

SENIOR SCENES

By Morley and Laretta Mills
877-3915

Traditionally, June is the month of weddings. Have you ever wondered if the bride wore white for happiness, why the groom wore black?

Since its recent inauguration, the ActiVan service which is offering a measure of independence to frail or physically handicapped persons has not been used to its potential. Some of this may be due to lack of information. To book the service, call 853-1550 before 4 p.m. the previous day. It is not necessary to be on crutches or in a wheelchair to qualify. If you have difficulty in getting your doctor to sign your application, and feel you are eligible, have problems with reservations, need a companion to go with you, call Barb Stephens at 877-5920 (before 5 p.m.).

Again, the area served by the van is North Halton. The boundaries are the Ballinlad sideway from Crowson's Corners east to Winston Churchill Boulevard, south to Steeles Avenue, west by-passing Milton to the boundary road, then north again to Crowson's Corners.

Another service available to the frail elderly, and handicapped is the North Halton Helping Hands, a non-profit, community-based project providing household help. Their aim is to enable clients to remain independent in their own homes for as long as possible, thus preventing or delaying hospitalization or institutionalization. The service is subsidized and designed to assist anyone with a chronic disability who cannot afford to hire help privately.

A staff of six exemplary, hard-working, mature women are willing to go into the home up to three hours a day on a regular basis to do household chores. The aim is to give a minimum service and not to stifle initiative.

Clients may be referred by health and social service agencies, doctors, or self-referred. There is no set fee, but a voluntary contribution according to your means is expected. For information contact the Supervisor for North Halton Helping Hands Barb Stephens at 877-5920 (before 5 p.m.).

This summer, a grant from Student Manpower has enabled the organization to hire a Social Service Student, Jane Kennedy, a resident of Georgetown, who will soon graduate from Windsor University with a degree in Psychology and Social Welfare. Her work will be to organize a friendly visiting program, assess the clients' needs, recruit volunteers and match them one to one with their clients. She will be calling on anyone who would like a friendly visitor or would like to volunteer. Seniors helping seniors is ideal but there is a great deal of value in the young associating with the older.

The volunteer services may range anywhere from picking up and delivering a few groceries to doing some handy work around the house.

After June 2, Jane will have a special number, but until then for information call 877-4386 or 877-5920.

If your wife laughs at your jokes, it means either you have a good joke or a good wife.

Happiness is growing older IF:

We learn from yesterday, live for today, look to tomorrow and rest this afternoon.

This was a quote from "Good Ol' Charlie Brown" and doesn't it cover the situation? So often we are inclined to retire into "semi-invalidism", putting our lives away in storage and cotton wool, and demanding more care and attention than we possibly did in our childhood.

Lord Beaverbrook once said that "old age is a bloody bore" and so it can be if we don't stir ourselves and remember we are still people. After all, when election time comes around, the politicians remember. We still are able to vote, we could do so much for our country, never mind what ethnic group we belong to. Let's just be people, with one common language. Have a voice in who we want in Parliament, make them aware of what we would like to see in our small communities, and be willing to help work for it.

I live in a senior citizen's apartment, one of about 24. We have so many opportunities to do and participate in things. Many groups come along and help to relieve boredom. So what does it matter if they are not of our religious persuasion, groups of children singing gay or topical songs and hymns? To see their eager and happy faces, bake some cookies for them and watch them disappear! Just some little repayment for the break in the routine that their visit gives us.

Most of us have raised a family, and have the joy of watching these children of ours struggle to know what is best for their children. And isn't it lovely to be able to sit back and gloat when one of them repeats the doctrines and principles that we tried to instill into them? Remembering not to say "Oh, that's what I tried to teach you". It's worth all the struggle of years ago and what a lift it gives!

So today, you wake up, your arthritis is kicking up, your heart doesn't seem to be turning over in high gear the way it used to. Remember, tomorrow will be another day, and yesterday past. No matter what age you are, millions of people all over the world are coping with the same or worse situations. When asked how are you, just say "fine" - it might help someone else to think perhaps everything isn't that bad.

Think how much luckier we are than our parents were! All the free libraries, the universities offering free courses we could take to help keep our minds from atrophy. The thousands of senior citizens one sees touring in this and other countries. The museums, the special rates offered to us to attend concerts and movies, and so many other advantages - be thankful! My granddaughter can't wait to become a senior citizen!!

Don't sit and worry about death. Make your plans so that things will be simple for your family. Write your will and give your treasured bits and pieces to those you love and might enjoy keeping them. Let the rest go (who needs it?) and certainly you can't take it with you. Remember all the times you have loved bits and pieces, bric or brac; it's served its purpose, as have you.

Life has changed greatly. Families no longer live within reach of each other. The country has grown and they are needed elsewhere, but how wonderful to be able to look back and remember the family ties, the many times we all got together and caught up with family doings and accomplishments.

BUT, don't try to make your children and grandchildren feel guilty that this is no longer the custom. Go along with the times, be content and God Bless.

Submitted by Edith Hackett, age 78
Hyde Park Drive, Georgetown

'Love' campaign having desired effect

By ASTRA PAPE
Herald Staff Writer
As Georgetown draws to a close in its "I Love Georgetown" program, Charlie Kellington, the creator of the concept feels it's been a complete success.

Mr. Kellington, an advertising promoter and Georgetown resident, was approached last January by Lawrie Duggan, president of the Georgetown Area Ratepayers Association (GARA), to develop a campaign to promote the community. Mr. Kellington came up with the slogan "I Love Georgetown" and a program based on promoting pride in the community of Georgetown.

