

**Normal news**

# Plight of Nicaraguans discussed at meeting

NORVAL-Unit 1 of Norval United Church met at the home of Agnes Miller on June 23. Dessert lunch was a birthday cake with strawberries and ice cream for two special ladies, May Cleave and Eunice Wilson both celebrated birthdays on June 22.

Following the luncheon, president Dorothy opened the meeting with the old familiar poem, What is so Rare As a Day in June.

Business included a report from the executive meeting that the brick work on the church has been completed, even to the back part.

Kay Wilson gave the study on Nicaragua. A group of 14 people from a study group in Bloor Street United Church, headed by Rev. Clifford Elliott, spent two weeks in Nicaragua, in September of 1986.

They had first taken Spanish lessons, and studied the history and geography of the country.

They returned home with 70 rolls of film, 24 cassettes of taped interviews, diaries, notes, and 14 lifetime memories.

As a result of their trip, they compiled a book, Nicaragua: A Dream Under Fire, which can be obtained from Bloor Street United Church, 300 Bloor St., Toronto.

The Somoza dynasty lasted 45 years, until civil war broke out and he was forced to leave the country. But not before he ordered all hospitals, schools, and factories bombed, and left a \$1.6 billion debt.

The Sandinistas form the present government. The Contras are a

military force supported by the United States.

The US has cut off all economic benefits which has caused the people untold suffering. However, they still have a sense of hope and joy. They say their major source of strength comes from their Christian faith.

## Group visits dairy farms

NORVAL-Bill and Gwen Laidlaw and Howard and Eileen Laidlaw, all Norval area people, have returned from a one-week trip to San Diego, California where they attended the American Holstein Convention.

Bert and Hazel Stewart and daughter Kelly, from Hornby, and Doug and Babs Winegrove and their daughter Guelph, also attended. As well as attend the convention, they were aboard one of 10 buses to visit a dairy farm in Tijuana, Mexico, on the Pacific coast. They keep 1,000 head of cattle and milk 300 cows. They import all their feed as the country is very dry. The breeze off the Pacific Ocean helps keep the air cooler.

## Berry bonanza

NORVAL-Pinegrove Community Club held its Strawberry Social on June 27. Gertrude Shortill, Marie Murray, Keith and Ethel Webb arranged the evening. Euchre was played and winners were Grace May, Kay Wilson, Francis Thompson, and Bruce Thatcher.

## Sympathy sent

NORVAL-Sincere sympathy is extended to the family of Clifford Wrigglesworth, RR2, Georgetown who passed away on June 27 at the Milton District Hospital. Beloved husband of Margaret Stephens, and dear father of Joan (Mrs. Robert Marshall of Milton), Marilyn (Mrs. Victor Hattin of Calgary), and Diane (Mrs. Paul May of Rockwood). Sadly missed by seven grandchildren and sister, Isabel (Mrs. J. Carney). Pre-deceased by brother Howard.

Funeral service was from Hillcrest United Church on Thursday, June 30. Interment was in Evergreen Cemetery, Milton.

Cliff was a great community man and was responsible for holding the first Hornby Garden Party on their farm, which was the ball diamond at that time. He enjoyed playing euchre, and along with Roy and Mary Wilson, and his wife, Marg, regularly attended the Pinegrove Euchre Parties.

It's ironic that Cliff and Roy just lived steps from each other and passed away within three weeks of each other.

## Ladies enjoy bus excursion

By KAY WILSON  
Herald Special

NORVAL-Forty-five ladies enjoyed the annual bus trip for Norval United Church on June 23.

The bus trip in itself, was enjoyable, passing through a rich farming area around Guelph, into the Mennonite country with the horses and buggies.

First stop was the Farmers Market, where Mennonite baking, quilts, and handicrafts were for sale.

Other buildings had livestock and there was a large outside area with fruit and vegetable stands.

After boarding the bus again, the group went on a couple of miles to St. Jacobs, to find boutiques which left them wanting to see more.

However, the bus was rolling again by one o'clock, and it was on to Breslau and the Challenger Restaurant for a beautiful buffet. Then it was back home to Norval by 4 p.m.

Everyone sang the birthday song to Gwen and Beth Laidlaw, for June 23, and Jack Crawford also has his birthday the same day.

Special thanks were extended to Deanna Cleave and Anne Wilson who arranged the day.

## NORVAL GRADUATES

WLU Grad

Bachelor of Science



Carol Reid, daughter of Ken and Lois Reid, RR2, Norval, has graduated from Wilfrid Laurier University with a Bachelor of Arts in History and Political Science. Carol is enrolled in the University of Western Ontario in the Faculty of Law, for September.



