

SENIOR SCENES

By Morley and Lauretta Mills

877-3915
A LITTLE MIXED UP
By Oria M. Mills

Just a line to say I'm living
That I'm not among the dead
Though I'm getting more forgetful
And mixed up in my head.

For sometime, I can't remember
When I stand at the foot of the stair,
If I must go up for something,
Or I have just come down there.

And before the fridge so often
My poor mind's filled with doubt,
Have I just put the food away, or
Have I come to take it out?

And there are times when it is dark out,
With my night cap on my head,
I don't know if I'm retiring
Or just getting out of bed.

So, if it's my turn to write you
There's no need in getting sore,
I may think that I have written,
And don't want to be a bore.

So, remember, I do love you
And wish that you were here,
But now it's nearly mail time,
So I must say, "Goodbye dear."

There I stood beside the mail box,
With face so very red,
Instead of mailing you my letter,
I have opened it instead.

—Contributed by Peggy Douglas

At a recent joint meeting of the Halton long-term care committee and the seniors' information committee, Dr. Ann Martin-Matthews from the department of family studies, University of Guelph, was the guest speaker.

Her main interest lies in gerontology and since the aim of groups associated with Seniors is to maximize community supports to keep people out of institutions, she focussed her talk in this area.

For every person institutionalized, there are approximately two people living in the community in the same condition. Often it is social and economic factors, rather than health that are causing the elderly to move into an institution. As a result, the services already available must be supplemented and put into action in an attempt to keep more people in the community. Consequently, the focus is on families, neighbors or friends who provide total or partial support to an elderly person.

Many families provide and perform functions which no institution could do. Many need, but do not utilize, the home support services which are available in their community. Why? In research, recently conducted by Dr. Martin-Matthews in Guelph, it was found that sometimes the older person refused to co-operate. Often, there was reluctance on the part of the family to change the routine of the elderly. Sometimes, the cultural background of the family care-givers prevented them from asking for help. Often the family care-givers were embarrassed over the physical and/or mental state of the older member and wished to keep them from public view. Perhaps, the care-giving families should receive more counselling.

The speaker recognized the fact that there are many spouses, usually women who are providing care to a dependent or partly disabled partner. In Manitoba, a number of self-help groups have been established at which the care-giver can meet with others in similar situations and talk over their problems.

In the discussion which followed, Val O'Hara mentioned that Halton Helping Hands have volunteers who provide family relief both on a short and long term basis. To enquire about these services in this area call 873-1177.

Often care-givers in the home, who may be contemplating the placement of an aged family member in an institution, are ridden by guilt feelings. Val O'Hara informed those present, that the Centennial Manor hopes to start self-help groups to help alleviate this problem.

The Georgetown Library is providing three free programs in January, which may be of interest.

Bookbinding by Keith Felton Jan. 15, 10 a.m. to noon and 2 to 4 p.m.
Natural Therapy by Paula Whelan, Jan. 22, 10 a.m. to noon and 2 to 4 p.m.
Golf Clinic by Dave Kempstead, Jan. 29, 10 a.m. to noon.

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Falling tree narrowly misses car

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ly missed being completely crushed as a tree broke in half shortly before 7



Miles of downed hydro line, including large stretches in the open rural area of town, meant long hours of work following Tuesday's windstorm for the Halton Hills Hydro crews and two contracting firms called in to expedite repairs. K-Line Electric Ltd. of Toronto was checking lines along the Fifth Line south of Limehouse, one of the worst hit communities for electrical failures during the storm. K-Line employee Brian Burkholder used a "cherry picker" as he prepared to restore service on one out-of-service circuit. (Herald photo)

p.m. and fell across its path. The passengers in a Pontiac Acadian were trapped inside the vehicle briefly until Hydro crews arrived and determined that wires strung across the car were dead. About \$2,000 damage was done to the car, police say.

TWO MONTHS
It took a couple of hours to clear the fallen debris and repair the electrical system in the area, Mr. Trudell said. Ironically, shortly after hydro crews finished, another tree toppled nearby forcing clean-up operations to begin again.

While, service was restored as swiftly as possible to residents through temporary repairs, Mr. Trudell said it may take as long as two months for the Hydro crews to re-examine the damages and make permanent repairs.

Despite the inconvenience of having to do without power for upwards of several hours, he said most customers were very understanding. "Ninety per cent of the people have been just super," Mr. Trudell said. "They realize it's just an act of God. I'd like to say thanks to the people for being so considerate."

Local and regional public works crews were kept busy clearing deadfall from roads.

