

Seniors Volunteer drivers needed

By FLORENCE WILKINSON
Herald Special
TRANSPORTATION POOL

Anyone who works with Red Cross, Cancer, Hospital, etc. is quite aware that there are quite a few volunteer drivers already at work in Georgetown and District. This article is about another volunteer driving group called the Transportation Pool which has just got under way this April - a group which will serve people who are living on government subsidies. These people cannot afford to hire a taxi, and often do not have access to a vehicle, and will be glad for the friendship of anyone who would drive them to doctors appointments, grocery shopping, special needs, etc. Following is some information about this service.

Seniors for the Future

As mentioned above, the service is not for everybody - only those with special financial needs. The service is not free. A ride one way is \$2.50 which, of course, makes a two-way trip \$5.00 within Georgetown and area. The service will be available only during daylight hours for three days a week: Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. As the service gets more established these hours may change. In the meantime it is hoped that those who may want to use the service will make appointments for which a ride is needed on those days.

People who want to use the service should call the Distress and Information Centre at 877-1211 and leave their request. The request will be passed on to a driver and arrangements will be made between the driver and the person needing the ride.

Volunteer drivers should phone the Volunteer Centre at 877-3219 and give the information in to the person on the other end of the phone.

I suspect that no one really knows how much volunteer work gets done in our town. There is certainly a crowd of volunteers who are hosted by the Town of Halton Hills each year, plus all those who do not attend that

reception. There are also many who are just good neighbours, and are present for someone who may need rides or some little jobs done for them.

Perhaps it is hard for people in the senior age group to think of volunteers having to be organized in order to get a few neighbourly acts accomplished. However, in the urbanized society in which we live it is the only way in which families have become extended families - not by blood relationship, but by geographical and need relationship - and we can find the other members of our extended families through the telephone numbers which are listed above.

Both volunteers and those needing rides may be from any age group. However, since volunteers are so often from the retirees and seniors, it seems proper that this subject should be covered in a column which is primarily for seniors. An earlier column talked about why the Transportation Pool had not yet been started. This column is to let you know that it is now under way, with earlier concerns all cleared. I trust that those who are able or who have need will respond, giving this service a chance to become known and useful in our community.

Tax assistance

Seniors Municipal Property Tax Rebate

If you are 65 years of age or more by September 1, 1991 or a senior spouse of the house owner, and are receiving the Guaranteed Income Supplement to your Old Age Security Pension, you may be eligible to receive this Tax Assistance amount of up to \$150.00. You must have owned your property for 5 years and lived in it.

Anyone who received this rebate in 1990 should have received an application form in with their tax bill. If this is your first time to claim or you did not receive the application you can call 873-2600 Ext. 244.

The deadline to complete this application is September 1, 1991. The form is easily understood and straight-forward to complete, but if you do have any questions, need an application, or need help completing it, please drop into the Acton Social Services at 19 Willow Street North, Acton or call us at 853-3310. Our office hours are Monday to Friday 8:30 to 4:30.

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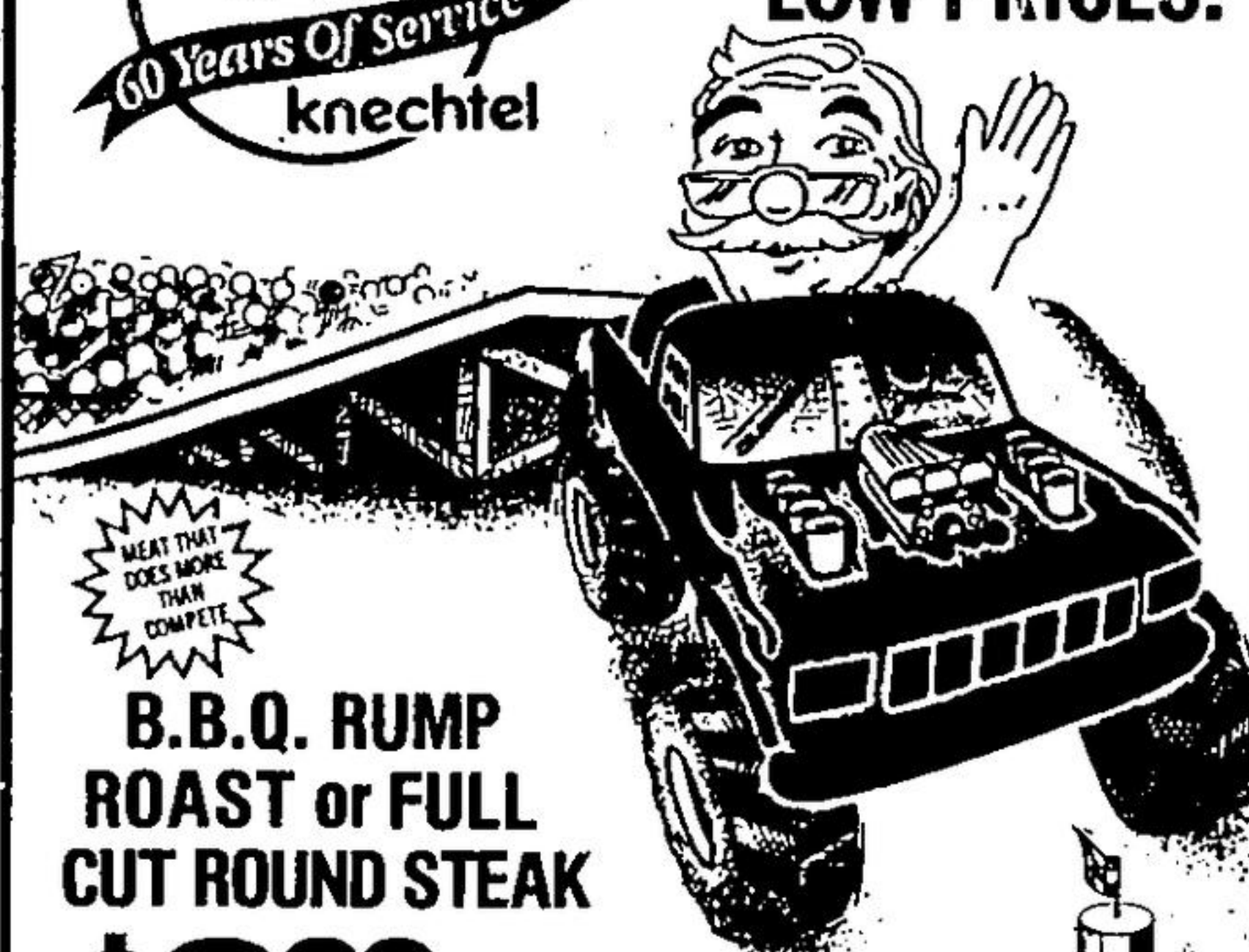
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