

Outlook on Halton Hills

The thrill of it all

It's a day at the races for my sons and I.
The sun was climbing fast in a cloudless sky.
People were fanning themselves in the hope.
That a little relief would help them cope.
Ice cubes won't do it, we need a great fan.
Or we'll all turn into little puddles of man.
Clothing was discarded in between races
And hats were put on to cover their faces.
Phew, but it's hot! That's all you could hear,
Can't drag us away though, we've melted I fear.
What time is it now, the race should be starting.
My money and me soon would be parting.

They're off and racing at our local track.
And the horse I'm betting looks kind of slack.
Should I stick with their colour, number or name.
It doesn't matter the results were always the same.
In all the years I've been coming to the races,
I could have toured the world and its exotic places.
But I see the world up in the stands
Watching the horses in the jockey's hands.
Some say I'm a fool, to waste my money and time
This kind of life has no reason or rhyme.
But it's not for the big win or stack of bills
It's the pageantry of horses, that gives me the thrills.
The colours of the silks reds, blues and greens
The young fighting colts and the old has been.

The trumpet now sounded and the race had begun
This is exciting, now this is real fun.
The horses jumped and flew from the gate,
My horse was o.k. just a little bit late.
They rounded the final turn and mine was last.

But I had faith, I knew he was fast.
All at once that horse decided to go.
Which made all the others appear to be slow.
My heart was pounding, my mouth was in gear,
I'm confident now the winner is clear.
But I couldn't stop cheering, what was I saying
My brains disconnected and I'm actually praying.
If my heart doesn't slow down, I'm going to pass out.
And of that observation, there is no doubt.

I wanted to hug and tell the world of my win.
After all gambling isn't that big a sin.
For a two dollar bet, I had won twenty
That plus the thrill was more than plenty.
I finally got control and ran to the wicket.
Number five had won and here was the ticket.
"Just a minute," he said, "This ticket's no good."
Dumbfounded I looked, stupid I stood.
"You've got to be kidding," I said to the man.
"Looks like a three to me," he said, starting to fan,
Hot as it was, I can't be that gone.
What a fool I am or is it all a big con,
But he waved mockingly and I wanted to kill
There goes the two dollars, so much for the thrill.

Right behind me, my son had followed me out,
He showed me his ticket, there was no doubt.
I stared at the five, it stared at me,
He doubled over laughing and slapped his knee.
Another murder could occur, I could use my Kung Fu,
But a good sport should smile - what else could I do.
They say you should rise up whenever you fall,
So back to the stands, for the thrill of it all.

—By CAROL FULLER, Acton

New VON program for seniors

The Halton Branch of the Victorian Order of Nurses has just begun a new program for cognitively and memory impaired seniors in a renovated section of St. Michael's convent in East Oakville.

The seniors day centre, located in the former Altarbread Room of the convent, has been outfitted and designed to provide individual programs for clients, most of them suffering from Alzheimer's disease. It services an area including Georgetown, Burlington, Oakville, Milton and Acton.

While the clients are bused in from across the region to enjoy a day's outing in a home-like setting, their caregivers are able to have a day off.

Currently, the centre is serving a total of 14 clients two days each week. But, an annual \$33,000 commitment from the Ontario Ministry of Community and Social Services will soon allow the centre to expand its services to approximately 40 clients five days of the week.

The official opening of this new VON Seniors Day Program will take place at the Oakville facility Friday, Sept. 23. Officiating will be Donna Roe, Executive Director of VON for Canada along with national president James Cronyn.

The centre, which is decorated with soft pastels and carefully selected furnishings, provides recreation and therapeutic programs under the direction of program co-ordinator Cathie Sacco. Clients are bused to the centre in a customized \$12,000 van donated by the Burlington-Aldershot Lions Club.

Clients take part in programs geared to individual needs. Recreation and exercise are emphasized along with crafts and memory games. All activities such as simple meal preparation, cleanup and gardening are modelled after the activities of home life.

Ms. Sacco works with an assistant, a recreation therapist and a van driver. They are assisted by volunteers scheduled to take a training program to help them work effectively with patients with special needs.

A donation of \$23,000 from the Rotary Club of Oakville made it possible to furnish the centre with top new appliances and furniture. The kitchen houses a microwave-convection oven, freezer and

dishwasher. The living room has a large television and VCR and is furnished with comfortable pastel seating.

