

# Demand for VON services jumped by 65% in two years



VON volunteers act as "friendly visitors" to 195 shut-ins in Halton.

By JULIA ONIONS R.N. V.O.N.

Since I wrote a speech about VON for a public speaking contest in school, many years ago, there has been an extensive growth of programs offered to communities across Canada.

The Victorian Order of Nurses is 92-years-old and at present is the only national non-profit nursing organization in the world and the largest provider of community health services in Canada.

VON's major role is to provide professional, quality nursing care in the home to individuals with health problems.

In Halton Region, VON has increased its services by 65 per cent in just two years! This increase can be attributed to the following programs:

#### Visiting nurse program

In the past two years approximately 80,000 visits were made to Halton residents representing an increase of 53 per cent since 1987-88.

A majority of these visits were made to seniors experiencing a variety and a multitude of health problems.

VON nurses work closely with the Regional Home Care Program and other health care team members in the com-

munity. The ultimate goal is to support the client's independence and ensure that each person can obtain his or her optimum level of health.

#### Foot care clinics

There are approximately 20 clinics each month in 10 different locations. VON Foot Care Nurses teach the clients how to look after their feet to maintain or restore foot health and mobility.

#### Enterostomal therapy program

VON's program is aimed at assisting individuals who have undergone surgery for cancer of the bowel or bladder, inflammatory bowel disease, for people with incontinence management problems and for those who require skin treatment and complex wound-management.

#### Friendly visitor program

There are 177 trained volunteers that have provided support and companionship to approximately 195 shut-in frail elderly and respite for their family members. Referrals are received from family physicians, VON and public health nurses and related health professionals.

#### Hospice volunteer visitor program

The VON Hospice Program has recently

amalgamated with North Halton Hospice. These trained volunteers bring skills and knowledge to support terminally ill clients and their families.

#### Senior day programs

This centre opened in August 1988 to provide respite care to 32 mobile cognitively-impaired elderly residents of Halton and their caregivers. Although the centre is located in Oakville at Lakeshore and Burgundy Drive, the Centre will provide transportation by a Rotary donated Van to all parts of the region. The program has been developed to meet therapeutic social and recreational needs of clients with Alzheimer's type dementia or a related disorder.

#### Funding

VON programs are funded by: the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Community and Social Services, Trillium Foundation, the United Way and the Region of Halton. Further support has been received from a range of service clubs across the regions as well as many individual donors.

VON is dependent upon donors as many programs are not fully funded. For information on programs call 827-8800.

## How things change

My Dear Friend:

This will shock you. I am never lonely here for I have four men in my life - don't tell anyone!

I get up in the morning with Charlie Hourse -- I spend all day with Authur Ritis -- I dine with Will Power -- I go to bed every night with Ben Gay.

Everything is farther away now than it used to be. It is twice as far to the corner and they have added a hill.

I notice I have given up running for the bus. It leaves faster then it used to and it seems they are making the stairs steeper than in old days.

Have you noticed the smaller print they are using in the newspaper now?

And there is no use asking anyone to read aloud because everyone speaks in such a low voice I can hardly hear them.

It is almost impossible to reach my shoe laces.

Even people are changing. They are much younger than they used to be when I was their age.