Marilyn Felkema, daughter of Sidney and Hillie Felkema, RR1, Norval, has graduated from the University of Toronto. Marilyn received her Bachelor of Science in Nursing at the convocation on June 10. She has accepted a nursing position with the Credit Valley Hospital.

## Help sought

Committee work isn't always deadly dull. Very often, the result of a committee's work is especially rewarding. Canadian Mental Health Association - Oakville branch has a number of committees which would benefit from the expertise and input of association members and community residents. If you are interested in Fundraising, Public Education, Personnel, and Finance, please contact Pearl Wolfe at 845-5044 for details.

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## Sexual Assault Services in Halton

# SASH reaches out to help women

By DONNA KELL  
Herald Staff

Sexual assault victims have a friend in Halton, thanks to people like Marilyn Green, initiator of the SASH program - Sexual Assault Services in Halton.

"The assault victim doesn't need a psychologist or psychiatrist, necessarily. She's dealing with one incident in her life. She needs someone to talk to," says Mrs. Green.

The "someone to talk to" in Halton consists of 20 phone volunteers operating on a 24-hour basis.

But Mrs. Green would like to see a part-time worker lighten the load of these volunteers. "Often crisis calls are during breakfast and dinner, when our volunteers are most occupied at home."

A part-time worker will be installed at the new building slated in South Halton, to be in use by next December, said Mrs. Green. The worker would be liaison between Halton Police, the Halton Women's Centre and the Halton Police Victims Services.

SASH works in conjunction with other women's services centres to provide counselling and information. It also directs women to the assault emergency centre of hospitals (if the hospitals have such an entrance) and explains to women the importance of receiving medical attention immediately after an assault.



Marilyn Green

"The first thing you say is 'are you safe? Is he gone?' Then you ask them if they want to call the police, and you recommend they receive medical attention," said Mrs. Green. SASH volunteers accompany victims to both the hospital and police station, explaining procedures and helping them express their anger, said Mrs. Green.

"One of the problems of assault is that women feel all their power has been taken away. We try to restore their sense of power, encouraging them to deal with their emotions and to make the event part of their past."

"When their power's been taken away, the first thing you try and do is give it back to them. This is a bad analogy, but it's sort of like getting back on the horse," she said.

And Mrs. Green can see her system working. One young woman who was attacked kept a constant rapport with the SASH volunteers. "She called back about six times. You could see her getting a grip on herself," said Mrs. Green. Women are not the only callers. Aside from the standard prank phone calls, male callers concerned for their girlfriends, wives and daughters identify their relationship to the women and receive advice from volunteers.

Volunteers are capable of giving solid advice because they are trained intensively for eight to 10 weeks by lecturers and through videotaped information sessions. McMaster University Hospital uses for assault volunteers.

Volunteers are taught about the controversial issue of date rape. "Statistically, more than half the assaults that occur are men known to the women. Total stranger rape is quite rare," she said.

Date rape was given coverage on television, too, said Mrs. Green. Commercials sponsored by the Women's Directorate, a provincially-funded organization, appeared on television in June to mark Sexual Assault Awareness Month.

A \$600,000 budget was shared among sectors of assault groups to advertise that "sexual assault is a crime", whether it is by one's own husband, a pushy date, or a total stranger, said Mrs. Green. Familiar men are easier to take to court and prosecute, but forensic scientists are fast becoming aware of more exact identification methods.

The forensic examination kit, developed in part by McMaster Hospital's Dr. Len Hargot, takes samples from under the nails of the victim, includes pieces of body hair and body fluid samples.

"They want to know the profile of the victim so that all the extraneous

bits are from the assailant," said Mrs. Green. The samples go from the patient, to the doctor and straight to the police, making them admissible evidence for court.

New developments are taking place in the world of forensic studies, said Mrs. Green. An English scientist in the UK has discovered a method of taking the DNA pattern - the "fingerprint" of the human body, from blood, semen and skin samples.

Before the DNA (deoxyribonucleic acid: the "building blocks" of human life) tests can be used as evidence, a

precedent must be set in court, said Mrs. Green.

SASH is expanding. They want provincial government grants to expand, but cannot receive them until they are an independent organization. By next year, they should receive the same status as the Halton Women's Place, becoming an independent non-profit charitable organization, and will be eligible for provincial grants.

A future building for Sexual Assault Services of Halton will be located in South Halton, said Mrs. Green.

## ENGAGEMENT



Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Core of Georgetown are happy to announce the forthcoming marriage of their daughter Ronda Lynn to Paul Sheldon, son of Mr. and Mrs. Jamie Fay of Milton on July 30 at Hillcrest Church. (Photo submitted)

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