

# St. John's Ambulance always on hand at community events

The reality for St. John's Ambulance service in Halton Hills is almost as much time is spent recruiting members as serving the public.

Carol Merten, training co-ordinator for the local Branch and a Corporal in the Brigade, Halton Hills division, said the service was down to six people at the beginning of last year.

Three of the volunteers were in the fundraising and supportive end of the service and three were in the Brigade - the group of volunteers who are trained in first aid and go around to service people at special events.

The St. John's Ambulance service provides emergency medical assistance and reassurance at such community events as the Lions Club, Crazy Boat Race, Fall Fairs, hockey tournaments and other sports and community events.

But the volunteers were stretched out pretty thin in the early part of 1990.

By the middle of the year, however, through extensive campaigning, the service recruited 15 new people to bring the branch up to six volunteers and the Brigade up to 15 volunteers.

Yet, they still need more people.

"It's a full load for us to cover," said Ms. Merten. "We spend anywhere from three to eight hours per week volunteering and that's on top of our full-time jobs."

Another aspect of the service the members are always working on, is fundraising. "During these times of fiscal restraint, we realize we cannot set our sights too high in our fundraising efforts," stated a press release from the Branch Chairman,

Carolyn Martin. But the release stated the service really need funds for a St. John's Mobile First-Aid Post, winter jackets for the Brigade volunteers, a resuscitator, first-aid equipment and supplies as well as the cadet program.

The ambulance service is still making payments on an ambulance that was purchased second-hand last year, said Ms. Merten.

Looking towards the future, Ms. Merten said the service is hoping not only to recruit new volunteers and raise needed funds but to also increase public awareness of the service.



## Youth Soccer executive

Georgetown Youth Soccer Association's new executive must try and get organized after four longtime members stepped down to take a break

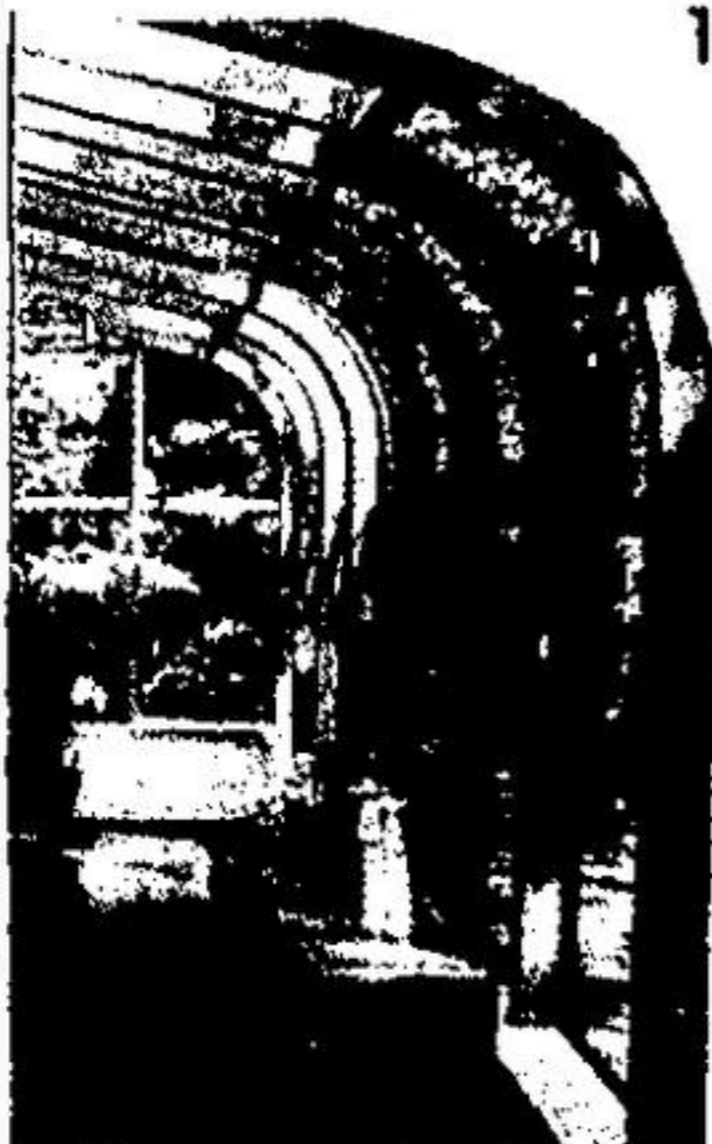
from the action. From left to right, are Bill Harrison, Phyllis Harrison, Pat Bains and George Bains. (Herald photo)

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