There is a small quiet area and a folding bed for quick naps. The bathroom has been outfitted with special appliances and is color keyed so clients won't mistake it for some other part of the 900 square foot complex.

At the back of the centre, a large wood deck has comfortable benches. The large garden with its tall fir trees has a long vinyl umbrella table with matching pillowed chairs. There is even a barbecue.

The entire effect is one of hominess and peace, which was the goal of project co-ordinator Merrill Carmichael who oversaw construction of the facility in the convent.

The opening of the centre culminates months of planning by the Halton Branch of the VON. A \$97,000 grant from the Trillium Foundation of the Ontario Lottery Corporation allowed the project to begin last spring. Trillium Foundation funding will decrease as provincial funding takes over during the next two years.

Generous contributions from local service clubs, including the Burlington-Aldershot Lions and the Oakville Rotary Club as previously mentioned have also helped the centre become a reality. The Oakville Zonta Club gave \$5,000 for the kitchen; the Oakville-Trafalgar Rotary Club gave \$5,000 for the wood deck; the Kiwanis Club of Oakville donated a \$2,000 library resource

package; the Ladies' Auxiliary of the Oakville Royal Canadian Legion gave \$1,000; the Legion's general membership donated \$300 and the Lions Club of Oakville-Trafalgar donated \$1,000.

According to program co-ordinator Sacco, the centre's main goal is to delay placing clients in institutions and to provide respite opportunities for the caregivers. Patients accepted into the program are all mobile. They must currently live at home and the immediate family must be a resident of the Region of Halton.

The VON Seniors Day Program is a unique facility in Halton and is the result of a needs survey conducted last year. In the survey 73 potential clients were immediately identified.

Halton VON Executive Director Carolyn Milne calls the centre "a community project."

"We would not be here without the wonderful support of the people of the region," she said.

Weapon found

A man, found in the Guelph Street and Edward Street area of Georgetown, was charged with carrying a concealed weapon after a switchblade knife was found on his person Friday afternoon, police say. An Acton man, 18, appeared for a bail hearing Sept. 12 on charges of failing to appear for court and carrying a concealed weapon.

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Employment and Immigration Canada

Halton Hills job board

The Canada Employment Centre is located at 232 Guelph Street, Georgetown, and is open from Monday to Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The following represents only a few of the Career Opportunities listed on the Job Boards.

Order 0907421 - CARPENTER - Permanent fulltime. Must be a fully experienced carpenter with work background in all phases of carpentry. Must also be able to read and work from blueprints. Own transportation and tools a definite must. \$15/hour plus to start.

Order 0901214 - CABLE SPLICER HELPER - Permanent fulltime. Must have previous experience, preferably in laying underground cables. Must be capable of strenuous labor and able to work in all weather conditions. Must be reliable. \$12/hour to start.

Order 0806114 - MECHANIC SMALL ENGINES - Must be fully experienced in small engine repairs of mainly construction equipment. Diesel experience preferred, but not essential. Must have own tools and clean class "G" licence. \$9/hour plus, depending on experience.

Order 0911719 - MEAT CLERK - Permanent fulltime. Monday to Thursday, 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Friday to 7 p.m. and Saturday 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Previous experience an asset. Will train a reliable person with steady work history. Good with the public and well-groomed. Own means of transportation. \$7/hour.

Order 0806800 - MAINTENANCE MECHANIC - Permanent fulltime. Minimum 2 years experience in Arc welding and mechanical repairs is necessary. Previous maintenance mechanical and/or industrial electrician experience an asset. \$12/hour to start, depending on experience.

Order 0812962 - TELEPHONE ANSWERING SERVICE - Permanent fulltime, 4 days on and 4 days off. Must have good telephone manner and be able to type 35 wpm. \$5/hour plus shift premium.

Order 0907272 - STRUCTURAL STEEL FITTER HELPER - Permanent fulltime. Previous experience working as a steel fitters helper is an asset. \$9.50/hour or more depending on experience, plus overtime.

Order 0907264 - STRUCTURAL STEEL FITTER - Permanent fulltime. Must have fitters licence or 3 years experience structural welding ticket. \$11/hour or more depending on experience.

Order 0914111 - VACUUM FORMING MACHINE TENDER - Permanent fulltime. Choice of shifts. Reliable, good work attitude and previous experience in the plastics industry is an asset. Willing to work with saws and routers. \$8/hour to start.

If you are interested in any of the above positions, visit the Georgetown CEC.