

Jeanette Crimes heads transportation committee for Cancer Society

# Steering for a good cause

By ANI FEDERIAN  
Herald Staff Writer  
Retired men are the backbone of the Halton Hills

cancer unit's transportation committee, says the committee chairman.  
Jeanette Crimes says the



Jeanette Crimes does her business by phone. She's a volunteer with the Georgetown Cancer Society and spends lots of time on the line arranging appointments at the Princess Margaret Hospital and rides for Georgetown patients. She has 15 volunteer drivers willing to take cancer patients down free for treatment or check-ups.

(Herald photo)

majority of her 15 volunteer drivers are retired men. Since cancer doesn't pick a particular season in which to strike, finding drivers sometimes gets tight at this time of year when many drivers like to holiday in Florida.

Mrs. Crimes matches up volunteer drivers with cancer patients needing rides to Toronto's Princess Margaret Hospital, which specializes in cancer treatments.

"It's a great help for people who would have no other means of getting down there and for whom public transportation isn't convenient," she said.

Organizing rides for just over a year, Mrs. Crimes was herself a cancer patient four years ago. She says it isn't advisable for cancer patients to drive themselves to treatments.

"When I was taking treatment, I would drive down with my husband. One day it may not affect you, another day it might," she said. "If someone is feeling nauseous, they recommend taking Gravol, but it can make you very sleepy and they don't advise you to drive afterwards."

Drivers are paid \$19.50 a trip to cover their gas

expenses. The money comes from the local cancer drive, now underway.

"Former cancer patients make really good volunteers because they can relate more to the patients," Mrs. Crimes said. "Patients might ask, 'What's radiation?' and I can tell them how it affected me. I have some idea of what they're talking about at least."

Many of the volunteers have been affected by cancer, she said. If they haven't undergone treatment themselves, they've known someone who has.

Treatments at the hospital take two to three weeks and involve daily trips to Princess Margaret. If patients are very ill, they can stay overnight at the hospital lodge, but space is limited and restricted to those who live too far away to go home at night.

Following treatment, patients are required to go every six months for four years for check-ups. Then they only need to go once a year.

Working with the Princess Margaret staff, Mrs. Crimes tries to arrange appointments for Georgetown cancer patients for the same day and around the same time.

She said it's hard to tell how long one patient's appointment may take and other patients in the same trip may end up waiting several hours for an appointment to finish for the ride home.

"Luckily very few rides are cancelled because of the weather," Mrs. Crimes said. "Only once has that happened since I've been doing this."

If you'd like more information about the local cancer unit and Mrs. Crimes' transportation committee, phone 877-1124.

### Tag days and raffles

Fund-raising plans for three area groups were recently approved by town council. Halton Hills Jills Gymnastics Club will be selling lottery tickets on behalf of the Ontario Gymnastic Federation and the 756 Squadron of the Royal Air Cadets of Georgetown will hold tag days May 6, 7 and 8. Meanwhile, representatives of the "Help the Aged" organization (a group which contributed \$1,500 to ActiVan when it began operating last year) has been permitted to sell raffle tickets in the community.

### An Evening of Dance

Tickets are still available for "An Evening of Dance" featuring the Brian Foley Dance Company April 24 at 8 p.m. Call 653-5200 for information about the special presentation at Georgetown's John Elliott Theatre.

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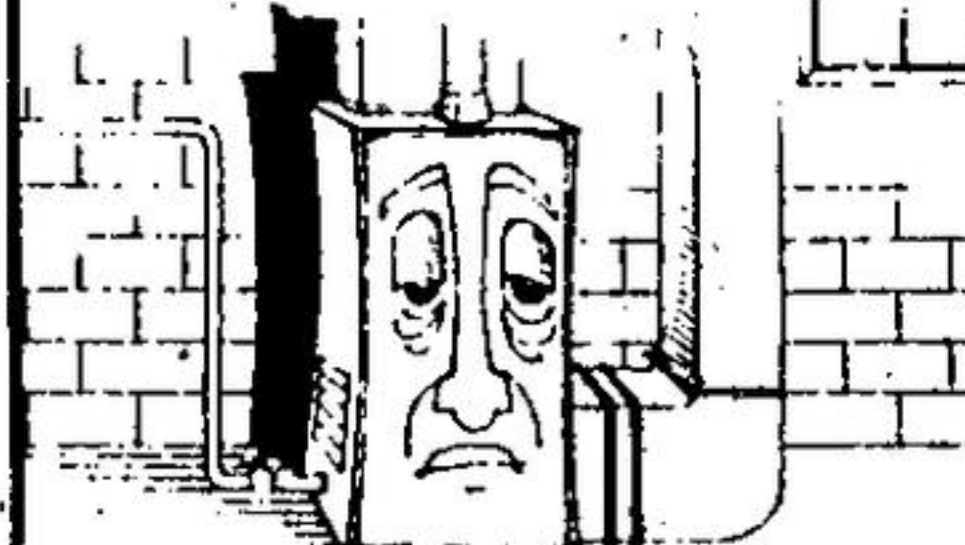
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### Any Yuletide spirit left?

The 1981 Christmas Seals campaign, which helps fund a wide variety of health care programs, fell \$6,000 short of its goal, chairman C.L. McFadden reported last week. The campaign closed March 31 with total contributions of \$119,073.10, an increase of 6.1 per cent over 1980. Donations help finance family asthma programs, smoking withdrawal clinics, pulmonary function testing and smoking and health education. For more information, contact the Halton Lung Association at 627-7973.

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