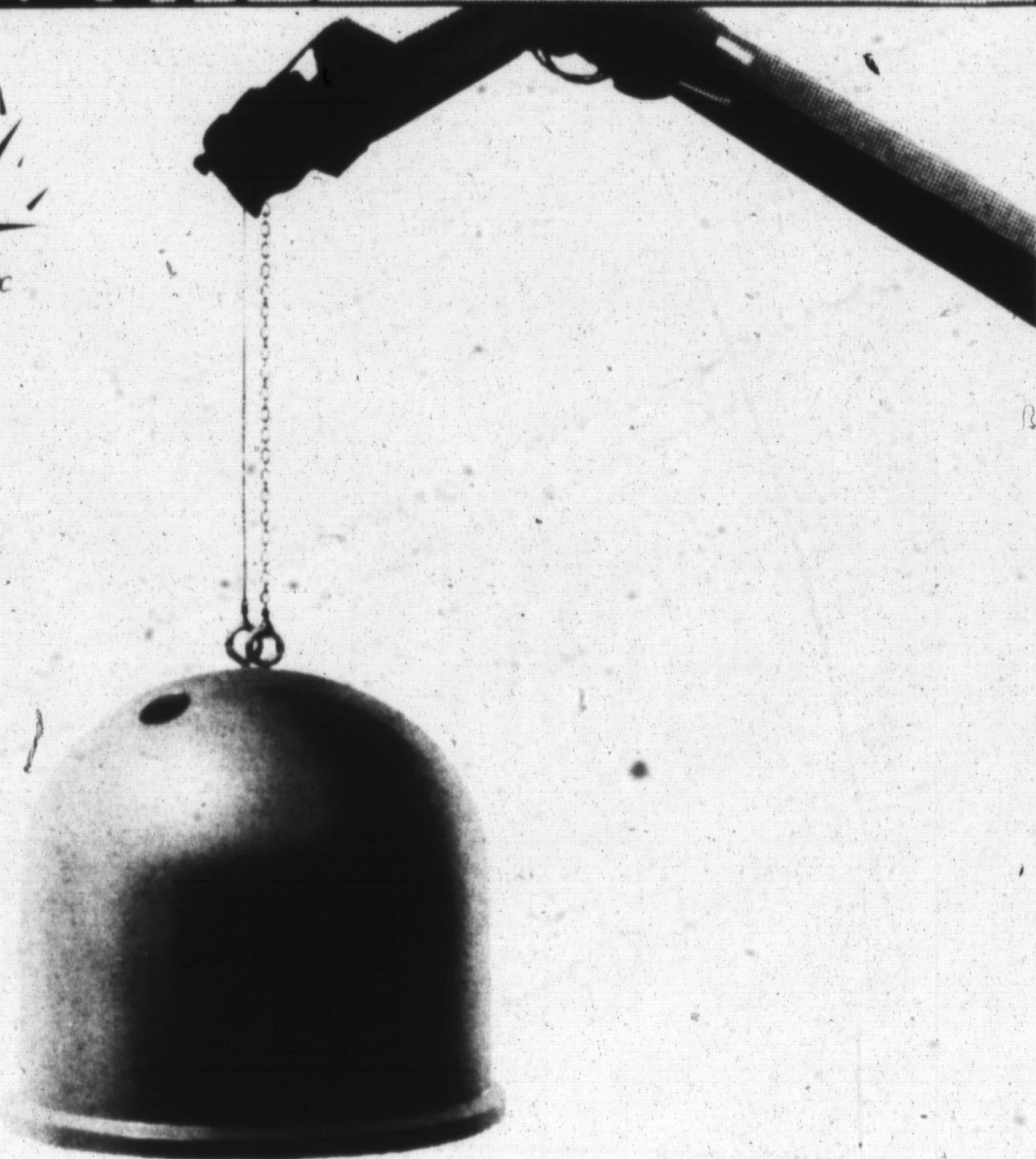
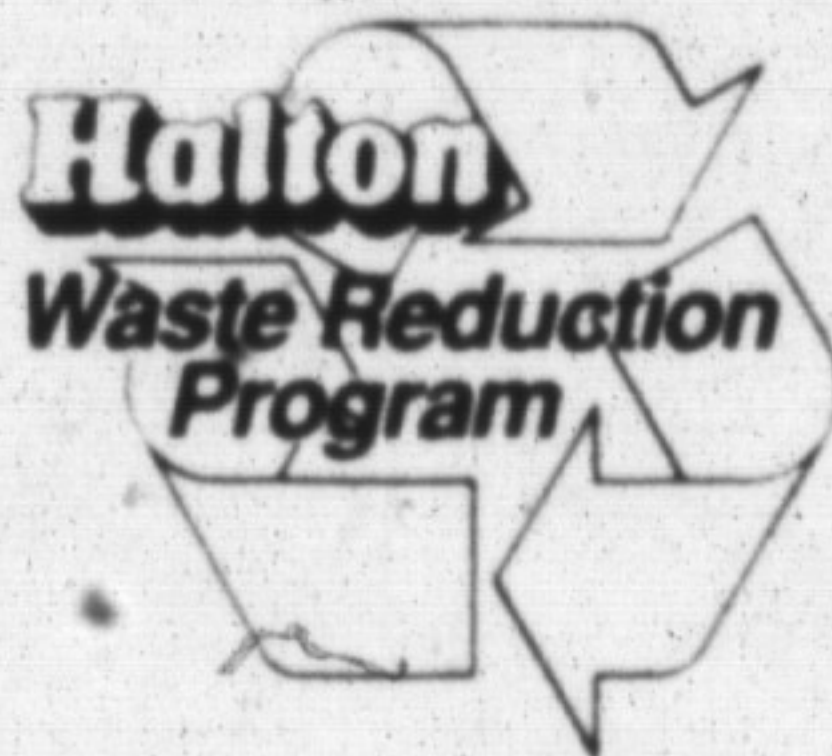
On the other hand, people my age are much older than I am. I ran into an old classmate the other day and she had aged so much I hardly recognized her.

I was thinking about the poor thing while I was combing my hair this morning and in doing, I glanced at my reflection in the mirror and do you know -- they don't even make mirrors like they used to!!

I hope this helps to cheer you up!

