

# Seniors

## Special tax benefits still await senior citizens



By Margaret Dunn, CA

The government gives — and the government takes away. And in matters of income tax, the government has a well-earned reputation for taking somewhat more than it gives.

That's one reason why seniors now find themselves minus several tax breaks that used to be available to the over-65's.

Fortunately, though, there are still a few worthwhile tax breaks available. So wherever possible, it's advisable to take full advantage of them. Here are three:

**• Pension Income Tax Credit.** This is a credit amounting to 17 per cent of the first \$1,000 of eligible pension income. At the federal level alone, that means it's worth \$170. But in addition you also save the federal surtax as well as the provincial tax bite on the \$1,000 — perhaps another \$90 or so.

But the key word here is "eligible" pension income.

For example, payments from the Canada (or Quebec) Pension Plans, Old Age Security, lump sum amounts from a pension fund, or retiring allowances such as severance pay are not eligible.

Income that is eligible for the pension credit includes annuity payments from a superannuation or employer pension plan, as well as annuity payments from a registered retirement savings plan or deferred profit sharing plan. Also eligible are annuity payments from a registered retirement income fund.

It's important to note here that if your income should be too low to enable you to claim the full credit, any unused portion may be transferable to your spouse, so the credit is not lost.

**• Pension Rollovers.** This makes it possible to "roll over" up to \$6,000 a year of periodic payments from a registered pension plan or deferred profit sharing plan into a spousal RRSP — over and above your maximum allowable RRSP contribution.

Such a rollover can lead to significant tax savings. For example, it can keep a higher income spouse in a lower tax bracket (an immediate tax saving), besides sheltering tax on the amount rolled over. So it's a double-barrelled saving.

Again, lump sum payments do not qualify for the rollover, nor do payments from a foreign pension.



**• Old Age Security Clawback.** This is a relatively new tax which means that higher income seniors may have to pay back some or all of their OAS benefits. However, it will only affect you if your net income for 1990 is more than \$50,850.

In this case the clawback amounts to two-thirds of 15 per cent of net income over \$50,850 or two-thirds of the OAS payment, whichever is less.

However, if you do have to repay any OAS, then you're entitled to a deduction in respect of the amount repaid.

Moneycare is general financial advice by Canada's chartered accountants. Margaret Dunn is in private practice.

## Seniors centre provides many varied activities

By FLORENCE WILKINSON

When I am at my sister's — that is the sister with whom you are already acquainted in this column — I have a chance to keep updated on some of the things which happen in one of the senior's centres which has given the Georgetown and District Seniors Association help and inspiration. The articles usually have some pictures to go along with the information.

About the middle of December there was an article about all the things which were being co-ordinated, and most of which were happening, in the centre in Tillsonburg. It talked about the decorating for the events; the bazaar (at which they made over \$3,000); quilting classes, crokinole tournaments, curling, Christmas dinner (at which they were asking for donations for Christmas hampers); Christmas concert; musical jamboree and dance and other Christmas news. Scores for past events was a part of the article, and reminders about the newsletter and all the ongoing events was also included.

In the middle of January, I was able to read about the election for the new Board, and of some of the things which a Board has to do if the centre is to be successful. One of those things was to request of the Recreation division of the local Council that their co-ordinator be hired for another period of time. The meeting also discussed paying so much per year to the Council as originally agreed, and the Council's urging for the centre to charge more for rent. (Apparently they were not getting enough requests for rent because there was no permission for alcoholic beverages given when renting.)

Getting a centre in Georgetown is the immediate concern of the Georgetown and District Seniors Association. When a centre

becomes a reality there will still be lots of work for those who enjoy keeping things running and doing a credible job of organizing.

However, there will be a better chance for all seniors to participate in specials — for example bus tours which are now run by the individual associations. Co-ordination of present opportunities and initiating new things will help in the opportunities available for seniors of the area.

Just remember — the place will be around for some time, and some of you who now are taking your children to the recreation centres where you got your start, will be using the seniors centre which got a start from your parents and their peers.

Say: "I saw it in The Herald"

**Elizabeth's Fashions**  
Bridal Boutique  
77 Main Street South  
Downtown Georgetown  
873-1470

**TOWN - COUNTRY CLOTHIERS**  
•Woolrich •Royal Robbins  
•Columbia  
•Run •Bike •Swim •Fitness  
**878-8622**  
**THE FITNESS**  
*Technique*  
190 Mill St. E. MILTON

**Ladies' & Men's Hair Styling**  
10% OFF For Seniors on Wed.  
*Corrie's Hairplace*  
21 Mill W. 853-3461 Acton

**HEY FRED!** Have you heard? Country Lane has opened a Pizzeria and they deliver to Terra Cotta, Norval, Glen Williams & surrounding area.  
Now Delivering Subs-Too!  
**877-6767 877-2254**

**BRAMPTON'S CHEAPEST MATTRESS SALE**

	SUGG. PRICE	SALE PRICE
Bed Frame (39-54) Limit 2 Per Customer	\$3900	\$1900
Single Mattress (Spring Construction)	\$15900	\$7900
<b>SINGLE SET</b>	<b>\$34900</b>	<b>\$11900</b>
Double Mattress (Spring Construction)	\$25900	\$12900
Queen Mattress	\$31800	\$14900
Queen Set	\$39900	\$19900
Orthopedic Twin Mattress Set	\$59900	\$19900
Double Set (25 Year Warranty)	\$69900	\$25900
Sealy Double Set Orthopedic (Limit 2 Per Customer)	\$64700	\$29900
Sealy Queen Set	\$73500	\$34900
Orthopedic King Set (20 Year Warranty)	\$129900	\$49900
<b>QUEEN ORTHOPEDIC SET</b>	<b>\$149900</b>	<b>\$49900</b>

**FREE PILLOW**  
WITH PURCHASE OF MATT. & BOX SPRING

**MATTRESS CLEARANCE SALE!**

**COUNTRY MATTRESS SLEEP SHOP**  
**452-0929**  
190 HWY. 7 WEST, UNITS 53 TO 57  
BRAMPTON  
RICE BUSINESS CENTRE

## Exploring New Horizons

**INTERSESSION/SPRING 1991**  
May 6 - August 13

Laurier offers courses both through classroom lectures and at a distance, through Telecollege. In Brampton, degree programs are available on a part-time basis in six disciplines, or you can work toward a Diploma in Business Administration, or an Arts Certificate. Rather than completing a program, you may want to study only for your own interest and enjoyment. Whatever your motivation, we're here to help you achieve your educational goals.

Classes are available for part-time students at Brampton Centennial Secondary School, 251 McMurchy Avenue South, Brampton. Teleconferences for Telecollege courses are also held at this location. Part-time Studies Course Calendars are available through the office of Part-time Studies or at your local library branch. We're sure that at Laurier, you'll find classes that suit your interests, career and schedule.



**Wilfrid Laurier University**

(519) 884-1970  
Extension 4447

For personal assistance please call us. We'll be glad to help!

75 University Ave. West, Waterloo, Ontario N2L 3C5



"... Laurier's programs have a good reputation for high academic quality. I've been pleased with the courses I've taken; they're offered at flexible times that meet my schedule and it's nice to have the choice between classroom courses or the distance education program — Telecollege."

Pamela McTaggart-Floyd  
Mississauga, Ontario