

Cheque it out

The United Way of Halton received a \$30,000 shot in the arm from funds raised at the annual Halton Regional Chairman's Golf Tournament Aug. 15 at Blue Springs Golf Course in Acton. The funds will be divided among the local United Way offices. On hand for the cheque presentation were (from left) Paulina Robertson of the United Way of Oakville, celebrity guest Gordie Tapp of Burlington, Halton Region chair Joyce Savoline, tournament sponsor Angelo Paletta of Paletta International Co., Anne Eadie, United Way of Milton executive director, and Kathleen Hayward, United Way of Halton Hills executive director.

Photo by Ted Brown



He's driven to help out those who need a ride

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especially concerned about.

After being laid off from his carpenter's job at age 64, Mr. Brown, who likes to drive, found he had plenty of time on his hands and wanted to give something back to the community he has lived in almost 30 years.

He decided to volunteer with the Red Cross, an organization he was familiar with, and hasn't regretted a moment since.

Mr. Brown has taken patients to appointments in places as far away as Markham and Hamilton, but most trips are to locations within Halton. His shortest outing was two-and-a-half hours, but on a rare occasion he underwent an 11-and-a-half-hour journey.

He's not complaining. The appreciation his passengers show is all the thanks he needs.

"It's rewarding. You feel as though you've done something for somebody," Mr. Brown says.

Without the free service, the program's 150 clients would have a hard time attending their medical appointments, says Ann Sharpe, the program's chair and ride co-ordinator.

"Chances are they wouldn't," says the volunteer, noting the lack of public transportation to other areas of the region.

"There's just no way of getting out of Milton basically," Ms Sharpe says.

Volunteers made 1,346 one-way trips to bring patients — mostly elderly — to doctor's appointments and treatment sessions at hospitals during the organization's fiscal year from April, 1995 to March, 1996. The hours involved totalled 1,635.

Drivers, who are reimbursed 27 cents per kilometre they travel, are always needed in the program.

"We could take all the drivers we can get our hands on," Ms Sharpe says. "We can use all the help we can get. Some of the drivers are out three to four times a week and we'd like to ease off the load."

Most trips, which average about four to five hours, are made Monday to Friday between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m.

Volunteers are interviewed and asked to sign a form allowing a police check.

Beside having a valid driver's licence and a minimum of \$1 million liability insurance coverage, volunteers should have a pleasant personality, patience and like people.

"They couldn't do it if they didn't enjoy people," Ms Sharpe says.

Having compassion and being a good listener, as some passengers need someone to talk to, are attributes Mr. Brown adds to the list.

For more information about the program, either on volunteering or for service, contact the Canadian Red Cross Society at 875-1459.

Official plan is causing friction

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area east of Tremaine Road and north of Main Street have filed an application to have their properties removed from the Niagara Escarpment Plan, a planning document which supercedes local or regional official plans, and is restricting development in the area.

Representatives of these landowners, whose lands were designated for special study in the Halton Urban Structure Plan, were on hand Monday night seeking council's support of their application. Council backed the application.

Councillor Brian Penman wanted to know how the special study is progressing, or if the designation of the lands as a "special study area" was merely a holding designation. According to Mr. Lovjo the study has not yet begun. In addition, the application to remove the lands from the

Niagara Escarpment plan could take several years to be heard.

"There is no justification for this delay," said Mr. Penman. "It's just mindless bureaucracy. We will end up spending large amounts of money on consultants and in legal fees for no reason."

According to Glen Schnaar, who was representing one of the landowners in the area, Milton businesses should be concerned about the Niagara Escarpment Commission designation. The other possibly contentious issue is the final alignment of James Snow Parkway. There was no discussion on the issue because the final alignment is subject to an environmental assessment which has not yet been undertaken.

Milton's official plan will now be considered by Halton Region before being officially adopted.

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