

Seniors Celebrate! - it's good for you

By FLORENCE WILKINSON
Celebration

Almost a year ago, when Ontario was celebrating seniors month, or seniors week in some places, we all saw a lovely poster which read, "Jubilagation, A Celebration of Age." Did you celebrate age during those days? Do you celebrate your age daily?

Recently, when I was travelling with my radio on, I heard a discussion going on which accused Canadians of not knowing how to celebrate. The discussion was trying to come up with ideas of something which would hold Canada together - something that we all could do that would not have any political overtones, and would help us to get to know one another as human beings. One of the ideas was that we should take time to celebrate.

This is not a new word to most of you I am sure. For a couple of decades, at least, churches have been using the word celebration in relation to their liturgies; peace marchers have been using the word celebration in relation to intercommunity events; music people have promoted the word in relation to their programs which include the whole world, and last year Ontario used the work in regard to seniors month. We have heard the word for a whole generation. Is it true then, that we, as a people, have still to learn

Seniors for the Future

what the word really means?

That morning, the host of the program was celebrating having seen a hyacinth - an indication that spring was really on its way. However, one of his panel suggested that there were other things he could have celebrated. He could have celebrated the fact that he did not have to drive to work through the rubble of an earthquake as some had to in other North American countries. As I drove I listened to quite a lengthy discussion of just how beneficial celebrations are to the development of a country's identity, and how freeing celebrations can be from the tension and ingrownness of the individual.

A celebration which has been revived among us recently under a different name is the celebration of Earth Day. Do you all remember when you went to school that in early May each pupil had to do some cleaning up of the environment, an when that was done was given the opportunity to enhance the environment by planting of trees, plants or flowers? We celebrated ArbourDay!

Perhaps we did harm to our children when, in making the

changeover from a rural society to an urban society we let such a celebration disappear. However, as all good things do eventually, it has reappeared. It has reappeared with an urgency for celebration which may not have been necessary if caring for the environment had been consistently celebrated in our schools and communities over the years. We cannot change the past, but we can tell "our story" and make this generation aware that caring about the earth is a part of their inheritance from former generations who were blinded for a while.

Perhaps, after all, what we really need to do is learn to celebrate every day as a day for great living, great sharing, great futures - to make a part of our general conversation the wonder and joy of the universe which we celebrate, and its need for tender loving care at the hands of each one of us. Celebrate! It is good for the soul, good for the ecology, good for friendships, good for your health, good for the lifeblood of a continuing Canada. Celebrate! It is good for the whole you!



Seniors banking

With the cutting of the ribbon by Town of Halton Hills Mayor Russ Miller, the Senior's Banking Centre at the Royal Bank, Main Street branch was officially opened Tuesday. Present for the ceremony were (left to right) Vera Shepherd, manager of Senior Banking; Hilda Penrice, long-time customer

at the bank; Doug White, another long-time customer and Ted and Vi Gorth who also bank at the Royal Bank. Recent renovations to the bank allowed it to offer Georgetown's first full service banking area for seniors. (Herald photo)

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