

# Fellowship the key to the Kinsmen

Stories and photos by Michael Boyle

One day after the now-famous Mississauga evacuation, the phone rang at the home of lawyer Lorne Greenwood. Greenwood, president of the Milton Kinsmen Club, quickly telephoned several other members of the club.

Just one hour later (at 2:30 a.m.) Greenwood and his Milton relief crew were at one of the evacuation centres, allowing some local club members to get some rest.

Although the work of service clubs is perhaps more visible in ways such as Kinsmen Park and sponsorships of sports teams, it is the fellowship of the club which draws its members out of their cozy beds in the wee hours of the morning to attend to the needs of the community.

The Milton Kinsmen Club is one of the newer service clubs in town. It originally started in the early 1960s but the first club disbanded, only to be rechartered in 1974 with 15 members.

The club has increased to 22 members now who have kept the club going with a variety of projects and general Kinship.

"We emphasize fellowship towards a number of ends," explained Greenwood. "It's not an end in itself."

It was definitely the fellowship of the club which got the club members out of beds or made them dress up in weird costumes while they "held up" customers of Milton Mall in a fund-raising method.

The constitution of the club stresses the need for the individual to get in the community.

The five points in the constitution are:

- 1) To improve and educate the member in business ethics;
- 2) To stimulate interest in the community;
- 3) To carry on service work;

4) To uphold constitutional authority;

5) To foster spirit of co-operation and quality of life throughout the world.

"Somebody joins the club with the aim for self-development," adds Greenwood. "We learn self expression. But we must apply this to the community."

"Our motto is serving the community's greatest needs, which we base on what this area needs the most."

That may mean serving hamburgers at a booth, sponsoring sports teams, providing the library with a new movie projector, or even converting Kinsmen Park into a European-style exercise park (Par-

ticiPark).

The Kinsmen participate in numerous club activities including bi-weekly meetings at the Charles Hotel, football games, and an annual boat race down the Credit River in Streetsville.

Events are lined up and there is seldom difficulty getting members to attend.

One of the projects the club is considering concerns the new women's hostel. A group from the hostel approached the club with the aim of donating money towards a new building.

"We may just take a room and fix it up with furniture as well as giving them a straight

cash donation," said Greenwood.

That project is still in the drawing board stages.

Other projects the club sponsors include the annual Community Day soap-box derby down Main St. which draws competitors from across the province during the July 1 celebration.

The club also donated a movie projector to the

local library when a camera buff in the club discovered the need for one.

During the year, the club sponsors an essay-writing contest in the elementary schools.

Also the club has made waiting for a bus at the corner of Main and Martin streets a little warmer by donating a bus shelter.

The pet project of all

Kinsmen Clubs across the country is cystic fibrosis. Each member club donates a certain amount of its funds towards the national pledge. Milton's share last year was \$1,000.

Other national projects include the construction and maintenance of an orphanage in Malaysia.

"It takes time," said Greenwood of the fund-raising and club activities. "But most of the guys are committed. Without the support of the Kinsmen wives and Kinettes, lots of things wouldn't get done."



CELEBRATING THE COMPLETION of another project accomplished by the Milton Kinsmen Club are six club members. The new frame for the swings at St. Peter's Separate School was done by club members who donated their time and money. The members from top to bottom, left to right, are Carl Jensen, Jim Rae, Lorne Greenwood, Dave Barry, Bob Winder and Raymond Charette.

## ParticiPark project is next for Kinsmen

Miltonians will soon be able to exercise European-style if the Milton Kinsmen Club gets its way.

The 22-member service club has seriously considered the possibility of adding several exercise stations to Kinsmen Park, underwriting the costs themselves with some help from a Wintario grant.

The stations would include spots with ladders for climbing, push-ups and other varied exercises around a jogging track which would be made available to the entire community without fee.

The project is being initiated by the national Kinsmen executive which hopes to have 100 ParticiParks located around the country.

The national executive received some

financial and technical assistance from an insurance company which makes park kits available to the local clubs.

The local clubs must seek out other forms of financial assistance, find the wood to construct the stations themselves.

Initial estimates place the cost at around \$10,000. So far, the Milton club has not officially approached council but president Lorne Greenwood said they will soon.

The plan calls for about a dozen stations, although any number of stations can be added at a later date. The parks idea germinated with ParticiPaction for some time before the Kinsmen Club brought the dream into a reality with several constructed across Canada.

## Spotlight on service clubs

### Kin club organized in Hamilton in 1920

The first Kinsmen Club was formed in February 1920 in Hamilton when Harold Rogers returned from the First World War and wanted to join a club.

His father was a member of the Rotary Club which meant young Rogers (then in his early 20s) couldn't join.

With some moral support from his father, Rogers went out and formed the first Kinsmen club which was intended only for young men.

The clubs spread like wildfire and now number 616 across Canada. There are 18,000 Kinsmen (aged 20-40) and over 40,000 members. Once Kinsmen reach 40 years of age, they are allowed to stay in the club as K-40 members but cannot hold any executive office. The 40,000 figure includes Kinettes—wives of Kinsmen.

Rogers received the Order of Canada for his work last year.

Of the six service clubs in Milton, Kinsmen is the sole all-Canadian club although it has ties to several world-wide clubs for special projects. Each of the world clubs shares similar ideals and standards of the Kinsmen.

Those who would like to join the club are first introduced by a member at a meeting. Sometimes they would participate in some social events to get the feel of the club.

Club president Lorne Greenwood stresses there is no hustle or pressure on anyone to join and is solely based on their commitment to be part of the club.

There is a \$6 initiation

fee plus a \$30 annual fee. The annual fee goes toward national projects and expenditures while locally raised money goes back into the communities.

Not less than 85 per cent of money raised is directly returned to the community from which it is raised. The club is restricted by law from spending more than 15 per cent of money raised for general expenditures.

Last year, the club's biggest expenditure was its donation to cystic fibrosis at \$1,000. The club also contributed \$700 for minor sports, \$500 to a local Scout troop, \$400 for the Heritage Day essay-writing contest and \$100 for international projects. There were also numerous other smaller projects.

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