# HALTON

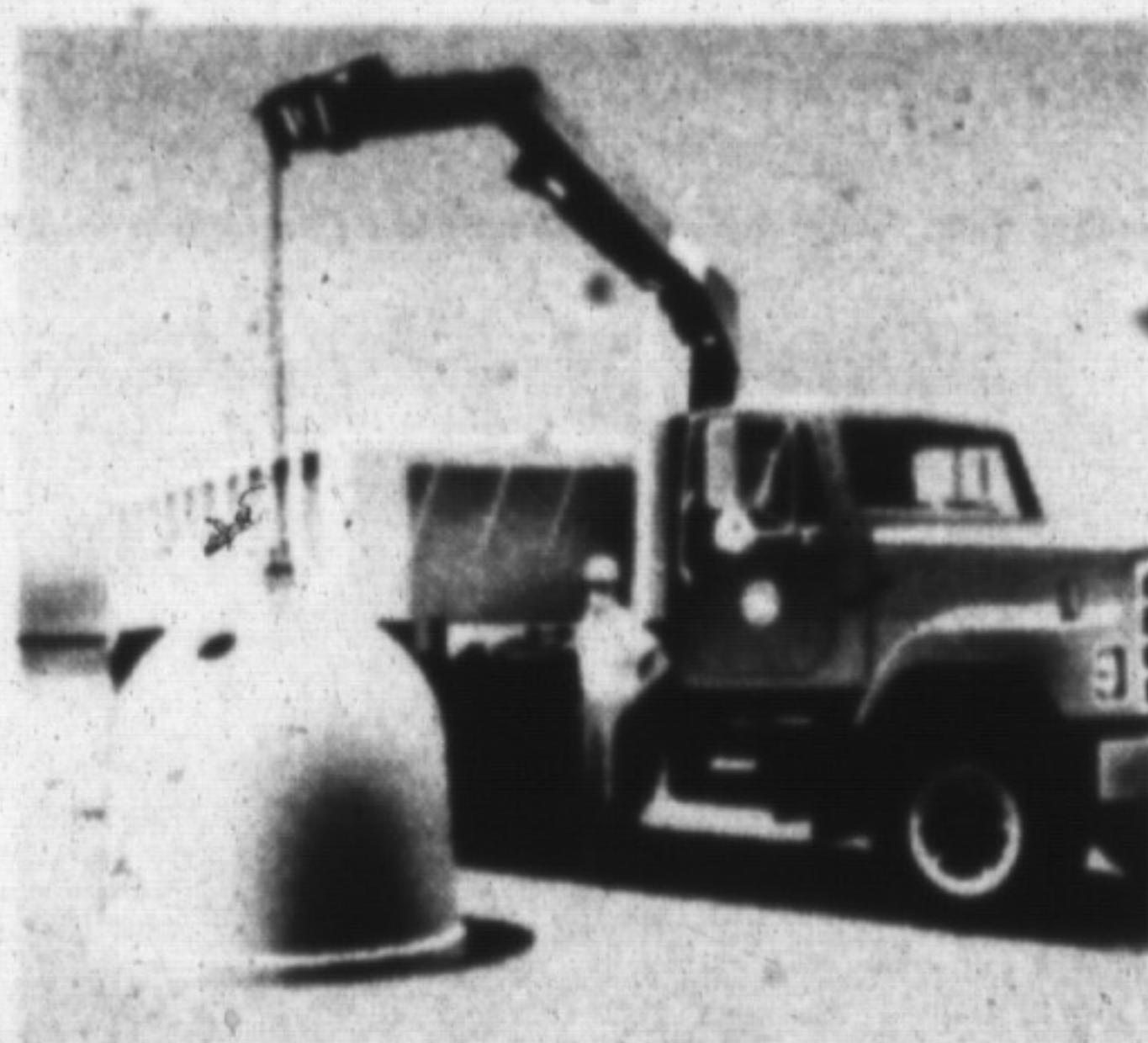
## IGLOO RECYCLING PROGRAM



# The Igloo has landed!

The Igloo is an innovative addition to one of the most successful waste reduction programs in Ontario. Halton will be placing these containers in strategic locations throughout the Region to collect the newspapers, cans and bottles you can't conveniently take home to your Blue Box.

You will find Igloos in two distinctive shapes. The traditional bell shape will be used to collect only one specified material. The rectangular multi-compartment unit will be used to collect a variety of recyclables.



You will find Igloos in Go stations for your newspapers.

Igloos in arenas and parks for soft drink cans and bottles.

Igloos in selected service stations and some apartments and townhouses for your newspapers, cans, glass and plastic soft drink bottles.

The Regional Municipality of Halton and Stinnes Enerco Inc. who have cooperated on this program, like to think of the Igloo as "Your Blue Box away from home." They hope you do, too!

**Halton cares about the environment. Because Halton is our environment.**