

A country so beautiful ... how can it be at war?

She's been home a week now from an extended visit to Nicaragua, but Cheryl Lighthowers hasn't completely adjusted to life in Canada.

"I'm having trouble walking downtown and not saying hi to everybody," she said.

The Terry Court, Georgetown, resident spent a month in Nicaragua, helping to build homes and teach. She was overwhelmed by the friendliness and warmth of the Nicaraguans. "In that country you speak to everyone. You're treated like royalty," she said.

Mrs. Lighthowers arrived in the Central American country with two others from Georgetown, Rev. Nancy Knox of St. John's United Church and Kathryn Latimer. They were part of a five-member team on a goodwill mission.

Mrs. Lighthowers stayed two weeks longer than her companions because she wanted a more in-depth glimpse of life in a third world country.

She is a graduate of the Guelph University international development degree program and wanted to gain more practical experience in the field. Improving her Spanish was also a plus on the trip.

Originally, Mrs. Lighthowers had been concerned about her travels close to the Honduran border, but she witnessed no fighting during her stay.

"At least once a day I'd say to myself, 'this country is at war?'. I thought because of the war it wouldn't be a beautiful country, but it has wonderful sunsets and bright, colorful flowers," she said.

The war in Nicaragua doesn't seem to make sense, she said. "You don't know who the enemy is. It seems the enemy is hunger and lack of education."

If anything, focus on the military is the enemy, she said. There is a compulsory military service and mothers don't want their sons to serve, she said. "Almost everyone has someone involved in the war."

The first three years after the revolution in Nicaragua were productive and literacy was up to about 90 per cent and health care and education improved, Mrs. Lighthowers. However, now in the eighth year since the Somoza regime was deposed, more government money is being diverted to fight the



Friendly, warm Nicaraguans made staying in the Central American country a pleasure, said Cheryl Lighthowers who recently returned from a one month stay. The war in Nicaragua doesn't seem to make sense, she said. Here, a village girl proudly shows Cheryl her pet bird. (Photo submitted)

Contra rebels, she said. The defence budget of the country has risen and it's currently about 50 per cent, she said.

"Now, again, people are dying of measles because they can't get health workers in (to Contra-held positions). The rebels concentrate on disrupting health workers because it serves to undermine the support of the people for government programs, she said. The government has even tried inoculating villagers at night to avoid detection, she said.

Nicaraguans are hard workers who were able to learn more about Canada from Mrs. Lighthowers. They wanted to know why leaves change color and about the four seasons.

In the country many items are rationed because of shortages. People have a hard time purchasing gasoline, medicine, medical supplies, paper, ice and school supplies, she said.

New director of Halton VON

Margaret MacLeod, executive director of the Victorian Order of Nurses (VON) Halton Branch since its creation in 1973 is retiring this month. Her successor, Carolyn Milne, brings a broad background in health care and nursing education.

Mrs. MacLeod served on the nursing staff of the Oakville VON before that branch merged with Burlington branch to serve the new Region of Halton.

A graduate of McMaster University's nursing program MacLeod was assisted in her studies by a VON bursary which eventually launched her on a career with the VON.

When the Halton branch of the Order was formed, the staff including Mrs. MacLeod totalled seven nurses. That total has now increased to 21 full time and 27 relief nurses.

Reluctant to pinpoint any particular chapter in the progress of the Halton branch, Mrs. MacLeod says, "The most exciting thing has been watching the branch grow and expand."

She cites the recent encouraging trend to making available home nursing care for seriously ill patients who would formerly have been hospitalized.

Since Mrs. MacLeod became executive director of the branch, a number of programs have been added to the home nursing care, traditional with the Order. VON Halton now provides foot care clinics for seniors, palliative care, occupational health programs, and enterostomal therapy nursing.

There is also a busy Friendly Visitor program which matches volunteers with home-bound patients, providing a link to the outside for over 100 Halton residents.

When Mrs. MacLeod began her VON career in Halton, she participated in maternal and infant care programs which were common in those days. Today, she says, VON is far more involved with the elderly than with the young.

However, it was a pregnant woman who prompted the fledgling VON nurse to do what no VON nurse does — drive a patient in a VON car.

"In this case, I was visiting a home where the patient was planning a home delivery. Unfortunately, while I was there the patient went into early labor. There was no family in at the time, and they didn't have a phone, so I had no way of contacting the doctor.

"I got her into my car and drove her to the hospital. We made it, but not a moment too soon."

Mrs. MacLeod and husband John will be moving from Oakville to Hamilton soon, and will summer at their Bayville cottage. Celebrating at a farewell dinner at the Burlington Golf and Country club June 25 will be many well-wishers, and the MacLeods' son Ian, and daughter, Katie.

The new executive director of the Halton Branch of the VON, Carolyn Milne, most recently held an administrative and clinical position with Saint Elizabeth's Visiting Nurses in Hamilton-Wentworth, and has managed her own health care con-

sulting business.

