

Along with life and social skills, mentally-handicapped clients at Arc Industries in Hornby learn job skills as well. While Arc would like to get into some primary manufacturing, facilities are now geared to putting products together for other firms. Rainmaker sprinklers by Lido Industrial Products Ltd. of Toronto is one product Arc reads for shipment. Mark Virus uses a drill press in one of the first steps in putting together a lawn sprinkler.



## Training for life aboard the 'Arc'

You may owe the greenness of your front lawn and the succulence of backyard tomatoes to a sprinkler put together by mentally-handicapped clients at Arc Industries in Hornby.

In the busy daily hum of the Steeles Avenue workshop, the Rainmaker, a top-seller for Lido Industrial Products Ltd. of Toronto is one of many things clients are fitting. Arc will celebrate its 20th anniversary next year—the first workshop opened in the home of Harry and Wyn Isham and served three adults at the time.

An expansion in 1980, the fourth since the workshop first opened, made room for about 49 adults, 44 of them are now in vocational training and five in the "adult development program" learning life and social skills.

"This is not just a sheltered workshop," Mark Menary, Arc's vocational director stressed in a recent interview. "We teach basic skills needed to function in any industrial setting. Clients learn attributes anyone would need in any workplace."

It's hoped that some of the clients at the workshop will learn enough to move into jobs alongside non-mentally-handicapped workers.

### PACED DEVELOPMENT

A peek around the workshop on any given day will see clients working at a variety of different projects. Some may be putting together sprinklers, others packaging screws, still others snapping special caps together for oil drums and canisters, and a couple of gentlemen restoring damaged lawn furniture.

But each member, Mr. Menary explained, is working at a job matched to his or her skill level. As training progresses, and the client learns more, he moves on to another, more complex task.

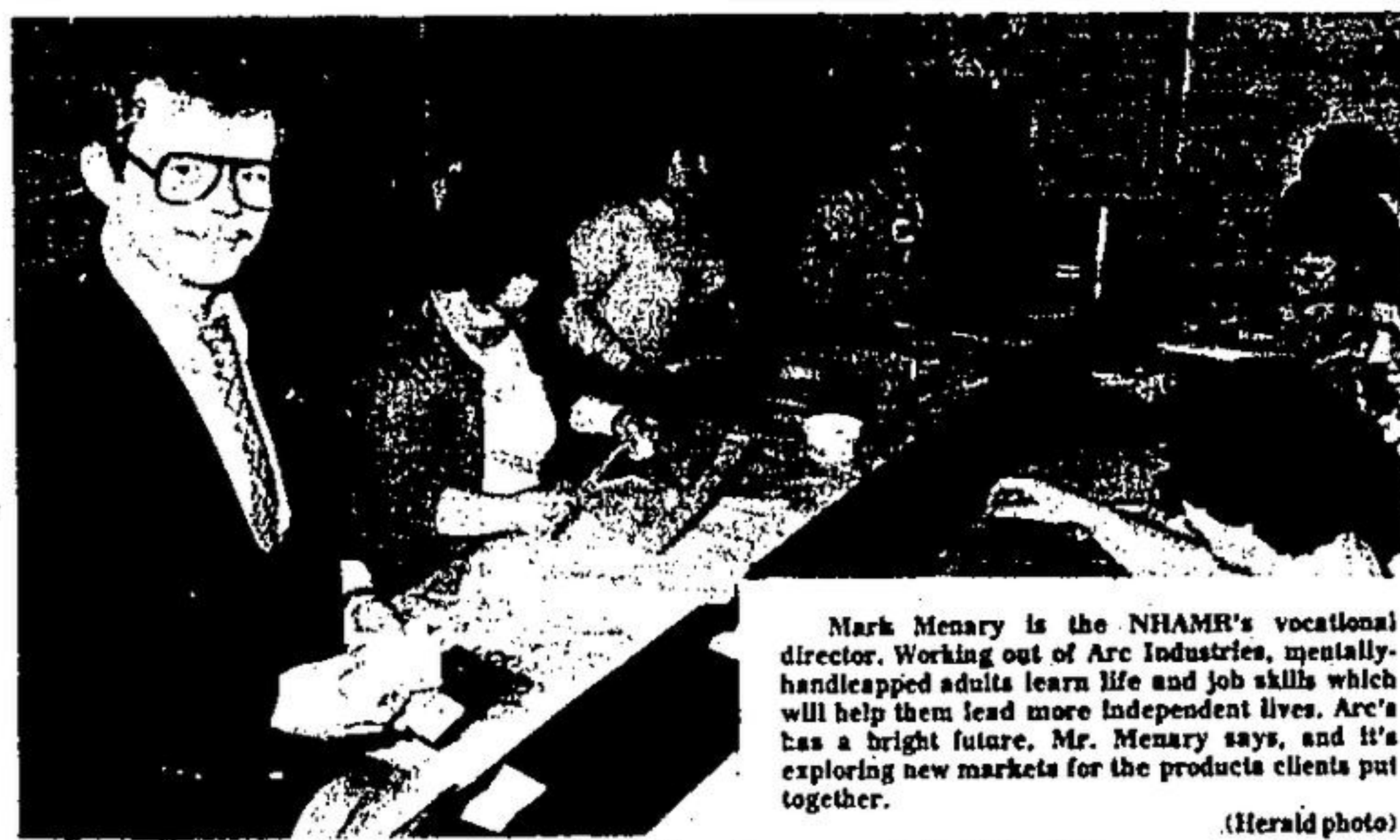
Clients may continue jumping from step to step until, over a period of time, it's determined that they are ready to leave the workshop for a job in the regular industrial world.

