Lifestyle

More emergency shelter needed

For job hunters, Milton has much to offer but those who are hunting for affordable housing will find the quarry scarce.

Two men who found jobs here recently, resorted to sleeping in their car, then spent a week at Papa Nick's in the Salvation Army's emergency shelter room before they were able to find a place to live.

They were among the lucky ones, says Betty Zelinsky, family sevices worker at the Salvation Army's Milton office.

Last year that one room at the local hotel was adequate to provide emergency shelter in Milton.

"I'm seeing more and more people in need. There's always somebody in it (the hotel room) and someone else who needs it," Mrs. Zelinsky said.

Although the room, which is retained by the agency at \$260 a month can provide temporary shelter to some, it is not adequate for families. Mrs. Zelinsky recalls a family lived in someone's porch for almost a year before they gave up looking for an affordable home here and moved to another municipality.

There are no rooming houses in Milton and few residents providing room and board accommodation. Waiting lists for subsidized housing are lengthy in Halton and that means Milton's problems are shipped to Hamilton, Burlington and other larger centres.

"People either find a place or realize they can't stay here. In Milton we solve the problem by shipping people out of town," explained Mrs. Zelinsky.

In many cases, families are evicted from rental accommodations they couldn't afford in the first place. They end up paying more than 50 per cent of their income on rent, get food vouchers from the Salvation Army and still can't make ends meet, according to the community worker.

"There are kind people here in Milton. There are three or four families that have taken people in on real emergencies," she said.

In those situations, Mrs. Zelinsky stays involved with the individual or family placed. She says those arrangements are temporary and host families are usually needed for just one week.

The room at the downtown hotel is subsidized by a local church and donations to the Salvation Army make up the difference. Money is the only barrier between the agency and a second emergency shelter room.

Mrs. Zelinsky says the working poor are the hardest hit. As Christmas approaches, she's expecting to hear from even more people desperate for a place to live.

"How can we leave a human being out in the cold at night?" she explained.

Anyone wishing to assist the Salvation Army by offering temporary, emergency shelter or through donations, contact Betty Zelinsky at 875-1022.

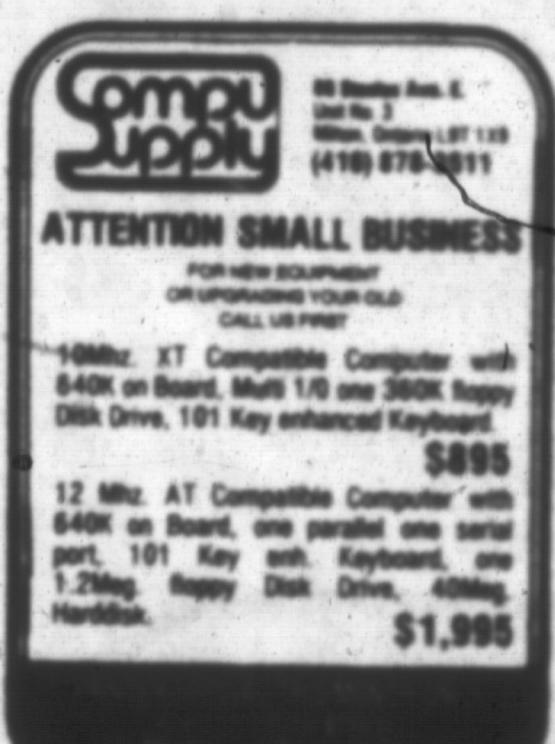






Photo by JOHN WARREN

Billie Marshall (centre) appears to be pleased with the setting for the gourmet dinner she shared with seven quests recently. She won the catered meel through a Canadian Federation of University Women Milton and District draw held earlier this year. Among the members

of the CFUW Gourmet Group who prepared the teast were Daphne Coulter (left) and John Marshall. The success of the evening and the draw will ensure the Gourmet Dinner Draw will be held again next year.

Winner dines in gourmet style

Billie Marshall entertained family and friends in style when she cashed in on a gourmet dinner she won through a Canadian Federation of University Women draw.

Members of the CFUW Milton and District gourmet club prepared and served the five-course dinner for eight on Nov. 5. Chefs included Robert and Dafne Coulter and John and Janis Marshall, all of Milton.

On the menu for the occasion was consomme with Parmesan Puffs; salad with walnut oil dressing and beef tenderloin with green pepper sauce. Desserts completed the meal with a choice of Bavarois Rubane (a cream custard dish with layers of vanilla, coffee and chocolate and oranges in caramel syrup. Coffee and liqueurs rounded out the meal.

The club was able to raise \$750 through the draw which boosted the group's scholarship fund.

The success of the evening and the draw has convinced local CFUW members to make it an annual event.

