

Snow shovellers for seniors are among volunteers needed

By VICKI BURLOCK
Champion Reporter

When snow has fallen and more than a couple of inches lay in the driveway, an elderly person may feel locked inside his home if he is unable to remove it.

In these situations, seniors need to know there is someone available and willing to help them. That help is available from the group Halton Helping Hands and, although there are many volunteers and staff who work many hours, more volunteers are needed.

"The senior population is growing at a rapid rate," said Sabine Schmidt, regional volunteer co-ordinator. "The over-85 group tripled from 1958 to 1978, and is expected to triple again by the year 2000."

The group began in 1972 as an offshoot of the Multiple Sclerosis Society to provide household maintenance, indoor and out, to MS patients, handicapped residents and permanently disabled people.

The service now receives financial support from the Province of Ontario, the Region of Halton, the United Way, service clubs and private donations. Halton Helping Hands has two phases to its service program.

Betty Mercer is the volunteer co-ordinator for Milton and has been involved in the program since 1984 assisting in recruitment and training of the many volunteers.

The first phase is the Home Help Service which employs staff members to enter clients' homes on a regular basis and assist them with in-home cleaning as well as observing the clients' general health and social status.

"We employ 30 regular staff



members to assist elderly and disabled people with their work," said Ms. Schmidt. "This service prevents and postpones being institutionalized for many residents."

The second phase of Halton Helping Hands is the volunteer program which has approximately 50 registered volunteers. This section of the program includes visitations by volunteers to seniors who desire a companion to share their time with, as well as odd jobs done by volunteers such as painting, wall papering and general maintenance and the third component is seasonal maintenance, such as snow shovelling or leaf removal.

"Snow shovelling is a major concern for this time of year, because many seniors don't realize our service is here for them and they try to do it themselves," said Ms. Schmidt.

"We have a waiting list of clients who need our services because we don't have enough people to fill the demand."

When Ms. Schmidt trains the volunteers, they are taught how to

build a relationship and are informed of agency policy.

"Many of the elderly in Milton don't have relatives in the area and would like a companion to go shopping with them and share common interests."

"I interview both the volunteer and the client to find out their interests and then try to match them up. We have been very successful in this area."

Ms. Schmidt is a recent graduate of psychology at Wilfred Laurier University and was hired for the regional co-ordinator job in early fall.

Among her objectives for the organization are: more volunteers to meet the demand; a newsletter to inform volunteers and clients on new medical breakthroughs and general information; and, more seminars available to volunteers on elderly afflictions such as Alzheimers Disease and depression.

Ms. Schmidt emphasizes that more volunteers are needed to help make the program a complete success. "These volunteers are genuine, caring people with a real love for helping the elderly."

For more information on the Halton Helping Hands program, or to become a volunteer contact Sabine Schmidt at 878-6403.

