

Newcomer's Club offers support

By LISA RUTLEDGE
the Herald

Developing a sense of community, long-lasting relationships and joining a support group for new residents can relieve much of the alienation of moving, says a Georgetown and area Newcomers Club organizer.

Susan Hall, an executive member of the Newcomers Club committee and a social events organizer, said a friendly inviting voice makes newcomers feel more comfortable getting involved in the community.

The club, formed in 1979, is a non-profit group organized to help new residents feel comfortable with the town along with other newcomers, explained Mrs. Hall. That way, she said, they can get together on even ground.

Although the group is geared toward families, Mrs. Hall believes women benefit most from the club because a network of support develops. Only in her second year with the club, Mrs. Hall insists the club has provided a source of fun, relaxation and support.

"For me it was really good," said Mrs. Hall. "I had no family or friends in the area but I made a couple of really good friends," she said, adding that those friendships will continue for years after she leaves the club.

Creating friendships within the club is important because everyone needs a helping hand, explained Mrs. Hall. "I have a couple of kids and it's nice to know there's someone to help me by watching the children for a few hours," she said. "It's something to fall back on," she added.

Commenting on Georgetown's community activity, Mrs. Hall said that it has much more to offer than other communities, such as Pickering where she was a former resident. "There's so much going on in Georgetown if you want to look for it and get involved," she said, adding that senior club members can share their knowledge of the area.

Members are there to help as well as for social events. Mrs. Hall said, describing how club members gave support when a member's mother died and another member's daughter was badly burned. The club would send cards or flowers and members were there for support. "It just shows we're thinking about them."

Invitations to the Newcomers Club are extended to any residents who have lived in Georgetown for less than three years. After several years with the club, participants are welcome to join the Newcomer's Alumni Club for residents who feel more establish-



Newcomer's Club Members Pitch-in

ed in the area.

As part of the new fall program, which begins this coming Wednesday with a meeting, Mrs. Hall will be organizing a gourmet dinner, craft nights, family picnics and a children's Christmas party.

At the Christmas party each member's children receive presents courtesy of the club.

The club also runs a car-pooling system to assist new residents who don't have access to transporta-

tion. "It's a good outlet for those who don't have a car but want to get out and around," said Mrs. Hall.

Activity expenses are funded by earnings from bake sales and raffles and by a membership fee of \$2 each month for each of the 10 months of club functions.

The club meets every third Wednesday of each month from Sept. to June at St. Andrew's hall, 89 Mountainview Rd. South, 7:30

p.m. Although the Newcomers Club receives lists of new residents from the local Welcome Wagon services, last year there were 50 new residents listed. Mrs. Hall encourages newcomers to contact her or the club president Bonnie Collie.

For information about the Newcomers Club contact Susan Hall at 877-1068 or club president Bonnie Collie at 873-4441.

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