

## Veterans speak out for peace

A national group of Canadian veterans enjoys a lot of credibility when they speak out on nuclear disarmament. They ought to.

"We've all known the follies of war," says Giff Gifford, President of the Veterans Against Nuclear Arms (VANA). Mr. Gifford was a Second World War bomber navigator who participated in the fire-bombing of Dresden.

Recently retired, he formed the group in 1982 with some colleagues in Halifax. With the breakdown of detente and the rise of Ronald Reagan, he and his friends had become concerned. "Isn't there something that we can do as veterans?" they asked themselves. They ran an ad in a Halifax newspaper and got responses from 32 local veterans, who became the group's original members. It now involves 800 veterans.

Since then, the group has remained quietly active. Its members are frequently asked to speak to groups that might be leery of inviting representatives of other peace groups.

VANA members have published two major policy papers, one on a general framework for Canadian security and the other a critique of the Defence White Paper. Four of them met with Soviet and American veterans in Moscow a few months ago. They also met senior Soviet officials, and left "convinced that the Soviets have made top-level commitments to wind down the arms race, and that they will pay quite a bit of get progress."

They are opposed to the most expensive arms purchase in Canadian history. VANA lampooned the suggestion that a fleet of nuclear-powered submarines will allow Canada to assert its sovereignty in disputed Arctic water. "Canadian submarines are not going to be wheeling around like under-ice police cars picking up vagrants."

In May they told the House of Commons committee of defence that, "other than to maintain a threatening presence, the (nuclear-powered, hunter-killer) submarine is limited to locating, shadowing and destroying. The game is not worth the risk, the possibility and consequence of error being too high; coercion under the Arctic ice must be through diplomatic channels."

From their energy and commitment it is obvious that the same spirit that motivated these men and women to fight for democracy keeps them working effectively and democratically on behalf of survival.

—Submitted by Cheryl Lightowers for Halton Hills Action for Nuclear Disarmament, an organization that has for years proudly included veterans in its membership.



HAM-ming it up

The Halton Amateur Radio Club participated in the international emergency preparedness exercise for radio operators June 25. Radio operators around the world went on a 24 hour vigil to attempt to make as many different contacts with other operators as possible. The exercise began at 12:30 p.m. Saturday and operators could

only use portable power. Here, John Wood (sitting) and James Colter have established contact with a radio operator in the United States. The Halton Club, which set up on Scotsdale farm on Saturday, made 33 contacts in the first two hours of the operation. (Herald photo).

## UIC tries to improve image

The Unemployment Insurance Act is perhaps one of the least understood pieces of legislation in society today, but at the same time, it bears great importance.

Employment and Immigration Canada is attempting to change their image by opening up better lines of communication between the Canada Employment Centre and the public.

"We're trying to let people know what we offer," says Colleen Robinson, Client Services Officer for the Brampton CEC. "We want to dispel the negative concept people have of the Unemployment Insurance Commission."

A new program was put into effect April 1, and there are now 35 representatives from across Ontario whose purpose is to help open the lines of communications to employers and the public.

Ms. Robinson covers a wide area that goes north to Shelburne, west to Acton, and east to Bramalea. In the area, the centre's main office is in Brampton, and there are two branch offices in Georgetown and Orangeville.

Ms. Robinson sees the problem of communication stemming from the fact that procedures can change on a month-to-month basis.

"We have a hard time keeping up, so I can understand how employers do," she says. "But if we can keep them up to date, our clients will be more informed."



Colleen Robinson

The new program is still in the initial contact stage, where Ms. Robinson and other representatives are letting people know they are there. But she sees the process as a long-term education process.

"It's going to take awhile. But

there are all kinds of jobs available now, so it's a good time to be doing it. When it's a bad situation (for jobs) it's too late."

Ms. Robinson has made herself available to confer with employers and help them better understand the system.

Areas employers sometimes have problems dealing with sickness benefits, pre-retirement, maternity and paternity benefits, and special severance benefits. But by helping the employers to understand the various aspects of unemployment insurance, they, in turn, will be able to pass information along to their workers, when the need arises.

