

Seniors

Seniors centre would be vital part of community

By FLORENCE WILKINSON
Herald Special

I was in Calgary recently, and while I was sight-seeing around their city hall I picked up a copy of Kerby News For Seniors. The front page article was about a meeting of the Alberta Liberal Party Leader, Lawrence Decore, meeting with the Newfoundland premier, Clive Wells, to discuss the future of Canada. The Kerby Gym was packed for the event. Do you suppose that a seniors centre in Georgetown will ever house such a prestigious affair?

The newspaper also informed one that there is not nearly enough money to go around for all the classes that the seniors want to be taking, and not enough courses to receive all the applicants. The article ends, "The continuing great interest in Kerby Centre and other senior centre classes can only be interpreted to mean that Western Canada seniors, particularly Calgarians, have no intention of becoming

"couch potatoes" in their retirement years but are actively making the best of them."

Some of the headings in the twenty page paper indicate the Calgarians are discussing some of the same things that people of North Halton are interested in. For example: "Medical 'split-fee' Plan Protested", "Energize, Don't Tranquilize", "Emergency Preparedness for Seniors", "R.R.S.P.'s Reduce Taxes 26 per cent", "1990 Tax Forms Essential", "New Look Workshop", "Square Dancing Makes a Comeback", "Parks and Rec Winter Fun", "Winter Fun and Games for Seniors".

Of course there was lots of advertising: Kerby News for Seniors TRAVEL 91 \$1.00 off ad-

mission with this coupon: Blackfoot Bingo World: Seniors Benefit More With Calgary Co-op! "The Teddy Bear Collection", and lots lots more.

There was one headline which would not likely appear in any paper in this region, "He Went Bare-Headed When 40 Below". However, the headlines and the advertising indicate that seniors are seniors in any part of the country, and that that group is an important and sizeable group in any planning for social growth and programming, and that the advertising world takes the power potential and buying power of the senior very seriously.

The paper of this centre made it very obvious to me just how important a centre is in a community if co-ordination and development of programming and services are to be adequate.

Two days after I returned from Calgary, I attended the Georgetown and District Seniors Centre Information and Support Meeting. At this meeting, we

were informed by both Kenneth Bradshaw from the Tillsonburg Centre, and Judy Lilly from the Oakville Centres of the same fact - that centres are important in communities for the development and co-ordination of programs for the senior population.

It is estimated that by the year 2000 one quarter of the population

will be in this category. Keeping this in mind should spur the people of these times to work to be prepared for those times. This is going to cost money. However, since all government money comes out of the same source - your pocket and mine - we might as well get busy and get this thing accomplished.

CVCA lays charges

The Credit Valley Conservation Authority charged seven people under the Conservation Authority's Act at the Belfountain Conservation Area last weekend while the O.P.P. assisted in expelling more than 30 from the park on Friday night and 25 on Saturday night. Six of the youth charged were under 18 and drinking.

"People are more than welcome to visit the park during regular hours and respect the rules and regulations but at night it's very dangerous, with the waterfalls, high cliffs and no lighting," says CVCA Superintendent of Field Operations Jim Hastings.

Youths primarily from the Brampton and Bramalea area have been using the park for late night parties, vandalizing and littering the area.

"We will be stepping up enforcement at the area making it clear that this kind of use will not be permitted", says Hastings. It's the safety of these kids that we are most concerned about. Parties, intoxication and the river environment do not mix."

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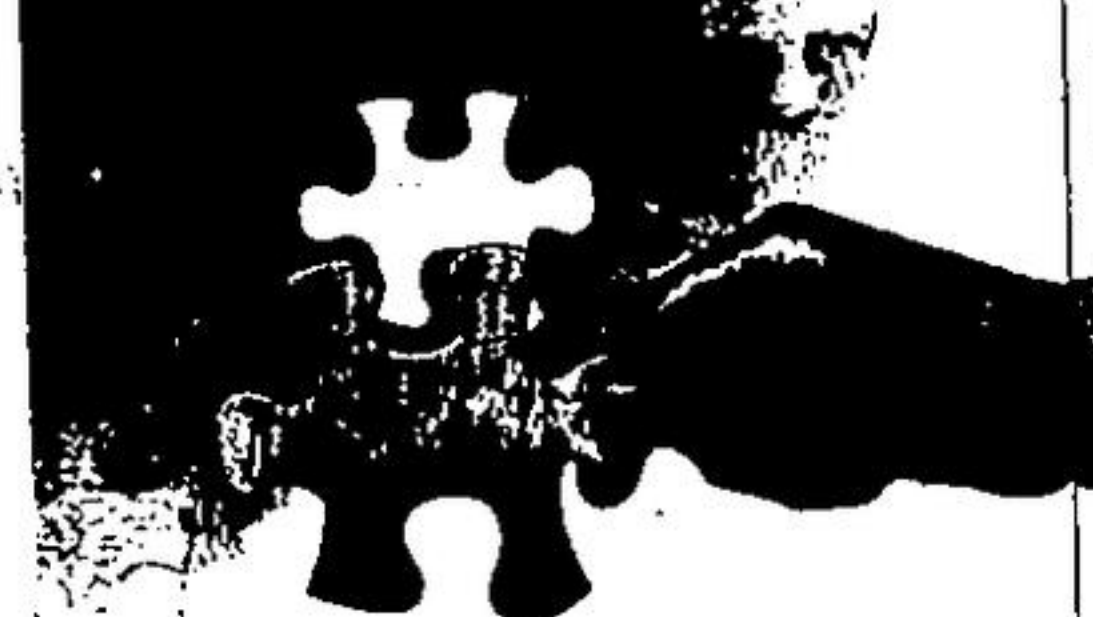
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