

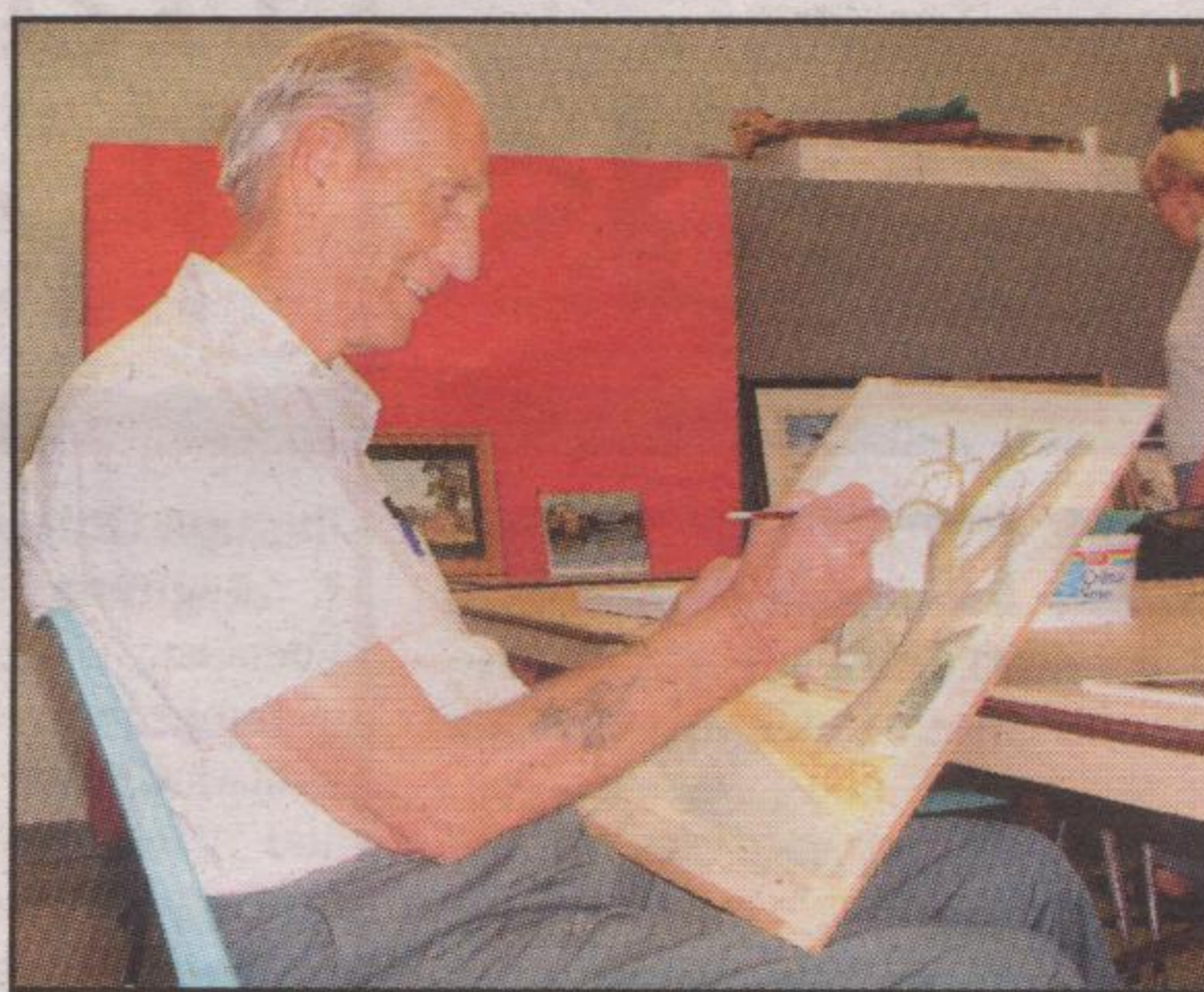
Milton Seniors' Centre celebrates 10th anniversary



Ed Goodall, past president of the Milton Seniors' Activity Centre advisory board, gave a speech at the 10th anniversary celebrations of the centre on September 18. Ed served as president from 1993 to 1995.

Membership at the centre has grown steadily since it opened in 1994. In

that year there were 476 members. As of this year there are almost 700. Today, the centre offers a variety of activities for local seniors. There is a carving club, a drama club, a Wednesday bridge group, a folk art club, as well as many other groups that meet at the centre regularly.



Colin Stansfield, a member of the Milton Seniors' Activity Centre, works on a landscape scene that he is doing in watercolours. Colin attended the centre's 10th anniversary celebrations on September 18. Colin, like many other seniors that frequent the centre, comes to socialize and be among people with similar interests.

