a professional in home cleaning when you work with so many people. Gladys is a professional and she should be honored as one. I just thought it was time to recognize her efforts."

"Her personality, her smile, have given a lift to more people in this community than anyone I know."

"No one is doing this job for money," Mrs. Stephens said. "I'm not sure why Gladys has done it so long -- I'm just glad she has."

The get-together also provided an opportunity to recognize the efforts of other staff members of Helping Hands, who were presented with special pins.

"All our staff, in my opinion, are the most wonderful, dedicated, committed people you could have, and I would also like them to share in the honor," Mrs. Stephens said.

The Credit Valley Conservation Authority's (CVCA) Experience '80 is well underway in Georgetown. Work has already been completed on the erosion control project in Metcalfe Ravine. Students employed by Experience '80, a program funded by the provincial government, have planted trees along the slopes of the ravine to promote bank stability and prevent further erosion. The shrubs and small trees for the project are grown at the CVCA's Meadowvale nursery, and the work crews spend time at the nursery hoeing and watering the plants. Four students have been working on maintenance and improvement projects at the Terra Colta Conservation Area. Four other students have been working throughout

the watershed of the Credit River compiling information for environmental reports on water quality, and assisting in the enforcement of the Authority's Fill, Construction and Alteration to Waterways Regulations.

The Experience programs began in 1971 under the name of "Sweep"-Students Working for Environmental Enhancement Project.



These students are part of the Credit Valley Conservation Authority's Experience '80, a summer job program funded by the Ontario government. Mike Slagman, Greg Golden and Debbie Carlson are three of the students who have been planting trees in Metcalfe Ravine as part of a program to stop erosion in the ravine. About 1,500 trees have been planted in Metcalfe Ravine and along Fletcher's Creek in Brampton. (Herald photo)

Family counsellors deluged by workload

A \$12,000 study released to Halton region's health and social services committee last Tuesday says that despite their high quality service, the region's family counselling agencies cannot adequately handle the enormous caseload. Examining the primary, secondary and tertiary sources of aid which families and individuals turn to in times of distress, the 53-page report

says that the region is only getting about 60 per cent of what is generally considered a proper level of service in Ontario.

Of the three primary agencies handling family counselling -- the Oakville Family Service Bureau, the Burlington Counselling and Human Relations Institute (COHR) and the region's own family

counselling division -- the family counselling division is the major source of aid to distressed families in the Halton Hills area.

Families in crisis can also turn to the psychiatry outpatient clinics at the Joseph Brant and Oakville-Trafalgar hospitals and the North Halton Mental Health Clinic. Tertiary service is provided by school boards, police, crisis centres and an assortment of societies.

The study recommends the region scrap its own family counselling division and purchase services from one agency. Eighty per cent of the purchased services would be subsidized by the provincial government, an annual \$100,000 saving to the region until 1984.

The study has also recommended that the region establish a United Way program, claiming that its absence has put undue "pressures on the region for funding of family counselling services". The Oakville Family Service Bureau, described as the best in the region, is funded mainly by the United Way in that community.

Regional council is not expected to decide on the recommendations until September.

New girl guides await next season

There are 46 new Girl Guides in Georgetown following a Brownie fly-up June 17 at Harrison Public School.

From 2nd Georgetown East, Donna Blendell, Lisa Payne, Rona Yardley, Kathryn Marshall, Claire Preece, Lynn Shield, Jacqueline St. Pierre and Karen O'Brian flew up to Guides.

From 7th Georgetown East, Jennifer McLean, Sharon Pritchard, Teri Korzack, Anne McEwen, Catherine Lovely, Heather McNeil, Pamela Henwood, Darnelle Moore, and Vicki Waterworth became Guides.

From 8th Georgetown East, Jasmine Bhagwandeem, Sandra Gibbs, Jennifer Koning, Jennifer Macdonald, Anne Marie Peacock, Stefani Takahashi, Christine Wilson and Karen Butterworth flew up to Guides.

From 10th Georgetown East, Sarah Delroy, Amanda DeWinter, Michelle Dougall, Lee Ann Farrugia, Mary McVittie, Cheryl Poirier became Guides.

From 11th Georgetown East, Karen Lindberg, Lori Mara, Susan Lamb, Natalie

Andrews, Rosanne McGuinness, Laura Warren and Sharla Tibbits flew up.

From 13th Georgetown East, Kathy Dawson, Lesley Allen, Trina Wasylenko, Tracy Amos, Tracy May, Beverly Vaters and Krista Chapman became Guides.

Mrs. Marilyn Sannucks is the leader of the newly formed Guide Company. Anyone who is interested in being a leader of Girl Guides or Brownies is asked to call Mabel Mellish, district commissioner for Georgetown East, at 877-7749. Leaders are needed for September.

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