

# Seniors are not begging cap in hand

By LES MELLISH  
Herald Special

On behalf of the Georgetown and District Seniors Association I wish to compliment the Herald and specifically Ben Dummett for the coverage given in the Oct. 23rd issue to the meeting of the Association with non-incumbent candidates on the issue of a seniors recreation centre.

We seniors appreciate any expression of support and are encouraged as we get more and more from all sources. It seems the more publicity there is on this topic the more acceptance it gets and once Council senses community pressure for such a centre it will take the initiative and make it happen.

If you will permit me, I should like to state more precisely what the needs of seniors are. I am referred to as having said that "seniors need a \$1,000,000, 10,000 sq. ft. building." I should like to say more correctly: We need a building in which we can feel at home and have a sense of possession so that we can say it's ours. And in view of the program we wish to provide to seniors, based on their wishes and our research: the number of seniors likely to be using the centre; and the need for

## Seniors for the Future

some parts of it to be available for the general use of the public, it makes good sense to provide at least 10,000 sq. ft.

There is also no denying the fact that seniors are part of a growing segment of the population, so it would be foolish economy to start too small. If we can get this for \$100 we'll readily surrender the need for a million dollars which we estimate is about the price we'll have to pay for what we want.

The above of course is a simplistic model of the solution to our problem. We recognize the possibility of, and are on the lookout for, opportunities to solve our problem at lower cost by combining with other community services, in a complex centre.

The one which is presently in favor with Council is to combine a seniors centre and possibly a needed community centre with another arena beside the existing Alcott Arena. Other similar alternatives exist and may become practical. Another, possibly lower cost alternative, is to con-

vert an existing building. Such a building has not yet turned up but we would be happy if it did and would willingly help to evaluate it. This of course would be an "accidentally" occurring opportunity and we can't go on waiting forever for that coincidence to happen.

When we say this might cost the Town as much as \$500,000 we are trying to be open about this. It sounds like a lot of money at first glance but in comparison with the capital outlay for other projects, such as an arena or the civic centre itself for that matter, it is not a major expenditure.

Let's not beat around the bush, what we are asking for is a new social, cultural and recreational development for Georgetown. What else appears on the capital forecast for 1992 to 2000? Nothing! Surely we, the community of Georgetown, should have some development of this kind for the whole community.

We're not a bunch of seniors with cap in hand begging for a

hand-out. We present day seniors are in the process of alerting the community to the fact it has slipped behind other communities in the region and in Ontario in that no seniors centre exists here and many hundreds of seniors here and now are passing their retirement with limited social activity and contact; there is loneliness and boredom and it is waiting for

you if you don't wake up and start to take an interest in the social, cultural and recreational development of this pleasant Ontario community of Georgetown.

Come along councillors! Get with it! Show leadership and make this happen. Present day seniors are willing to help so that it will be there for the seniors of the future!

## Seniors Safety Week

The Canada Safety Council, in cooperation with the Provincial Safety Councils and Leagues, is pleased to announce its third annual National Seniors' Safety Week campaign, November 12-18, 1991. The week is designed to intensify public awareness of the issues surrounding the safety of older Canadians. The campaign theme "Safeguard Your Best Years - Driving for Life," provides an important venue to direct national preventive education programs and public awareness activities to reduce accidents suffered by older Canadians on the roads.

With more people living longer, individuals age 55 and older are becoming the largest group in Canada. Over 4 million drivers aged 55 and over make up 20 per cent of the population and are involved in 12 per cent of all motor vehicle collisions. Collisions and traffic violations among older drivers often involve failure to yield the right-of-way. 90 per cent of collisions involving older drivers are multiple vehicle

crashes.

Highlighted coast to coast with your support, National Seniors' Safety Week gives Canadians the opportunity to be better informed about the age-related problems that are known to affect drivers' performance.

Thousands of campaign kits containing valuable information on how older motorists can drive safely and stay on the roads longer, and registration forms for our 55 Alive driver refresher course, are being distributed to senior organizations, health units, safety organizations and community centres across Canada.

The Canada Safety Council is the only independent, national, non-profit membership safety organization in Canada. Through the coordination and promotion of safety and accident prevention activities for all Canadians, it is dedicated solely to the reduction of death, injury and economic loss caused by accidents and health hazards.

## United Way food fun

Where can you eat food a la Marilyn, Franco and Ed, be waited on hand and foot by celebrity councillors and be dazzled by "impersonations of the rich, the famous, the horrifying (and the ridiculous)," all for \$3.50?

The United Way invites you to come and experience their Third Annual Uniquely United Way Luncheon tomorrow (Thursday) from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Halton Hills Civic Centre cafeteria, located just off Maple Ave. in Georgetown. This gala event will be held in the

ambiance of the Civic Centre cafeteria and is guaranteed to be the "social event of the year", according to a press release.

Diners will be entertained with impersonations the "Social Club", a "bevy of mpy-aproned wait-persons responding to your every whim", gambling, music, drink and "decadence like you've never experienced before."

But come early, this special deal does not last for long. "Do your bit - chow down the United Way."



### Centuries Antiques

Joan Picon, owner of Centuries Antiques at Trafalgar Rd. and Steeles Ave. in Hornby, demonstrates how the table of this 1870 walnut secretary desk opens. This display, including the platform

rocker and pine corner cupboard, was one of over 100 booths set up at Georgetown District High School for its 4th Annual Craft, Art and Antique Sale Saturday and Sunday. (Herald Photo)

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