

VON opens office in Halton Region

For the past 62 years, the Victorian Order of Nurses (VON) has been servicing homes across Halton Region. Now the VON has a home of its own.

On November 16, the branch celebrates the official opening of its new facility at 2370 Speers Road, Oakville. The 12,060 square foot building, situated on 1.34 acres of property, houses all aspects of the VON operation. The organization's required space has doubled in size due to the rapid growth of its programs.

For example, the Seniors Day

Program which provides day programming in a home-like setting for cognitively-impaired seniors has been relocated from East Oakville to the new facility. As a result of the extra space, the program can now accommodate 80 client spaces per week - a 100 per cent increase.

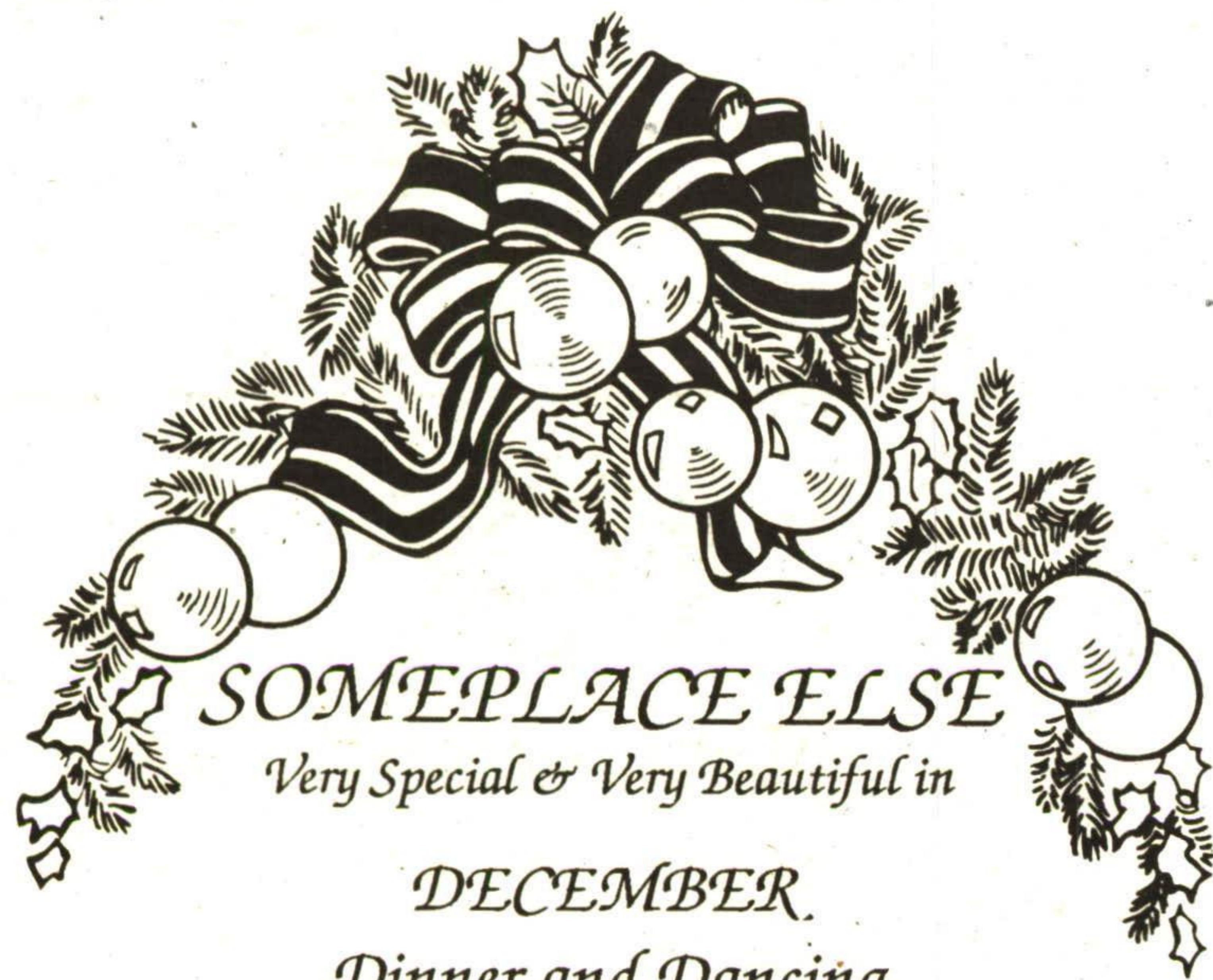
"The decision to purchase the building came only after a great deal of analysis," explains Carolyn Milne, executive director of the branch. The board struck an Accommodation Committee that took advantage of a favorable real estate market and declining interest rates. The option to purchase was ultimately more cost-effective than another lease arrangement. Renovation and expansion dollars were received from the Long Term Care Division of COMSOC (Ministry of Community and Social Services) for the Seniors Day Program as well as funds from the Oakville Trafalgar Lions Club. Individual donation dollars were received to support renovations for the remainder of the building.

Further yearly payments on the principal of the mortgage will help to decrease the accommodation costs of the VON at a time when funding has been decreased. With its location on the south side of Speers Road, just east of Bronte Road, the new VON building is well located to serve the 1,500 clients and families currently admitted to their services.

Phone woes

Peel Memorial Hospital has issued a request that cellular telephones not be used in the hospital by patients and visitors, as they have been found to interfere with patient equipment.

"The hospital has been experiencing problems when frequencies used in cellular telephones have interfered with monitors used for patient care," says Shirley Hunt, the hospital's telecommunications manager. "Obviously, our first priority is providing a safe environment for our patients and would sincerely appreciate the cooperation of visitors in using the pay telephones located throughout the building."



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