He submitted an outline to GARA that included proposals for awards, buttons, balloons and art exhibitions.

GARA in turn contacted the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce, which went along with the program wholeheartedly.

After thorough preparation in every aspect of the proposed campaign, organizers presented their ideas to town council April 21. Council endorsed them and the campaign was in full swing.

They planned the program around five basic areas: schools, youth groups, service groups, businesses and the residents themselves.

The schools, Mr. Kellington said, gave overwhelming support and have put their entire effort into the program. Youth groups in general haven't been slack in their attempts with various groups participating in

clean-up crews, he told The Herald.

The Chamber of Commerce produced placards proclaiming support for the "I Love Georgetown" program which local businesses could display in their windows.

Mr. Kellington credits the tremendous success of the campaign to the thorough detail and planning done at every stage. Organizers even trained the people who sold buttons door-to-door so they would be prepared for any question or response from the residents.

The button promotions have been a huge success. To date, there have been three major button sales. The first was the door-to-door "button blitz" that took place the first

weekend after the launching of the program April 25. The second was held at the Gordon Alcott Arena during the Halton Hills Library's White Hippo Sale and the last took place at Bang-o-rama.

Buttons proclaiming "I Love Georgetown" can be found all across Canada, Mr. Kellington said, since the committee has been keeping a close eye on sales. Just last week, the Newfoundland exchange students went back home with a button to remember Georgetown by. So far, 7,500 buttons have been sold and another 1,000 have been ordered.

Proceeds from the button sales have been used to clear all other costs but if there are any funds left over, they'll go towards the new library-cultural centre.

Once the program is over June 20, Mr. Kellington said, organizers hope to have distributed over 250 balloons to students from Grades 1 to 5, 600 scrolls to students and other residents and over 30 achievement awards to special groups. To receive any of the awards, recipients must have done something to promote the program by beautifying the community or participating in some aspect of the campaign.

As for the end result of this promotional blitz, Mr. Kellington feels that it has created an awareness in the community itself that was not readily apparent before. People are more concerned with Georgetown and feel more pride in the community.

"We have created a positive attitude for one whole

month," Mr. Kellington said, referring to the month of May, which had been proclaimed "I Love Georgetown" month.

Georgetown is also once again the forerunner, since Acton and Erin have shown interest in developing

programs of their own similar to the Georgetown campaign.

Mr. Kellington also feels that this is only the beginning for Georgetown. He hopes that with this renewed sense of pride and accomplishment in the community, it will

become that much easier to establish other programs designed to improve Georgetown in some way.

The "I Love Georgetown" program has laid the foundation for combined community effort in the future, he says.



Whether on or not you're already involved in any "I Love Georgetown" projects, you can show your support for the campaign by posting this symbol in a front window of your home. Organizers are hoping to get an indication of just how many citizens care about their community.

Cost-sharing study sorts out region sewers

By CHRIS AAGAARD
Herald Staff Writer

Stressing the importance of keeping the public better educated about Halton's sewer and water program, town councillors Monday night supported recommendations made in the region's joint new sewer and water study.

"One of our biggest problems," Coun. Harry Levy said, "is to promote the system we have and its many merits."

Regional chief administrative officer Dennis Perlin, at the meeting to introduce Halton's new business development director, assured councillors that a sub-committee on public awareness will be busy shortly finding ways to promote residents' understanding of regional government.

The special study, launched last December in the aftermath of a 25 per cent increase in Halton's sewer rates, explored other ways the regional government and its four area municipalities could share costs for the network of sewer and water mains running throughout the region.

However, the committee, comprising regional and area municipality representatives, as well as a Price-Waterhouse and Associates consultant, with few exceptions supported the present system by which Halton's residents pay basically the same sewer and water rates. Representatives from Burlington and Okaville have argued that the rates are kept "artificially" high in order to pay for sewer and water works in Halton Hills and Milton.

Recommendations made in the study point out that residents from one municipality may not like the idea of paying for new sewer and water

projects in another, expanding portion of the region.

One solution to the problem, already addressed in a recent report examining new servicing for rapidly growing Oakville, suggests that developers should initially put up the money for servicing their projects. While provincial subsidies would be used to help defer the developer's costs, new builders later hooking into developer-paid sewer and water systems would, in turn, pay the developer who installed the system in the first place.

Shortfalls in funding this servicing scheme would be made up by the benefitting town if the other three area municipalities refused to share any part of the costs.

The sewer and water study also insists that parts of the present system have to be streamlined, including combining permits for hooking into the regional sewer and water system under one document and clearly outlining the responsibilities of the individu-

al towns and the regional government in servicing matters.

Other options, which would see the area municipalities reassume a greater share of the servicing responsibility lost when regional government was implemented seven years ago, are ultimately too costly and too difficult to bring in now, the committee concludes. In some cases, personnel would have to be added or shifted as the towns regain control over their sewer and water works, and the provincial government has already indicated that it wants to keep the present regionalized system with a few changes.

Meanwhile, regional council is expected to discuss the study at this afternoon's (Wednesday's) meeting. The committee's report states that if regional council prefers to implement another system of collecting sewer and water revenue then it should be prepared for a more detailed look at the option it chooses before changes are made.

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- Shirley and Bob Austin, 2. Betty and Adriaan Van Oss, 3. Tanya Blatnick and Archie Dash.
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