At this point, Mr. Menary said, "It takes a

lot more work" to make sure the client has the job and special skills down pat to cope on his own.

Those social skills are just as important at Arc Industries as the job skills, Mr. Menary said. Without good habits, cleanliness and good job attitude for example, "you can't run a production line."

Training clients at Arc, because there are so many integral areas to be looked after is like "handling six horses all at once," Mr. Menary joked, adding that Arc always pays attention to what each client's needs are.



## SUPPORT NHAMR FUND-RAISERS

Mark Menary is the NHAMR's vocational director. Working out of Arc Industries, mentally-handicapped adults learn life and job skills which will help them lead more independent lives. Arc's has a bright future, Mr. Menary says, and it's exploring new markets for the products clients put together.

# 'They're' us!

NHAMR clients

want to be part of community

By CHRIS AAGAARD Herald Staff Writer  
As president of the North Halton Association for the Mentally Retarded for about two and one-half years, Bert Arnold has reached a conclusion residents might keep in mind as the Association continues fund-raising in Halton Hills this week.

"It's not 'them' you're helping, it's 'us'," he told The Herald recently.

The mentally-handicapped have a right to, and can, participate in the community along with non-handicapped residents. That isn't to say they don't have special problems, which the Association is helping them cope with, Mr. Arnold said.

Looking at the volunteer support the Association receives from the community, Mr. Arnold, a Georgetown lawyer, is inclined to believe that others share his point of view.

"Community involvement in the Association is fantastic," he said. "Every time you turn around, people are involved in some aspect of it."

In addition to the volunteers who help with the Associations, life and job skills training and who work with youngsters at Tinker Bell nursery school in Milton, Association members are active on the Halton board of education and separate school board.

He presides over a board of directors who are all volunteers and not all of them have mentally-handicapped children. The board is the policy-making body of the Association, setting out a list of goals it wants to accomplish in a given year.

Those goals fall under the general mandate of the Association to "represent the interests of mentally retarded people and their families anywhere."

At Countryside, Mr. Arnold explained, mentally-handicapped adults learn skills which help them live more independent lives. They may even learn those skills well enough to live on their own.

But, in the rural area, Countryside is somewhat isolated from banks, shops, laundromats and other services which the mentally-handicapped need to know about and use.

SOCIALIZING  
Although Countryside residents make frequent trips into town, living in group homes in an urban area will allow them "every day" access to community services and they'll learn to socialize more with the community, he said.

Mr. Arnold stressed that the group home concept which the NHAMR envisions will be reviewed by the public. While the town's official plan allows group homes, by-laws are needed to have some planning control over them, like ensuring that they are spaced well apart from each other in a given area.

Studies have shown, Mr. Arnold said, that group homes for the mentally-handicapped are of less initial concern for neighboring residents than the initial response to other sorts of group homes.

Once group homes are in place and the neighbors have had a chance to get to know each other, the level of concern diminishes rapidly, Mr. Arnold said.

Initially, group homes for the mentally-handicapped tend to get "grouped" in with other types in the kind of family atmosphere group homes can provide, mentally-handicapped "clients"

but especially in North Halton".  
PUBLIC AWARENESS  
It does this by providing training programs and other services for the mentally-handicapped. However, ever since the Association took root in the area about 28 years ago, part of the program has been responsible for educating the public about what it means to be mentally-handicapped.

Public education is extremely important as the Association tries to overcome prejudices which hinder the mentally-handicapped who can lead a relatively normal life with the rest of the community.

At a housing conference last year sponsored by the North Halton Social Planning Council, Mr. Arnold spoke on the need for group homes for mentally-handicapped adults.

He'd like to see them reside in North Halton. In fact, Countryside, the Hornby residence for 18 mentally-handicapped adults, is up for sale and the Association would like to move the residents into two group homes near North Halton urban centres.



BERT ARNOLD

**Friend of Youth**

## PROCLAMATION

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#### TRY CORKING A DRAFT SNAKE

Q. How can I make a draft snake to put along the bottom of my door?  
Mrs. L. Mabey, Hamilton, Ont.

A. Remember "corking" or "spool knitting" yards upon yards of tubing that you could never find much to do with? Try corking a draft snake from worsted weight yarn. Make a "spool" with a wooden ring or square frame that is approximately 10 to 13 cm. in diameter. (Available at general craft supply shops). Tack little nails 1/2 cm. apart all around, leaving 1 cm. above the surface to act as a peg. To cast on foundation row, loosely tie a knot around one peg and wrap a loop around each of the rest. (The base of the loop should be on the inside of the frame, the peak on the outside).

Go all around to the starting peg again, then wrap a loop above the knot. Using a short knitting needle lift the original knot up over the loop and off over the top of the peg into the centre of the frame. You will be left with the loop alone on the peg. Wrap another loop on the next peg and lift the original up and over it. Continue around and around, occasionally pulling lightly on the tail.

When the snake is full grown, cut the yarn, leaving a few centimeters to thread into a blunt needle. Carefully remove the last row from its peg and work the needle through the open stitches to keep them from unravelling while you stuff the tube. When it is full, pull the thread to gather the end, tie a knot and work the loose end to the inside.

You can give your snake character by striping him with colourful bands and patches, (an ideal way to use up leftovers) or make him all one colour and embroider his snakey features over top. And don't forget to sew a felt, forked tongue in his mouth to give him the hissssss to assssssure the chills away.

Any questions? Contact: Hands Magazine, Box B67, Station F, Toronto, Ont. M4Y 2N7.

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