Turkey dinner was a success

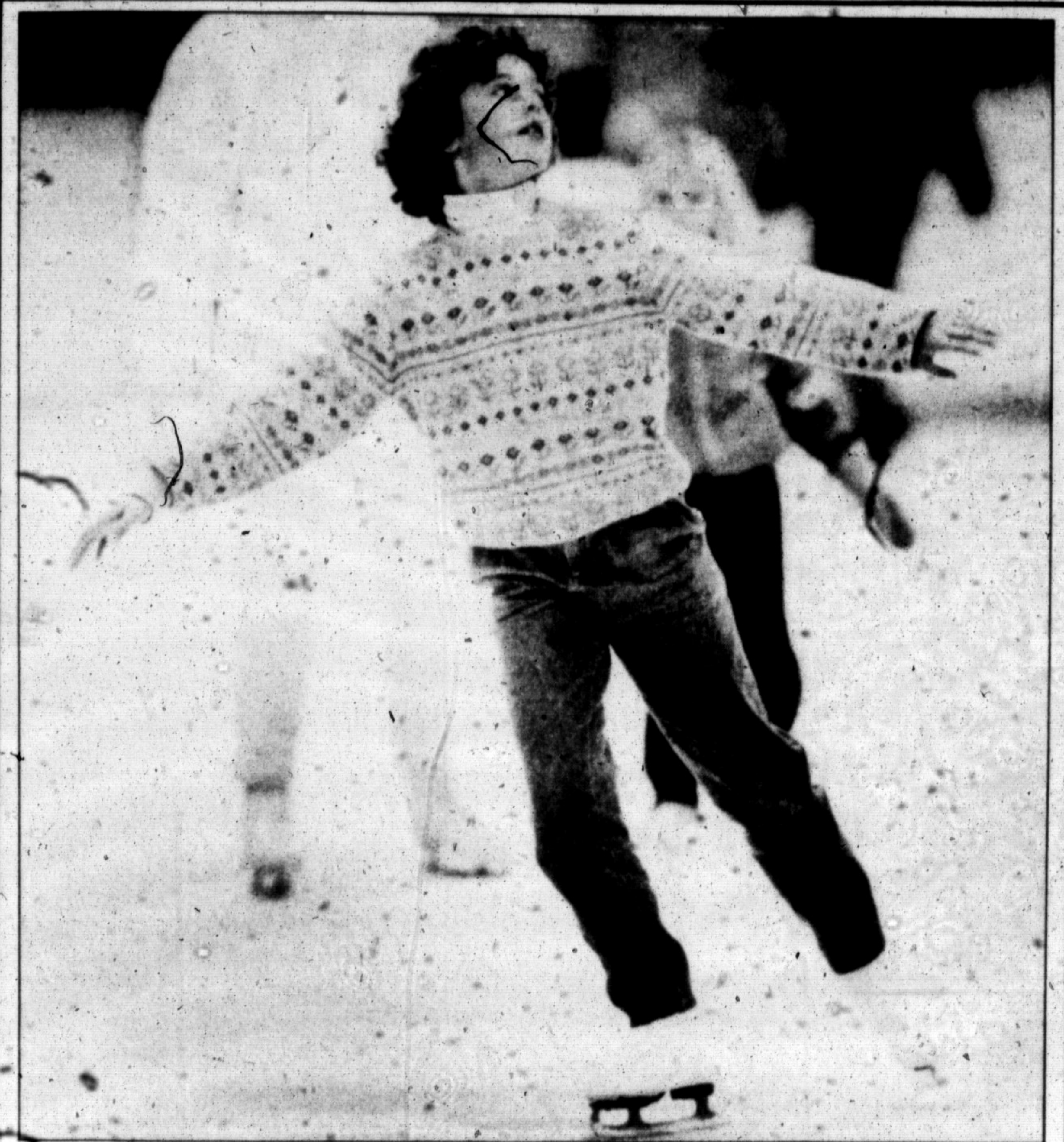
The St. Paul's United Church turkey dinner was rated an outstanding success by organizers after they served more than 420 dinners Friday night.

Despite an early snowfall that impeded traffic, diners were able to arrive for the three sittings of the annual event.

More than 200 volunteers were involved in staging the dinner that has become a traditional St. Paul's event.

Advance preparation included cooking 16 turkeys, readying 175 pounds of potatoes, baking 104 pies and making pounds of salads, cooking vegetables and cranberries and readying pickles.

Diners were entertained with musical selections by members of the congregation as they waited for each of the three settings that attracted guests from a wide area, ranging from Cambridge to Woodbridge.



Saturday's skaters

Photos by JON BORGSTROM

Skaters took to the rink at Memorial Arena Saturday evening for some winter recreation. Alyson Rammo, 8, practised her figures. For Ashley Elliott, (below) Satur-

day was her first time on skates. She managed to do several laps with the help of a supporting hand.



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ANNUAL MEETING NOTICE

Notice is hereby given, that the 29th Annual Meeting of Halton Community Credit Union Limited will be held at The Heritage Inn, 161 Chisholm, Milton, Ontario, on the 6th Day of December, 1986 at 3:00 p.m., for the purpose of receiving Reports and Financial Statements for the year ended September 30, 1986, and considering proposed By-law amendments, copies of which are available at the offices of the Credit Union during regular business hours.

Also on the agenda will be the Election of Officers, Appointment of Auditors and any other business of an Annual meeting.

Signed at Milton, this 19th day of November, 1986.

P.J. Buwala, C.G.A.
Secretary

Halton Hills picks Ventin

Architect Carlos Ventin has become busy in north Halton.

Mr. Ventin was the successful architect on the Milton jailhouse-to-town hall conversion. It was announced last week he will be converting the former registry office beside the town hall into a meeting hall.

The same week, Mr. Ventin also landed a \$4-million contract to build a new municipal centre for Halton Hills. It will be on Maple Avenue near the North Halton Golf and Country Club.

A reason cited by a 13-member committee for awarding the contract to Mr. Ventin was his work on the Milton project.

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