

Santa Maria Exchange

BY DONNA DANIELLI
THE COMPASS

Recently, the Town of Milton had the opportunity to play host to a unique group of visitors.

Mayor Reylna Nicholas, Councilor Nerissa Cruz and Council Secretary Benito Fabian formed the Santa Maria Exchange Team in reciprocation of a visit from Mayor Krantz, Mario Belvedere and Sandy Martin in April.

The Mayor and her staff travelled to Milton to finalize a protocol agreement to establish the projects to be worked on over the next three years. This initiative is funded through the Federation of Canadian Municipalities and by the Canadian International Development Agency. There are 45 Canadian municipalities involved in this program that are matched up with third world or developing cities. Santa Maria is in the Province of Bulacan in the Philippines with a population of approximately 93,000 people.

It is similar to Milton in that the local economy is diversified and has potential for significant growth as an aspect of its proximity to the Metro Manila area. While here from June 27 until July 7, the Mayor and her staff were kept busy touring local industries, farms and tourist attractions.

There is another planned visit in the fall for two to three municipal staff members to travel here to work with Milton's staff on policies and procedures.



PHOTO COURTESY OF DONNA COULTER

PHILIPPINE FARWELL

The Milton Chamber of Commerce hosted a farewell reception for the town's Philippine partners and friends at the Halton Region Museum on July 6th. Pictured L. to R. are Santa Maria Mayor Reylna Nicolas, Milton Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Sandy Martin, Santa Maria Councilor Nerissa Cruz and Town of Milton Mayor Gord Krantz.

The Ontario Jockey Club applies for name change

SPECIAL TO THE COMPASS

The Ontario Jockey Club (OJC), one of North America's largest gaming and entertainment organizations, has applied to Ontario's Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations to change its name to Woodbine Corporation. The change would be effective this fall. The company's not-for-profit status remains unchanged.

The OJC has made recent massive changes and a multi-million dollar investment at its facilities at Woodbine, Mohawk and Greenwood to enhance the racing experience for customers and to prepare Woodbine and Mohawk for the arrival of slot machines. Mohawk will open its 750 slots in early August; Woodbine's 1,700 slots will be operational in late fall.

The Corporation has also invested heavily in the television broadcast of its racing product, part of an aggressive plan to expand its distribution system to access new customers throughout North America.

"The existing name served the company well for over 100 years," said President and CEO, David Willmot. "However, our Board of Directors has decided that a name change will clearly establish the brand name of our largest venue and, importantly, identify the company as a 'business' and not a 'club.' The name change more effectively communicates the business-like approach of the corporation as it prepares for the next millennium."

For operational purposes, the company will continue to conduct its business utilizing the familiar Woodbine and Mohawk brand identifiers. For further information, contact: David Gorman, Vice President of Corporate Affairs, (416) 675-3993 extension 2205

Everyday heroes

Ray & Diane Hendry

BY DONNA DANIELLI
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It's a wonderful country that we live in, with reasonable laws and freedom of speech.

However, the rights we take for granted can be confusing and frightening to immigrants from communist or police ruled states. That's when Halton Regional Police officers Sergeant Ray Hendry and his wife Constable Diane Hendry step in.

"There is a need to educate certain segments of the community about policing," says Ray. "If people have a fear of the police, they won't report crimes to us and they become more susceptible to crimes like fraud and blackmail. This is one of the reasons the police service sees the need to reach out."

Ray and Diane answer the same community needs but each has chosen a unique approach. When Diane obtained the position of Recruiting Officer, one of her responsibilities was Co-ordinator of the Police Ethnic and Cultural Education Program (PEACE). Originally a summer program, PEACE now runs twice a year, in spring and fall. Each 12 week session provides a volunteer opportunity for youth 16 or over with either an ethnic background or an interest in ethnic diversity. PEACE meets once a week and along with providing information about dealing with cultural issues such as hate crimes and stereotyping, offers presentations by drug officers, experts in firearms, major crimes and community policing. Recently, two former PEACE students were hired by the Halton Regional Police as police constables.

