

# Volunteer seniors can play big role

The North Halton Volunteer Centre is looking for volunteers. In the past, this may have meant the housewife who may have a few hours to spare for the church group or the school. At this time, there are so many positions available in so many interesting agencies and organizations.

Volunteering now encompasses men and women, young and old. Children now learn about volunteering by helping in their schools or in positions such as Girl Guides helping with Brownies or Boy Scouts helping with Cubs. These are all volunteers.



**Volunteers - Canada's greatest natural resource**

Unfortunately, Canada is losing a great resource through the inactivity of many people over 60 years of age. Many of these people feel as if they have nothing to offer but actually have the most.

After 60 or more years of living, there is much to offer others. As a friendly visitor who may only sit and talk, many lives can be brightened. As a board member of a local organization, this person can offer many ideas and advise. Working with children or peers can also produce many happy faces. There are also many agencies and persons in need of someone to drive both locally and out of town.

The need for volunteers increases steadily and as the government cuts back their financial support to so many agencies and organizations, it is even more important to have as many people useful in the volunteer sector as possible. A life should not be wasted, no one is useless.

The North Halton Volunteer Centre will help you to discover a volunteer position which will enhance your life and help you to discover that rewarding feeling acquired by helping others. To learn more, call Carol Clark at 877-3219.

If you can lend a needed hand,  
Or someone's sorrow share,  
If you can show by word or deed  
You sympathise and care,  
Please do it now - for if you wait  
Another day could be too late.

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# Need for home care significant

Continued from Page 2 report, Dr. Cole estimated that under the proposed purchase of service arrangement with St. Elizabeth, the VON would still make 85 per cent of the home care visits in the region.

The province is currently advocating a chronic home care program in which residents requiring

lengthy care can remain at home. Home care is now provided by the region's own health department nurses or the VON, but even with the introduction of a second non-profit home care service, Dr. Cole's report projects that the VON will see a 50 per cent growth in "over all" visits next year and continuing growth the

year after.

Elderly residents are expected to be the greatest beneficiaries from increased home care service. Coupled with other services with which the region has agreements - homemaker agencies - a not seriously ill resident may be treated at home rather than in a hospital or senior citizens nursing home.

The philosophy behind home care, especially as it applies to seniors, is that patients may recover faster in their own surroundings, even to a point where they may no longer need home care, Dr. Cole said.

The province subsidizes the region's health and social services costs for programs and, in turn, Halton subsidizes the cost per home care visit (to a maximum of \$18.60 under the contract with the VON).

But, province-wide, the chronic home care scheme is expected to save provincial taxpayers money by freeing hospital beds for active treatment; or, where there are already enough beds to meet demands for active treatment, close unused

ones down.

Private home care operations, which provide various homemaking services in addition to nursing care, are vying for Halton's chronic home care business as well. There are several firms in Halton which might consider "purchase of

service agreements" with the region, Halton Hills Coun. Dave White told The Herald last week.

Coun. Whiting added that before the region seriously considers contracts with these profit-making organizations, it should have official home care standards in place.

# Terms set for complex

Consultants are being sought to help the town determine its administrative office needs for the future.

Terms of reference for the space needs study have been approved by council and advertisements will appear shortly to attract proposals.

The study, part of an ongoing process while council considers buying land for a new administrative headquarters, will estimate how much office

space the town will need as its administrative duties grow over the next 20 years - corresponding to the term of the new official plan.

One part of the study will look at the clerk's office on Trafalgar Road as a possible sight for an expanded public works department if the other departments move to a new building. Public works garages and offices are already located on the property.

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