Mrs. Milne graduated from McMaster University with an M.I.Sc. Her masters was on scholarship. She is an assistant clinical professor at the McMaster University School of Nursing. She was co-ordinator of the palliative care consulting team at St. Joseph's Hospital.

She is a regional editor of the Journal of Palliative Care published by the University of Toronto Press, and is 2nd vice-chairman of the board of

governors of Mohawk College in Hamilton.

Although she and her lawyer husband Paul will continue to live in Grimsby, Milne is looking forward to working with health agencies in Halton Region. "The VON plays an important role in a community," she says. "Halton is a big, challenging region, and I'm excited about the enthusiasm here. There's a lot of energy."

Mrs. Milne sees the need for palliative care and elderly services increasing dramatically. "Valuing nursing is playing a growing role in providing this care," she says.

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"Outside the nuclear club"

By ANGELA PALMER
Herald Special

Dear Sir,
Many people concerned about creating a more peaceful world collected from many parts of that world in York University for a conference entitled "Outside the Nuclear Club" from June 10th-13th 1987. They were discussing the "Options for Non-Nuclear Powers in Promoting Peace and Security".

Speakers came from West Germany, Poland, Tanzania, Sweden, Mexico, the U.S.A., India, Denmark, England, Holland and all across Canada.

Delegates from southern Ontario included two from our local association of H.A.N.D. - Halton Hills Action for Nuclear Disarmament. Stephen Lewis - Canada's representative to the United Nations addressed us Wednesday evening. He gave us an excellent idea of Canada's work for Peace at the United Nations and assured us that Canada is very

highly regarded among other non-nuclear countries who look to us for leadership.

Mr. Lewis noted that "Major Powers can thumb their noses at the United Nations and frequently do." However the United Nations is not impotent. Smaller countries keep pressure on the bigger countries which is "unrelenting and indefatigable".

PEACE BEAT Citizens' forum

Resolution after resolution is put down and vote after vote taken for which all countries have to be counted. Verification of arms held by various countries is useful work done by Non-Nuclear Countries.

Stephen Lewis emphasized that Canada was of three countries, at the end of World War II, which was capable of producing nuclear weapons. It was decided that we would not produce nuclear weapons so today we still do not have nuclear weapons on our soil.

However, we have allowed testing of the cruise missile. New Zealand is

further ahead of us in this respect, as she will not even allow nuclear-powered vessels in her harbours.

Stephen Lewis pointed out that Canada does not just follow the U.S.A. but voted differently on 53 per cent of issues at the United Nations. For example, when the United States, in November 1986, breached the S.A.L.T. agreement, our Foreign Minister, Mr. Joe Clark, deplored this action (in international diplomacy deplore is a very heavy word) (Canada also said "no" to "Star Wars" although Japan and the United Kingdom did not). Stephen Lewis emphasized that Peace education particularly through schools, (especially high schools) is most important so that the next generation grows up caring deeply about Peace. He said that if our youngsters are aroused it is good, and the best hope we have for governments to change.

Finally, Stephen Lewis exhorted us not to despair of progress towards Peace, as Canada is highly regarded by non-nuclear countries at the United Nations for our work for Peace.

Education is the key to peace, he said. We must educate our children to be peace-loving and to respect the rights of others.

Education degree

Keith M. Ramsden, B.A., son of Mr. and Mrs. J.F. Ramsden of R.R. 1 Georgetown received his Bachelor of Education degree at the University of Calgary recently. Keith is a graduate of Georgetown District High School.

Media graduate

Daniel Dunleavy has graduated from Niagara College of Applied Arts and Technology, with a diploma in Radio and television broadcasting. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Victor Dunleavy of Garnet Drive, Georgetown.

Daniel is currently working in the news department of the Orangeville radio station DC-103 FM. He is a recipient of the DRTB/CHTZ award for proficiency in radio-television for a third year student.

He also won the central Canada broadcasters' association award for outstanding academic and creative achievement in radio.

Ice cream crank-off

July 1st, the Halton Region Museum in Kelso Conservation Area Milton, Ontario, will host the fourth annual Ice Cream Festival. The event will run from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on the Museum grounds and will include an ice cream making contest between teams from Halton communities, craft demonstrations, a refreshment counter and white elephant sale.

As always, visitors to the Museum will have an opportunity to make their own ice cream in the old fashioned hand-cranked way.

Admission to the museum will be free on this day. Normal admission to Kelso will apply.

The day's events include the ice cream making contest at 2 p.m. and the opening of a new display, "The Iron Seamstress" at 3 p.m. Halton Region Chairman Peter Paronay will be the judge in the ice cream making contest which will pit teams from Milton Council against teams from other Halton communities.

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The Guelph St. entrance will be restricted to handicapped and buses only.

Some parking behind Wigglesworth School — enter from Maple Ave.

Parking at the Alcott Arena and next to Zellers in the Georgetown Market Place. A bus shuttle service will be operating from these lots as well as the downtown parking area.

We would ask that all those attending this gala weekend to PLEASE refrain from parking in neighbouring church parking lots.

We would also ask for the neighbourhood's forbearance with street parking in the High School area