"We want to see what the needs are, and then tailor the position to suit the needs of the community," Ms. Robinson says.

The new program will also have another positive effect, and one that Ms. Robinson and the UIC office would very much like to see come about.

"We really want to help people cope with it," she says. "We have been doing a good job. But it hasn't been perceived as doing a good job. It's a totally different way of looking at things."

Through a monthly column in The Herald, Ms. Robinson will explain some of the complexities of the Unemployment Insurance Act and Regulations.

She is also available to address questions and concerns by contacting her at the local branch office in Georgetown, or at the main office in Brampton, 451-1240.

## Citizens' forum

### Their dedication showed

Dear Sir,

On June 12, 43 young, and not so young, dedicated people in our community braved the heat of the day to walk for the United Way of Halton Hills, to the tune of \$4,027 in pledges.

The Kiwanis Club once again this year, did an outstanding job organizing the event and providing refreshments to the walkers. Unglobe Can Travel and Nelson, Kogon, Ashbee and Schaljo legal firm donated great prizes.

Our sincere thanks go to these community supporters who walked, pledged dollars or gave generously of their time and efforts.

These dollars will help make our community a better place to be.

Yours truly,  
Tom Gibson,  
United Way of Halton Hills  
President

criticism in the same spirit as it accepts its many letters of congratulation.

Sincerely,  
L. Rowe

### Omission made

Dear Sir,

On behalf of the Arts Alive '88 Committee, I would like to sincerely apologize for failing to mention Halton Cable Systems in the note of thanks published in your paper on Wednesday, June 15. Their assistance in advertising the Festival, and their extensive coverage of events, was greatly appreciated, and we regret the unintentional omission of their name.

Our apologies to anyone else who helped with the Arts Alive Festival, but was left unmentioned. We so appreciated everyone's generosity and time! Thanks!

Sincerely,  
Melanie Nixon

### Out of context

Dear Sir,

Your response to one of the Herald's letters to the editor (see "A Matter of Style", June 22) read like that of a petulant child.

Surely a "letter to the editor" is just what the phrase implies. If Ms. Oomen had wanted to discuss the matter with you "across the counter" no doubt she would have done just that. As she took the time to write a letter to your paper she obviously wanted her opinions to be printed in the "Citizens' Forum". Just as I expect this letter to be printed there as well.

I must support Ms. Oomen's opinion that you have used the word anemic (or anaemic) totally out of context. While I sympathize with your attempt to avoid hackneyed adjectives in the newspaper, it is unwise to try to fit dictionary definitions to your own use.

The Herald is a fine small-town newspaper. It does, however, have faults, and must accept letters of

### Guide needed

To the rural residents of Halton Hills:

Once again, in his annual quest to destroy all living matter, our weed control inspector has travelled along our country roads and has sprayed and killed the sumachs, the buttercups, the daisies, the cat-tails, the tiger lilies, the wild roses and strawberries - just to mention a few.

Perhaps our councillors could put forth a motion to purchase a guide book for the inspector with the purpose of being able to distinguish harmless plants from noxious weeds.

Mary Shier,  
Limehouse

## Energy grant approved

The Regional Municipality of Halton will be more energy efficient in the future, thanks to a recent grant from the Ontario government. This is due to a grant of \$21,066 which was announced earlier this week by Walt Elliot, MPP for the riding of Halton North on behalf of energy minister Bob Wong. The money will be provided under the Municipal Oil Conversion and Energy Conservation Program (MOCECP).

"The program helps municipalities identify and carry out a wide range of energy-saving projects. Grants are also provided to defray the costs of getting professional consulting assistance with these projects," said Mr. Wong.

Since it began in 1981, the program has assisted over 400 municipalities to implement more than 1,400 energy-saving projects. These projects have led to significant reductions in the energy bills of the municipalities which participate.

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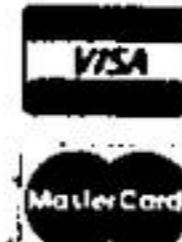
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