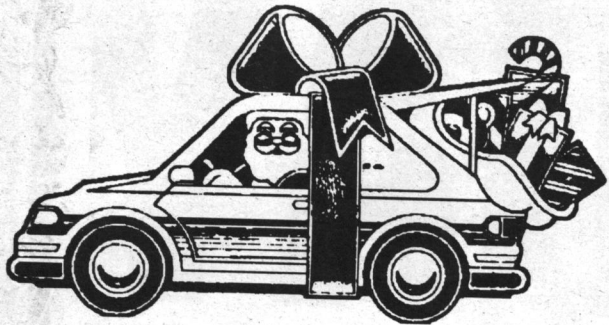


Duplicate Bridge

Results of Monday Afternoon's Duplicate Bridge at the Legion in Georgetown

- 1) Mike Lorusso and Karol Tobiasz
 - 2) George Sargent and Jack Kaarsemaker
 - 3) Judy and Dave Rivers
 - 4) Elsie Whitham and Norma Maynard
- Merry Christmas to all and a Happy New Year!
Duplicate Bridge on Mondays will resume Jan. 3.

Merry Christmas



from the staff
and management

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ROYAL LEPAGE

Donna Robbins
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The demographics of Halton are changing

By Teresa Pitman
Special to HHTW

For decades, the majority of immigrants into Halton region were of British or Western European origin. But in recent years, Halton's population has not only grown rapidly, it has become more diverse. Over the last five years, those coming to Halton listed Hong Kong, England, Portugal, Poland and India most often as their previous homes.

Oakville was the primary destination or over 50 per cent of newcomers to Halton, followed by Burlington (37 per cent),

Milton (7 per cent) and Halton Hills (5 per cent).

Maria Antonakos presented those statistics at a recent workshop organized by the Halton Partnership for Multicultural/Anti-Racist Organizational Change to demonstrate how the demographics of Halton are changing. Increasingly, new arrivals bring new cultures, skills and talents into the region. Over 60 per cent indicate an ability to communicate in one of the two official languages, while 39 per cent speak neither French nor English on arrival.

As Antonakos explains:

"This trend is continuing, and will have considerable impact on all the service agencies who work with these new immigrants. Service agencies need to plan to meet the unique needs of immigrants, and to reach out into the community to provide more effective and accessible services."

Corrie Galloway, a Supervisor with the Halton Children's Aid Society, points out that it takes more than simply finding an interpreter to translate what is being said. "We need to understand each other, or we will not be able to communicate effectively."

The Partnership, which has representatives from the Halton Children's Aid Society, Halton Social Planning Council, Halton Multicultural Council, Halton Regional Police Service, Regional Municipality of Halton, Halton Board of Education and Halton Roman Catholic Separate School Board, was created because the various groups felt they needed to work together to deal with these changes effectively. They wanted to be able to provide services that would be sensitive to the needs of various ethnic and cultural groups, and to ensure equal

access to job openings and volunteer positions, among other goals.

Besides meeting with the Partnership, each participating organization also has an internal committee working on these issues.

The workshop, held at the Regional offices on Nov. 5, included a film on "Managing Diversity", case studies and a presentation by Barb Justason of the Ontario Human Rights Commission. While the Partnership is primarily concerned with multicultural issues, Justason also touched on the rights of people with disabilities.

At the conclusion of the workshop, representatives of each participating group met together and committed to a plan to begin the process of change in their organization.

While the workshop was both informative and productive, Corrie Galloway sees it as only a beginning. "Change is always difficult. But Halton is definitely changing, and it's essential for our organizations to change in order to keep up with our community. We think this Partnership will be an effective way to do it."

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from Staff
and Management

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Seniors directory

Are you a senior citizen? Do you have your copy of the Halton Seniors' Directory? The directory provides information on who seniors can call regarding recreation, education, housing, transportation, financial aid, housing, accommodations, counseling, health services, home support and government. Drop in after the Christmas holidays to Acton Social Services and Information Centre or visit the library for your free copy. ASSIC is located at 19 Willow St. North, Acton.

Acton Social Services and Information Centre also supplies a Financial Directory to seniors.

This publication, produced by ASSIC, provides information on Canada Pension, Old Age Security, Supplements and Gains. There is also a chart included which indicates "when to apply for what".

Are you looking for information on sales tax grants/credits, property tax grants/rebates? Do you need information about making a will? Get your free financial directory for seniors.

Halton Hills This Week 873-2254

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happiness,
health and
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holiday
season.

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management
at

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