

# Editorial

## Unsung heroes and heroines

Volunteer. By definition: One who enters into any service of his/her own free will.

Pretty dry stuff that, and nowhere near the mark of what being a volunteer is really all about.

Self-sacrifice comes into play in a big way; doing unto others what you would have them do unto you - only doing it first, definitely has to fit in and perhaps most of all, a sense of truly caring for others would have to be included in the volunteer profile.

Numerous area organizations took advantage this past week (officially designated as Volunteer Week) to recognize and thank those people who through their time and conscientious effort as volunteers make this crazy planet we call home just that little more user-friendly. John Ollivier, Marketing Manager for Halton Cable Systems was officially recognized for his volunteer work in the Scouting movement with a Canada 125 medal and in typical volunteer fashion, admitted he was surprised by the honor.

"It was a surprise, of course," he said. "I had just finished a presentation, coincidentally about honors and awards, when the Region President called me back so that he could read the letter from the Governor General's office and pin the medal on me."

Volunteers are a special breed and one really does wonder whether the North American lifestyle we so enjoy and cherish could survive without their efforts.

Volunteers pop up in hospitals, in minor sports programs, in church activities, in arts and culture groups, in historical societies, in certain police functions, in firefighting and ambulance services and how would our poor brow-beaten politicians survive without the sustenance provided by these unsung heroes and heroines.

It is indeed ironic that in these harsh economic times with governments at all levels cutting back on services, rolling back wages and crying dollar-poor, that we owe so much to the unpaid volunteer.

For the most part, volunteer work is a thankless chore performed by dedicated people who work mostly in the background, shunning the limelight.

They would no more seek glorification than they would money - it simply is not their style.

However, their efforts should be appreciated by those of us who - even unwittingly - reap the harvests of their labor.

Take time out to thank a volunteer you know. This would truly represent a rich reward and undoubtedly would be appreciated in kind.

## The People's Corner

### Guides thank their volunteers

To the Editor:

Being Volunteer Week, I would like to take a moment to recognize a group of extremely dedicated ladies, who take many hours from their busy work week schedules to provide opportunities for the girls of this community. These ladies spend countless hours planning weekly meetings, attending first aid trainings, camp trainings and countless hours of other trainings to help the girls develop the self-confidence and skills required to succeed in today's and tomorrow's world. The talents, resourcefulness and capabilities of these people are endless and they provide a wonderful role model that can influence academic attainment and athletic achievement of girls from the age of 5 on up. Their reward is the smile on the face of a child who has met another challenge and is now ready for the next one.

On behalf of the girls, I thank the Guiders of Georgetown East for all the many hours of dedicated hard work. Well Done!! Guiders of Georgetown East, you are wonderful and a joy to work with.

Lynda Strathdee  
District Commissioner  
Georgetown East District  
Girl Guides of Canada

### Red Cross volunteers

To the Editor:

As this past week has been set aside as "Volunteer Week", I would like to express my thanks to a great team of people who are the Georgetown and District Branch of the Canadian Red Cross.

The dedication and commitment of these special people keep our programs such as: Blood Donor Recruitment, Emergency Response and Training, Water Safety Programs, Emergency Medical Driving, First Aid, Senior's Fun and Fitness, Minor Disaster, Individual Emergency Aid, Homecare Health Equipment Services, tracing & Reunion, as well as National and International Aid active.

Without these dedicated volunteers - over 300 - these programs would not exist. My sincere thanks go to all Red Cross Volunteers for your hard work and for "helping others".

Elaine Chatten,  
Branch President,  
Georgetown

### Refugees deserve haven

To the Editor:

Re: Stop immigration letter - 10 April

What is a refugee? It is someone who is admitted into Canada for compassionate reasons. Because of religious, political or racial discrimination in the refugee's home country, the claimant lives a life fraught with peril, denial of basic human rights and freedoms, and in many cases the very real likelihood of persecution and death.

When these troubled souls are admitted into Canada, they may not have the skills and resources necessary to contribute immediately to our society. Yes, some do need financial assistance, employment counseling and training in English. And yes, some refugees do receive welfare for a brief period until they are back on their feet. But, the alternative - refusing entry to these refugees - might make us inadvertent accessories to the imprisonment, torture, and even death of innocent human beings.

