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Friday, March 27, 1981

Renewing the battle against one of Canada's biggest killers

Cancer campaign underway

April is Cancer Month in Halton Hills, and any public funds collected will aid a service in town which few people realize exists. The service-to-patient program is a vital part of the society's efforts to help ease the suffering of cancer victims.

Chairman of this year's service-to-patient program, Inez Sutherland, has been associated with the Cancer Society for a number of years; this is her first year as chairman of the service.

"The service is very important because it lets patients know the Cancer Society cares. It's a very rewarding feeling knowing that you can help them in any way," Mrs. Sutherland told The Herald recently.

The service provides cancer victims with the essential needs to help them overcome the stress and emotional torment the disease can cause.

Patients receive, free of charge, transportation to Toronto's Princess Margaret Hospital for treatment and special drugs needed to combat cancer.

Daffodils, like spring itself, represent a sense of hope and renewed life. It is this feeling which cancer society volunteers wish to express in their work. Georgetown and Acton will be blooming with beautiful bouquets of fresh daffodils Friday, April 3 and Saturday, April 4. As Halton Hills volunteers continue to raise funds for research projects, won't you please help us and buy a bouquet.

"The price of these drugs can be quite high. Some of the patients just couldn't afford them without our help," said Mrs. Sutherland. The Society also provides home housekeeping services and nurses for terminally ill patients where needed.

Mrs. Sutherland believes that the society provides much-needed emotional support, which sometimes is more important than the physical support provided through drugs.

"It's a relief to know you can phone the Society and someone will be there to

listen and - more importantly - understand," she commented.

Doctors usually refer a patient in need to the Cancer Society. There are some former cancer victims in the Society's ranks and they know well the torment which new patients are going through.

"It gives people a feeling that they're not in the boat alone," said Mrs. Sutherland.

The need for the service is becoming more important because cancer has almost reached epidemic proportions, according to Mrs. Sutherland.

She believes that education about and detection of cancer

are the most important steps that have to be taken to control the disease.

Because of this rapid increase in cancer-related diseases, the Society is in need of more volunteers to drive patients to hospitals and provide aid and comfort.

Mrs. Sutherland added that volunteers try not to get emotionally involved with the patients but do attempt to be as supportive as possible. Volunteers should be able to relate well to people and should have a good deal of empathy toward the patients.

The goal for this year's Cancer Society campaign in Halton Hills is \$45,000. Monies collected in Halton Hills will stay in the area and will be put back into action through the patient services and other aspects of the society. Service-to-patient services get about 18 cents of every dollar. Mrs. Sutherland commented that people who live in Halton Hills and give a contribution to the Cancer Society outside of the area are not helping fellow residents since the money does not directly benefit Halton Hills.

According to Mrs. Sutherland, there are about

80 patients affiliated with her services. She believes that a number of other people aren't aware of the service and she hopes to attract them. Mrs. Sutherland believes that the occasional patient will try to conceal their ailment because of pride and fright.

"But why let pride get in the way when your life is at stake?" she asked.

Mrs. Sutherland has found that patients who can talk about their condition are much more at ease and have a more positive outlook than some of those who try to keep their emotions bottled up.

She hopes that the Cancer Society can form a support group in the area to help patients cope. She believes that eliminating the fear of cancer is the most important priority.

Society volunteers currently make approximately 15 trips to Princess Margaret Hospital. Patients need only phone the society office and messages or requests will be relayed to drivers or other personnel.

"The best way to fight the disease is to have a positive outlook and have hope. But then, that applies to everything in life," said Mrs. Sutherland.



The Canadian Cancer Society is making plans for its annual April fund-raising campaign. Gathered to plot strategy recently were (front row, left to right) Carol Mann, Doris McNabb, Gwyn Ramsay, Verna Grozelle, Judy Pomeroy, Wendy Warren, Shellagh Finn, (back row, left to right) Betty Sue Phee, "Steamer" Emmerson, campaign chairman, Ellen Norton, Joe Stanley, Campaign finance chairman, Barbara Munro and Jean King.

Police play volleyball in new tourney

Volleyball players beware: the long arm of the law is reaching out to spike that ball back at you.

Charity-minded Halton regional policemen will take to the volleyball courts of E.C. Drury School in Milton April 10 for the first in what is hoped to be an annual series of fundraising tournaments in memory of Constable Al Reulens, a former Halton Halton Police Association president who died in January.

The Al Reulens Memorial Volleyball Tournament will bring together 12 teams made up of Halton regional officers, including a squad from Georgetown and Acton's popular "Dirty Dozen". While Sgt. Al McQueen, the force's public relations officer, acknowledged that the players are serious about their game, he guarantees there'll be plenty of entertainment for members of the public who turn out to watch the action.

Not only will the Canadian

Cancer Society benefit from donations from each individual player and from spectators - who will be canvassed in the school lobby - but Drury School will receive an Al Reulens Memorial Trophy for hosting the tournament, to be awarded to the school's athlete of the year annually.

Sgt. McQueen explained that the tournament will circulate among Halton schools and each year the force will donate a trophy to be awarded as the schools see fit. Constable Reulens' widow is expected to present Drury school officials with the first trophy during next month's tournament.

A highly-placed source in the force has advised The Herald that the tournament's champions will likely be the team made up of senior officers from Oakville headquarters; team spokesmen from other divisions are expected to dispute the prediction.

The tournament begins April 10 at 6 p.m. There's no admission charge.

BNA debate closure 'disgusts' MP McDermid

By DAN McMASTER

Herald Special
The Liberal party's decision last week to close debate on the constitutional talks has drawn angry criticism from Members of Parliament across Canada.

"I'm disappointed, disgusted and upset," says John McDermid, Brampton-Georgetown MP. "When you close debate on a law, which will dictate how Canada is governed for the next 100 years something is very wrong."

OPPOSITION
Mr. McDermid said there is strong opposition to the closure and, a "determined" fight to prevent the debate from ending, will be fought by himself and his colleagues.

"I haven't had the opportunity to speak yet," he said. "I'm hoping with public support the debate will remain open, but it's hard to say what will

happen." The prime minister in his "arrogant fashion can evoke closure and make life miserable for the rest of us," said Mr. McDermid. "This is his great obsession."

Concerning his own future as MP McDermid said he would not step down to make way for Premier Bill Davis, if the premier should decide to run federally, as predicted by Bob Callahan, Liberal candidate in Brampton in the provincial election.

CHANGES
"No such thoughts have entered my mind," said Mr. McDermid. "I'm enjoying my work immensely and plan to continue working and serving the people in this area."

Mr. McDermid is sure there will be some changes in the future, concerning the Brampton-Georgetown riding, clarifying rumors the riding will

split because of the "tremendous growth" in the area.

COMMISSION
Redistribution comes after each census which is taken this year and will come out in 1982," said Mr. McDermid. "A commission will be set-up to evaluate the situation and I'm sure some changes will occur."

The Brampton-Georgetown riding is the third largest in Canada, he said, and with the population growth something is bound to happen.

SPLIT
When asked what the results would be if the riding split on a north-south basis, he said "there is no way I could answer such a hypothetical question."

"I couldn't comment on such a question until the census is published and some indication given as to what was being planned," he said.

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