Originally designed as a means to break down barriers between police and new immigrants, PEACE now opens youth's eyes to careers in policing, of which Diane is very proud. "I never imagined I would have as much fun and get as much out of it as I have. It's very rewarding," she says.

Diane is quick to point out that PEACE is a team effort and people like Joan McWilliams, a civilian who shares the office with Diane, and Elizabeth Carmichael, a long time supporter of PEACE and Chair of the North Halton Cultural Awareness Council, keep PEACE running successfully.

Diane is responsible for bringing the need for police awareness of cultural diversity to Ray's attention. Ray had just returned from a seminar on Community Policing at the Canadian Police College with an interesting bit of homework. He was to identify a problem within the community and solve it. At the same time, Diane was having a problem recruiting new youth for PEACE and Ray utilized this opportunity to address community needs and form a focus group to look at where the police service could go to be in touch with diverse ethnic cultures.

It was decided that they needed to use an event the community would want to be involved in as a jumping off point, and "Hands Across The World" was born. "Hands Across The World" first took place July 1, 1998 as an event where groups could showcase ethnic culture, food and dance. More than 3,000 people attended the event which also highlighted the community and the Silver Anniversary of Halton Regional Police. This year's "Hands Across The World" looks to be even bigger and better. It will be held at St. Vladimir's Cultural Centre at the corner of Fourth Line and Dundas Street, August 15 from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Specifics about this event can be found in "Just Kidding" on page 13 of this edition of the Compass.

The son of a police chief himself, Ray has been with the Halton Regional Police for 24 years and has worked in Acton, Georgetown and Milton. As well as his work with "Hands Across The World," he's Chair of the Race Relations Advisory Committee, a member of

COPAR (Council of Police Officers Against Racism), a director at Halton Multicultural Council and the Executive Liaison with Community Policing Committees. His position as Executive Liaison involves working with six Community Consultation Committees, in Acton, Georgetown, Halton Hills Rural, Milton, Nassagaweya, and Derry. He stresses that these committees are always in need of volunteers. As well, he is in charge of the Auxiliary Policing Services Unit. This is a volunteer program for mature people, male or female, who receive 75 to 120 hours of training, a police uniform and the opportunity to spend at least 12 hours a month assisting where needed, whether as crowd control or taking part in searches for missing persons.

