

Community Seniors in school

By FLORENCE WILKINSON
Seniors in school. Does that sound like second childhood? Certainly not - at least not to those who attend the Extended Learning Opportunities series which is held at Erin Legion Hall each fall. This fall's series runs weekly from Oct. 4 to Dec. 6 and has some very interesting lecture titles. However, that type of education is not what I would like to write about in this article.

In the last two months the subject of seniors using their time in the educational system has been brought to my attention three times. The first time I saw an article in the local paper headlined Seniors Can Have A Grand Time. Later I picked up a brochure at the Recreation and Parks Department which included the same information - a nice looking brochure called GrandTime, seniors in Halton Board of Education Schools - and the third time the same information with a suggestion that Halton Seniors TV Productions might have a program publicizing GrandTime was handed to me at one of our TV meetings so that I could look into the suggestion.

In an effort to follow this up I have discovered that there has been a program in Holy Cross

Seniors for the Future

School in Georgetown for the past seven years which carries the same purpose and ideas, but under another name. I have also found out that the Halton Board of Education has taken its idea, named GrandTime, from this other program with the name Grand Teachers. This year St. Francis School has also become involved with the Grand Teachers.

The purpose of the program, under either name, is to use the time and skills of seniors to help students in any number of ways. It may be listening skills - a Grand person reading to youngsters, or listening to students who are writing assignments, or to someone who just needs to talk. Skills used in the work place might be used to aid students on a one-on-one base, or may be used in lecturing type presentation. Handcraft skills are also called upon. Locally they teach embroidery and crocheting. The possibilities are as varied as the student or the Grand person, and the benefits to society could be enormous. Each

one involved in the program gains something to enrich his or her life, whether that person is student or senior.

The Facilitator of the GrandTime program for the Halton Board is Betty Logan. In talking to Betty I find that no new programs have been organized in Georgetown as yet, though she would be glad to help if one were wanted. I have also talked to Margaret Dewdney of Glen Williams who has been involved in the program which is working in Holy Cross School, and find that there needs to be someone in the school system with desire, time and persistence to see that such a program is co-ordinated.

Though the idea of seniors bringing their expertise and interest into the school system is not new in this area, it is now within the Board of Education, and therefore may be an integral part of the system if the schools and the seniors can get together on the subject.

The Halton Seniors TV Productions is planning to air an interview, or a video on this subject sometime in the near future. In the meantime, if there are any seniors out there that would like to be part of such a program as GrandTime perhaps you should give your local school a call and help get the program initiated in more of our local schools.

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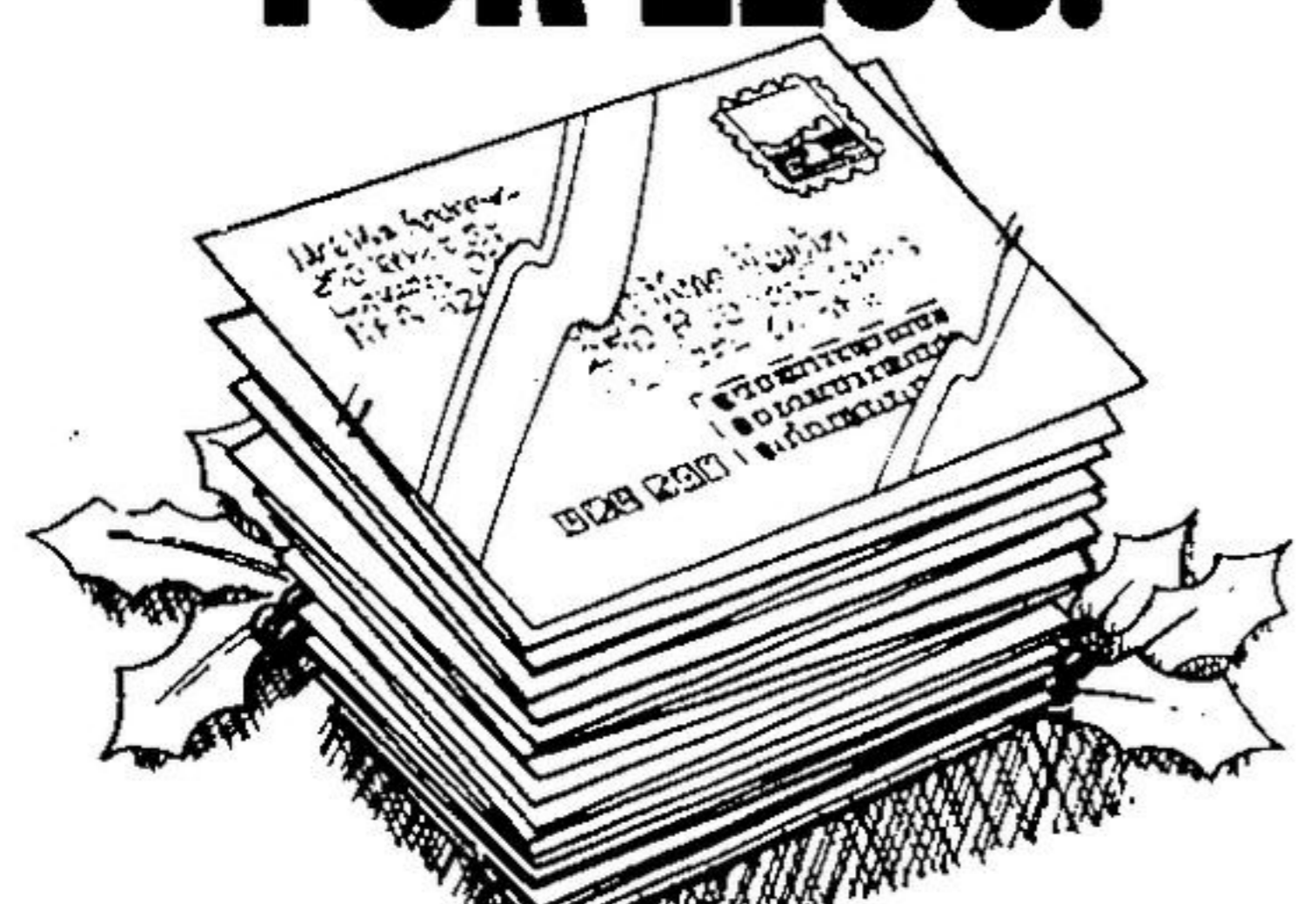
Children's Aid Society
information meeting

The Children's Aid Society of the Region of Peel will hold an adoption disclosure information forum on Thursday, November 29th, 1990 from 7 to 9 p.m. The forum will be held in the Regional Council Chambers on the 5th floor of 10 Peel Centre Drive, Brampton.

The forum is open to the public and there is no charge to attend.

If you would like more information about the forum or adoption in general, please contact The Peel Children's Aid Society's Adoption Unit at 456-1352.


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