PHOTOS BY JENNIFER ENRIGHT

Ruth Stinson, president of the Milton Seniors' Activity Centre advisory board, presents a special award to Milton senior Ed Whitlock for his achievements. Ruth told an audience gathered at the centre's 10th anniversary celebrations on September 18 that Ed is "an outstanding example of what a senior is capable of." Ed is known internationally as a long distance runner. The birthday celebrations at the centre included presentations by MP Gary Carr, MPP Ted Chudleigh, and Milton Mayor Gord Krantz. Ruth also received a gift on behalf of the Milton Seniors' Activity Centre during the ceremonies. The gift was presented to her by Dave Dodgson, president of the Acton Seniors' Centre.



They called the wind Hazel

Hurricane is still remembered fifty years after

By DONNA DANIELLI

Tales of Ivan and Jean have dominated the weather news in past weeks, but fifty years ago it was a wind by the name of Hazel that made headlines in the GTA. Hurricane Hazel left the Toronto area devastated when it swept through Southern Ontario on October 15, 1954, leaving a death toll of 81 in its swath.

Halton Region, while not hit quite so hard as its neighbours, nonetheless suffered its share of damage, mostly due to the flooding that came as a result of the Hurricane. Conservation Halton notes in its recent issue of 'Focus' that "the Sixteen Mile Creek became a raging torrent, rising an unprecedented eight feet in as many minutes." No lives were lost in Halton but rampaging floods through Oakville and Milton saw cars and cellars submerged and bridges washed away. Power and telephone lines were knocked out, resulting in a lack of service for days and flooding in Milton completely swamped the sewage system. The grist mill in Norval fell victim to Hazel and was damaged beyond repair. Norval also suffered the flooding of the entire village centre.

The question asked most often in the aftermath of Hurricane Hazel was why was there no warning for the residents of Southern Ontario of the devastating storm headed straight for them. Quite simply, there was no provincial flood warning system in place at the time.

Hurricanes begin over warm salt water and Toronto, being more than 500 kilometres from the ocean and 194 metres above sea level, would have paid



little attention to the news reports of the hurricane which claimed over 400 lives in the Caribbean on October 8, 1954. While meteorologists predicted that Toronto would feel the effects of Hazel, it was expected that those effects would amount to little more than a severe rainstorm at the most. It was the block of cold air from a massive weather front travelling from the Arctic, colliding with Hazel over Toronto that led to disaster.

Far too many homes had been built, rather optimistically, on flood plains in Southern Ontario, a situation which Halton Region Conservation Authority Chair Jean Williams is quick to point out, would not happen again. "If a big storm happens again in Ontario, the damage will be much less because we have protections in place," she explains. "As a result of Hurricane Hazel, Conservation Authorities have undertaken a comprehensive program of resource management." This management has included acquirement of flood plain acreages which have been converted from housing to parklands, the building and maintaining of dams and dykes to reduce risks to built up areas and an improved flood warning system that is constantly monitored by Ontario's Conservation Authorities.

For those wanting to know more about Hurricane Hazel or share their own memories with others who remember the aftermath of Hazel, the Toronto and Regional Conservation Authorities will launch a new website on October 4. Located at www.hurricanehazel.ca, the website will feature personal accounts, a photo gallery, a hurricane quiz, a chronology of the events of October 15, 2004 and information on the evolution of flood control management in Ontario. As well, residents who survived one of Ontario's worst storms will also have the opportunity to post their stories and memories on the website for all to see. The website will also be available through a link found on Conservation Halton's website at www.conservationhalton.on.ca.



PHOTOS BY MARTIN TAYLOR

Devastation and destruction when Hurricane Hazel hit the GTA in 1954.

All the Rage

Anger Management Program offered in Georgetown

Road rage. Air rage. Sports rage. Coping with rage and anger is a hot topic in our society. To help people who recognize they have a problem with anger, the Canadian Mental Health Association, Halton Region Branch (CMHA-Halton) is offering an Anger Management program in Georgetown.

This 6-week educational/peer support program is for anyone who recognizes that they have difficulty managing their anger and may act in an inappropriate manner when angry.

Participants will gain an understanding of anger as an emotion, determine negative and non-productive responses to anger, and learn effective anger management techniques. The program will provide participants with constructive alternatives and tools.

The cost of the program is \$95.00 and registration is required.

For more information, or to register, call CMHA at 905-693-4270. The Canadian Mental Health Association, Halton is a United Way Member Agency.