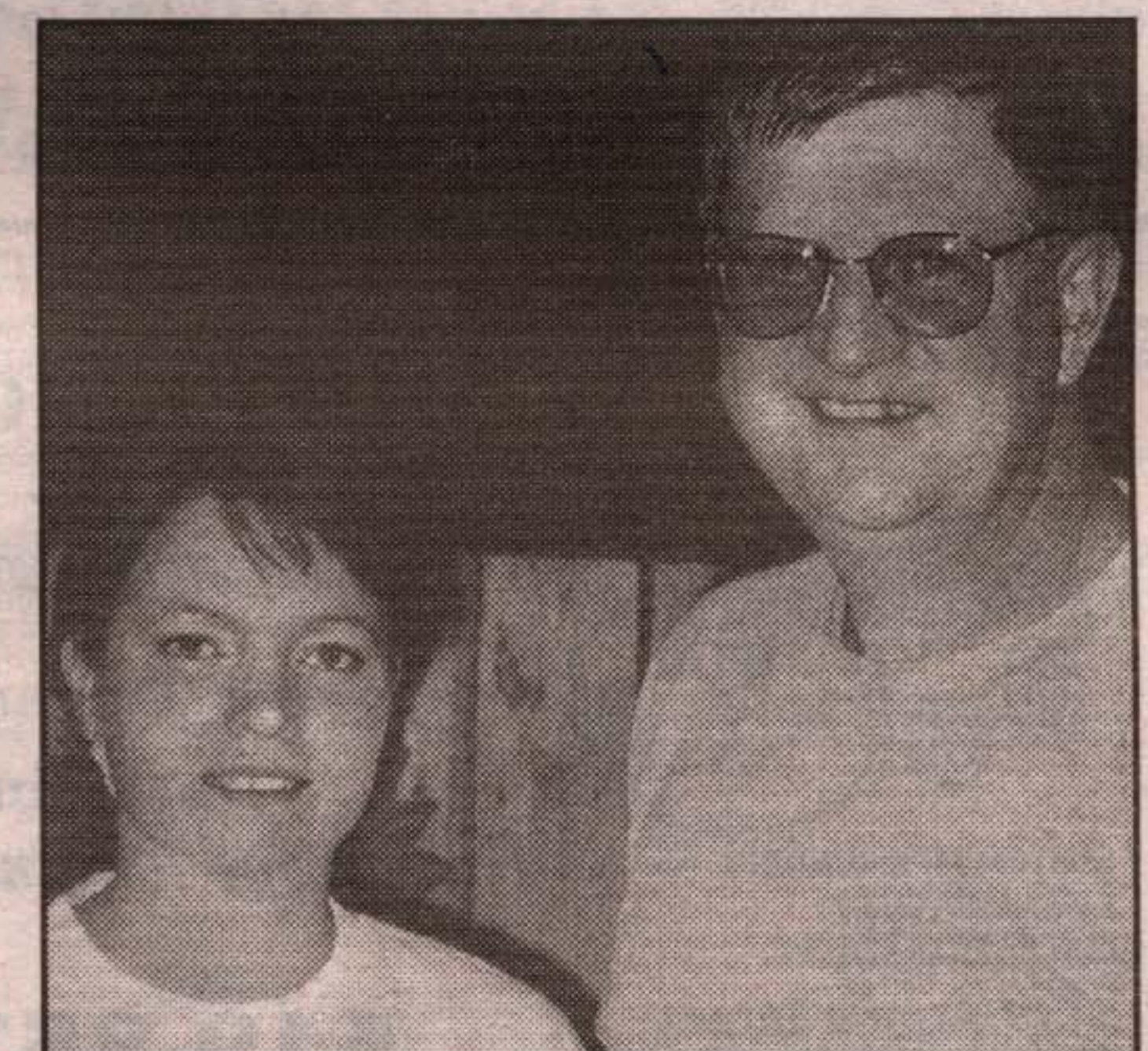
Ray and Diane were recently awarded the Gold Medal by The Human Rights and Race Relations Centre. Ray has also received a Certificate of Merit from the Canadian Centre for Police Race Relations, a Certificate of Appreciation from the Premier's Office, along with a Silver Jubilee Award and a Recognition from the Safar Sultan Memorial Trust in Mississauga.

"It was a real honour to be recognized," he says, "but that recognition should go out to a lot of people. I'm really just a switchboard operator. People will phone me up and it can be totally unrelated and from that, I usually know someone that they can contact. I plug people into other people."

Ray and Diane met eight years ago. In 1995, Ray proposed to Diane while on vacation in Barbados. One week later, they married. They share their lives with cats Daisy and Elizabeth, and Ray's 17-year-old daughter Amanda, and a phenomenal garden that reflects their beautiful work. A true "Friendship Garden," the majority of the plants and cuttings are gifts from the many diverse people with whom they work.

Both Hendry's appreciate the insight that their careers have given them. Diane states, "If people could just experience what Ray and I have in the last two years, there would be no racism. People would see that there is nothing to be afraid of." Ray talks about his experiences much the same way, remarking, "Diane and I have been around the world without ever leaving the Region... we've had invitations from The Italian Club, gone to a Greek Picnic, visited a Sikh Temple, and worked with the Caribbean association and the Phillipino Consulate. We interact with so many unique people with different strengths."

The Hendry's fit that description particularly well - unique people with different strengths, making the world a friendlier place to live day by day. For information about PEACE, "Hands Across the World," Auxiliary Policing or volunteering with your local Community Consultation Committee, phone Ray or Diane at 905-878-5511.



DIANE & RAY HENDRY



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