As citizens of one of the most well-established democracies on the planet, most Canadians feel privileged to share their freedom with others and shoulder the minimal cost associated with bringing peace and hope to a refugee's life. This is the foundation of our society: only the native Canadians have not been refugees or immigrants to this country.

As for immigrants, most are accepted into Canada because of the much-needed skills and assets they bring with them. There is plenty of statistical evidence (contact your regional Social Service Office) which shows that these new Canadians are contributing their share to our society's economy by creating jobs and paying taxes that support our social safety net now and in the future.

Lucinda Landau  
North Halton Citizens'  
Cultural Awareness  
Committee  
Georgetown

### Coverage is appreciated

To the Editor:

Thank you for your honest, faithful reporting of all meetings involving groups like P.O.W.E.R. and the resulting public debate in your letters to the editor.

Having recently returned to the area after many years, I was unaware of the activities of P.O.W.E.R. It seems like a valuable organization that is desperately

needed. Your coverage has prompted me to consider becoming a member. Could you please publicize the group's official mandate and details on joining?

Gloria Hildebrandt  
Georgetown

Editor's note: For information on P.O.W.E.R., contact Barbara Halsall at 873-0344.

### No booze at Terra Cotta

The Credit Valley Conservation Authority is promising a return to the quiet outdoor family experience originally intended for its campers at the Terra Cotta Conservation Area in 1993.

One of the new regulations to curb unwanted behavior is a ban on alcohol consumption in the campgrounds. The new regulations were passed at a meeting of the Full Authority last week and are designed to stop alcohol abusers at the Park.

The new regulations follow the lead of all provincial parks who banned alcohol a number of years ago.

"We will be ticketing and ejecting anyone from the park who con-

sumes alcohol and causes a disturbance," said Ken Owen, Land Resources Manager for the Credit Valley Conservation Authority.

Campers frustrated in the past with unwanted disturbances are being asked to return this year with the promise of a very different experience.

"We want campers to know that their camping experience is our number one priority and we will be working hard to maintain a positive camping atmosphere at Terra Cotta," said Owen.

Terra Cotta offers a beautiful natural area with hiking trails, fish ponds, swimming pool, barbecues and picnic areas. Camping at Terra Cotta opens May 21.

### Got a beef or a comment?

Drop us a line at: Letters to the Editor, 232 Guelph St., Unit #9, Georgetown L7G 4B1 or fax your letter to (416) 873-3918



## Don't become just another fire statistic in Halton Hills

Year to date as of March

YEAR	ALARMS	DOLLAR LOSS	INJURIES	FATALITIES
1993	120	\$267,870.	1	0
1992	145	\$679,950.	1	0
1991	81	\$ 81,300.	0	0

The Halton Hills Fire Department is making a great effort to reach the adult population of our community with an "Educate to Prevent" program. Each month, statistics will be printed in this newspaper to keep fire safety constantly on the minds of our citizens and thereby reduce the number of fires, the amount of fire loss and the number of injuries or fatalities. The above statistics are cumulative totals to the end of March.

## HELP PREVENT FIRES

### For Pete's Sake



GROUCHO

CHICO

HARPO



WHACKO FROM WACO

ONE OF THESE JOKERS ISN'T FUNNY...

by Roe

### Halton Hills THIS WEEK

Halton Hills This Week, Weekend Edition, is published every Saturday at 232 Guelph St., Georgetown, Ont. L7G 4B1, and is printed in Oakville at Q.E. Web Printing. Halton Hills This Week claims copyright on all original editorial and advertising material created by its employees and reproduced by this newspaper. Such material may only be reproduced on written consent of the publisher. In the event of typographical error advertising goods or services at wrong price, goods or services may not be sold. Advertising is merely an offer to sell which may be withdrawn at any time.  
PUBLISHER: Ken Bellamy EDITOR: Colin Gibson  
PRODUCTION MANAGER: Kathleen Topolesek  
CIRCULATION MANAGER: Marie Shadbolt  
OFFICE MANAGER: Jean Shewell  
HALTON HILLS THIS WEEK IS INDEPENDENTLY OWNED & OPERATED.  
PHONE: 873-2254 FAX: 873-3918