

Lifestyles

Hospice helps people deal with death

"Our culture is death denying," says the co-ordinator of the North Halton Hospice in Acton, Donna McClure. In attempting to help those confronting death, Ms. McClure said she and her staff of 10 volunteers try to get the sufferer to understand that life shouldn't be lived in the future but rather one day at a time.

This outlook on life is reflected in the choice of words Ms. McClure uses to describe the type of patients the hospice works with.

"I prefer not to use the word terminally ill," Ms. McClure explained, "because what's terminal?"

"I've seen people diagnosed with a terminal illness" recover after three years of suffering.

Ms. McClure, who has been with the hospice for just over a year, described the confrontation with death as the most significant period in a person's life. As a result it should be looked upon as the beginning of a new experience and not as an ending.

Ms. McClure however, is the first to admit this goal is only achieved over a long and difficult process. This is why her staff are trained to understand all aspects of disease ranging from the disease process - the hospice deals primarily with cancer and heart patients - to the emotional impact

of the disease on all affected, sufferer, family and friends.

The most important thing the volunteer can do for the patient is be an active listener. The volunteer is trained to talk about the disease in an understanding and straight forward manner, said Ms. McClure.

"Family and friends have a tendency to either withdraw or dance around the topic," Ms. McClure said. "The patient needs to know the other person is feeling no discomfort in talking about the subject."

Ms. McClure also said the volunteer can relieve some of the strain the family experiences by caring for the patient while he or she fulfills daily obligations.

The volunteer's purpose is to make the family's life as normal as possible, Ms. McClure said.

This includes being there for the family after the patient has died. Ms. McClure has known family members to go into a "real tail spin," she said.

Ms. McClure explained people get involved with the hospice for a number of reasons, including the desire to get involved in community work or an affinity with the sufferer resulting from one of their family members having gone through the same experience.



The co-ordinator of the North Halton Hospice, Donna McClure says dealing with death is the most important and difficult experience in a person's life.

Stone thrown

A youth was seen picking up and throwing a large stone through a window at Barragers Cleaners at 62 Guelph St., during the early morning of May 7. Police say a 17-year-old Georgetown youth was charged with mischievous behavior in connection with the incident and is scheduled to appear in court May 22. The broken window is valued at \$100.

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Simon Fraser

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★ ★ ★

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Dig in

Nurses from the Bennett Health Care Centre and the Georgetown and District Memorial Hospital gathered in the centre court of the Bennett Centre Monday to plant a rose bush for Nurses' Week. Left to right are Marg Caldwell, Deanne Ford, Director of

Nurses Marlene Guackenbush, nurse Lynda Sandifer, Nurses' Week organizer Trudy Edwards, Halton Hills Mayor Russ Miller, Hospital board member Joyce Mackle and nurse Sherry Eastwood. (Herald photo)

Meat draw still big attraction



Legion Lines

J.T. Hayes
Branch 120 PRO

The Saturday Afternoon Meat Draw continues to be a big attraction. Here are this week's lucky winners: Harry Bottoms, Lottie Bottoms, Pat Chamberlain, Bea Clark, Frank Kirk, Herman Nicholson, Dick Sucee, Bill Collier, Steve Clayton, Harold Hadham and Brenda McCausland. Harold Badham won the roast.

CAR CLUB: Weekly draw May 4 - 474 Yvonne Graham, 172 Herb Roshier, 470 Dave Clarke, 310 Helen Sparks, 205 Jim Randell and 118 Jim E. Smith.

FRIDAY NIGHT EUCHRE: High lady - Jean Mills, 2nd, Lois Richardson. Most lone hands - Boyd Lantz. Gents: High Marg Tutty, 2nd - Bert Porter. Most lone hands - Ernie Peasey, Roy Bradley.

The branch executive have had a busy week up to now, following our elections. Last Sunday we travelled to Branch 114 Oakville to conduct their elections, and on Tuesday (last night) the president Hank Russell led a team to Branch 15 Brampton to conduct their elections.

Membership chairman Pat Chamberlain once again asks for your co-operation regarding change of addresses. If you have moved in the last year and a half, think! Did you notify the membership chairman? If you did not, do it now! Not sure, give Pat a call, he will check it out for you.

Pat continues to mail membership cards to your address of record, only you know if it's the correct one.

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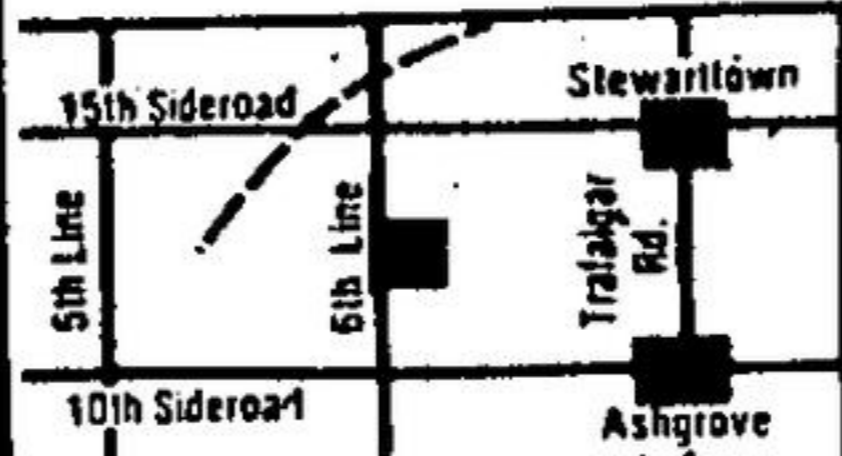
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