

O Canada Foundation answers 10,000 calls

By **TED BROWN**
Staff writer

The calls just keep on coming at the O Canada Foundation on Sinclair Ave., Georgetown.

"More than 6,000 calls came in during the With Glowing Hearts broadcast (March 1)," said Ross Carlin at March 6 press conference. "And they came from all parts of the country. I'm told an estimated 950,000 viewers watched the show."

In total, there's been over 10,000 requests for copies of the new recording of O Canada. The 25 phone lines at the office were answered by 50 members of the University Women's Club (UWC) of Georgetown.

"We received a call from a lady in Vancouver," said Anne Lawlor of the UWC, "And she told us how she

was sitting alone in her apartment when the telecast was on. When the national anthem was played, she said she just had to stand as it was played."

"Another woman from Nova Scotia phoned as we were ready to go home at 2 a.m. and told us it took her four hours to finally get through for her copy," added Anne. "And others in B.C. told how the daffodils are blooming while a family out west said at the end of the telecast, all members of the family were standing together."

Although the foundation requests a \$20 donation for each copy, many donated more, with some donations as high as \$100.

"And one guy ordered a VHS (videotape) copy of the broadcast," grinned Carlin, "Then said he had to go out and buy a VCR to play it."

Mulroney offers congratulations

Since the broadcast, a number of new projects are in the works for the O Canada Foundation. Carlin himself has three television interviews to give during the next three weeks, and other projects are to be released in the future.

Projects include; *A Lazermagic Show at McLaughlin Planetarium set to the contemporary version of the recording to start Mar. 14.

*Famous People Players, a black light puppet troupe, will perform a history of Canada, set to the all-star contemporary version. Gala Premier to be performed June 10 in Ottawa.

*Characters Inc., a Fredericton-based performing arts group, will be performing a live song and dance show to the all-star contemporary version. The show will be based on the heritage of Canada.

*In addition to the symphonic version, plans are in the works to release a version for theatres across Canada. And a television sign on/off version will be airing in April.

*A French version of the TV show, entitled "Fleurion Glorieux" is now completed and will air sometime in April.

*And perhaps the most extensive project underway is the re-forming of the entire cast who performed on the recording. They will be performing to an estimated live crowd of 500,000 in Ottawa, including the Prime Minister and The Queen, as

a grande finale to Canada Day celebrations. The television audience for this event is estimated at five million.

"I was surprised to receive a call from the Prime Minister during the broadcast," said Carlin. "It came in 10 minutes before the end of the show and I told him he was missing the best part."

"But he just laughed and said he wanted to congratulate me on the project and how much he, Mila and the kids enjoyed the show."

The work hasn't finished with the telecast, says Carlin. Calls from all over the world, including Bermuda, Australia, U.S.A., Japan and England, have been coming in since the broadcast.

"The television special will air again, June 30, the day before Canada Day," says Carlin.

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Residents oppose plan for new garden centre

Plans for a rural garden centre, complete with greenhouses and a commercial nursery, ran into opposition by neighboring residents early last week.

Mocon Developments had changed its original plans late last year for both a farm implement dealership and a garden centre after residents and council disapproved of the combination.

The five acre parcel is located on the east side of the 10th Line at Regional Rd. 23 (17 Sdrd.).

The garden centre will be selling goods shipped in from another location, Town planner Glenn Wellings said, hence the need for a rezoning.

However, during a public meeting last Tuesday night, councillors were again told of the concerns many area residents still have about the proposal.

A handful of people believed that a rezoning of the property to allow a commercial nursery would adversely affect the area's water.

They reasoned that such an operation may drain their wells, and insisted that proper studies be carried out on the property before any approvals are given.

Many focussed on the point that a commercial zoning would set a precedent for the area as well. Many of the same people are also opposed to the Country Lane video operation, located immediately north of Mocon. The residents fear that if Mocon receives approval, then they would have no grounds to fight the Country Lane business.

"This is setting a precedent, so I am concerned that a commercial zoning won't overflow to the surrounding areas," neighbor Peter Beecham said. "I have no problem with a nursery but the application is not in line with the area."

Councillors noted a final report on the nursery operation is not expected back for a few more weeks.

Crossing guard remains

The school crossing guard on Acton's Mill St. between Eastern Ave. and Bower St. will not be going anywhere, according to town council. Last December, councillor Gerald Rennie raised concerns from area residents that the close proximity of the CN tracks to the crossing area may pose a danger to the school children. However, Engineering Department staff feel that the current location offers the best all-around protection for the students.

New vehicles purchased

Several new vehicles for the Engineering Department will be purchased by the town. A Chevy Sportvan at \$18,305.85, a pickup truck for \$18,879.55 and a Cutlass Cierra station wagon at \$18,278.10 from Andrew Murray Motors; and an International cab, chassis and refuse packer at a cost of \$90,461.70 from a Kitchener company were approved by council Tuesday night.

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