Ted Ballinger, the town's deputy engineer,

said that crews were cutting up wood from fallen limbs and trees, in some cases leaving the wood behind for neighborhood fireplaces.

A spokesman at the region's north public works headquarters in Milton said that their crews didn't have too much trouble clearing roads they are responsible for in the rural area.

Traffic lights at Mountainview Road and Guelph Street malfunctioned, although Mr. Ballinger said it was not known whether the failure was caused by the storm.

Oakville public works employees were called in to repair the damage (Oakville maintains the

town's traffic light system on a charge-back basis) but when they were unable to locate the problem set the lights to flash red for Mountainview traffic and amber for Guelph Street.

Guild Electric Ltd. of Willowdale was then called to correct the problem. Cable television service, which often runs along telephone poles, was also knocked out for many customers, even if they didn't lose their electrical service. Halton Cable Systems manager Jim McGee said that his crews were out all night Tuesday and four crews remained on duty Wednesday morning repairing damage.

Antennae, false alarms keep firefighters busy

Although damages were negligible, the Halton Hills fire department was kept busy during the height of the storm that hit the area last Tuesday night.

Most of the calls received by the Acton and Georgetown brigades came during a two-hour span beginning just before 5 p.m., although the last call of the evening came just after 10 p.m.

Damage in the incidents was relatively minor.

Fire crews were dispatched to one Rexway Drive, Georgetown, home when a TV antenna fell across some hydro lines.

In Acton, a suspected power surge may have set off the fire alarm system

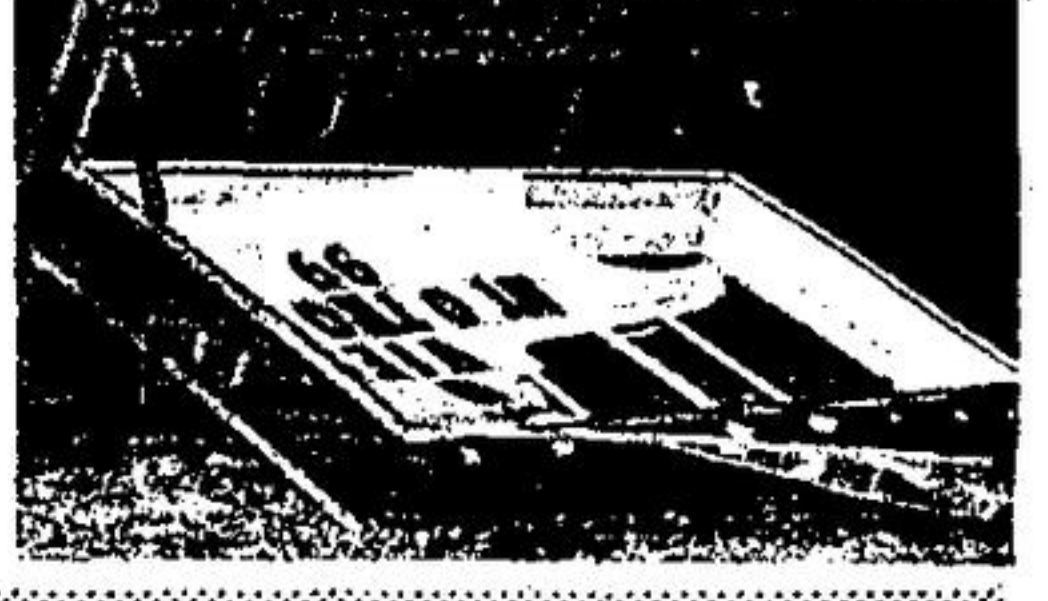
at the Olde Hilde House. There was also a false alarm which the fire department believes was storm related at a Mullen Place home and one case in which a fire alarm at 62 Park St. (one of the Silver Creek apartment towers) was maliciously triggered.

The fire department also helped out at the Mountainview Road incident where two people were trapped in their car by fallen power lines and was called when a McKenzie Drive, Georgetown, garage was blown over. Crews were also sent to check on an equestrian incinerator where clinders were being blown around.

On the Fifth Line just north of Highway 7, fire department crews were dispatched when a strong gust of wind toppled a construction trailer at a housing development (the former dragstrip property). There was some concern about gas leaking from the vehicle.

The Georgetown detachment of the Halton region police force reported that most of its calls for the Tuesday evening were related to the high winds. With the exception of the Mountainview Road incident, there were no serious mishaps.

Police received calls about the power failures and traffic light problems.



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