

## Volunteer learns valuable lessons

By BEN DUMMETT  
the Herald

There is more to volunteering than pushing a library cart in a hospital, says Lorraine Street, Halton Hills Volunteer Centre Coordinator.

That's the message Ms. Street wants to get across to the general public, and more specifically, to people on unemployment insurance who are thinking of a career change or upgrading their job skills.

She is quick to point out pushing a library cart in a hospital is a valuable volunteer service. However, there is a host of volunteer opportunities ranging from "general office work to crisis intervention and everything in between," of which a lot of people are unaware, explained Ms. Street.

Volunteering provides people with an opportunity to gain both knowledge about certain types of employment and valuable contacts, she said.

Those on unemployment insurance today would especially benefit, said Ms. Street, because many can't find jobs for long stretches due to the recession.

The recession's impact has also

meant an increase in the demand for social services, said Ms. Street. Before the recession agencies were looking for one or two volunteers at any one time, but now they request "as many as possible," she said.

Asked why more unemployed don't take advantage of volunteer opportunities, Ms. Street couldn't give a specific answer. However, she did suggest the unemployed believe volunteering will make them ineligible for their unemployment insurance benefits.

"That's a myth," said Ms. Street. As long as volunteer work is secondary to the person's job search, there shouldn't be a problem, she predicted.

Debby McIntyre, Georgetown Branch Manager, Canada Employment Centre, wouldn't confirm Ms. Street's claim.

She would only say, "It is the individual responsibility of the UI claimant to ensure that any activities, (the person chooses to do), don't interfere with his or her obligation in seeking employment and being available for employment opportunities as outlined when the person makes an application for UI benefits."



### "Showtime"

Are you tired of travelling to Toronto - and paying Toronto prices? Then here is your opportunity to see a first-class show at a very modest price. In keeping with their goal to offer quality live entertainment in Halton Hills, Georgetown Little Theatre is proud to present this popular group in concert at the John Elliott Theatre on Saturday, October 5. The 24 male singers of "Showtime" perform contemporary classics which include the big band tunes, show numbers and other familiar favourites. They recently concluded an engagement with Boris Brodt and the Ontario Place Pops Orchestra at the

Forum, and a show at Art Park in Lewiston, New York, with the Buffalo Philharmonic. The show also features Tony Mergel and his Roland synthesizer orchestra, "2 Much" - a beautiful and dynamic song and dance duo, and Doreen Boss, the well-known and versatile soprano from Brampton. There will be two shows only - a matinee at 2:30 p.m. (special rates for seniors and students), and an evening performance at 8:00 p.m. Tickets are available from Oxbow Books or by calling the President of Georgetown Little Theatre (Margaret Eggleton-Kaye) at 877-7309. (Photo submitted)

## Election declarations

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Town's unique character is preserved," said Ms. Rutherford.

If elected, Ms. Rutherford, who has lived in Georgetown for the past 16 years, also advocates that the municipal government process be better communicated to the general public.

The elementary school teacher says there is a perception that the current council has not adequately communicated how municipal government works.

Asked to comment on whether the current council has a vision for the Town, Ms. Rutherford replied, "there wouldn't have been as many official plans amendments (over the past term) if council had a vision."

Although Ms. Rutherford has never before held a council position, she is quick to point out she has attended council meetings for the past 18 months.

Acton resident Ed Wood is entering the race after more than a 10-year absence from politics.

Mr. Wood, who has lived in the community for the past 20 years, was the Regional councillor for Acton from 1978 to 1980 when he was defeated by Dave Whiting.

Mr. Wood, who is currently a Halton Hills real estate agent, is focusing his attention on municipal government spending.

"The residents of Acton have many concerns. However, given our current economic climate I feel the main issue will be money and the cost of civic government," he said.

"Current council representatives all seem to be singing the same tune of keeping taxes as close to inflation as possible," said Mr. Wood.

He favors zero-based budgeting. That means, said Mr. Wood, "my concern will be to investigate and find out how, where and why money is being spent and to trim and control government spending."

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