

# Organizers readying for ARC campaign May 17

Organizers and volunteers are shifting into high gear as the Huronia Association for the Mentally Retarded prepares for the ARC industries fund-raising drive to take place the last two weeks of May. Volunteers will be calling on area households to raise the money necessary for a

desperately needed new facility for the Adult Rehabilitation Centre in Midland. The campaign, which begins officially on May 17, runs for two weeks. Led by chairman Herb De Jong, organizers met last week to discuss preliminary plans and tour the centre's present facility.

The need for the enlarged building is acute by any standards. A total of 45 clients are presently taking part in the program offered at the centre — in a building originally constructed to accommodate 24. With another 12 referrals on a waiting list, the new facility couldn't come too soon.

Negotiations are presently underway between the town of Midland and the Huronia Association for the Mentally Retarded, under which ARC operates, to purchase a parcel of land on the east side of Olive Street near Elizabeth. Architects drawings are being reviewed by the building committee.

Construction could begin by June of this year. Of the estimated \$250,000 price tag on the building and equipment, the Ministry of Community and Social Services will provide a grant of 80 per cent, or \$200,000. As campaign chairman De Jong states, "we have a nice government!"

The money realized from the sale of the present building will go towards defraying some of the remainder. But the rest is up to local people. A combined program through its ARC industries project, the Huronia Association for the Mentally Retarded is providing assessment and rehabilitation for handicapped persons who would benefit from the academic, avocational and vocational program offered. For some in the program, rehabilitation will mean employment and independent living.

For others, it will bring more independence and a greater ability to participate in family and community, and provide sheltered employment. It's six years of existence, ARC industries has grown from six clients to well over 40 and director Joyce Hamelin expects enrolment to climb to 70 in the next few years.

As the centre outgrew the William Street building, space was rented in a second building on William and the basement of St. Margaret's Church became the centre for the academic program. Gaining independence Teacher Helen Carstairs, who is employed by the Simcoe County Board of Education uses the classroom situation to instruct the workers in the practical application of things the workers will need while living on their own....balancing bank books, writing cheques, cooking, sewing, shopping, and coping with situations in the community.

A total of 12 work at the ARC ceramic shop in the Midland industrial mall on William Street. Here workers produce sample charts for the Ceramic Colours Company based in Victoria Harbour. They take the process right from the beginning — from the bottling of the glazes, to their application on tiles manufactured at the shop, to the firing, packaging, and shipping. In the ARC building further up on William the clients perform a variety of jobs for local industries, from the manufacture of traffic signs and licence plates, to doing the laundry for the Pillsbury plant in Midland.

And money earned by doing these contracts goes back to help defray the cost of operating the centre. Over \$150,000 has been realized from these contracts, states Hamelin proudly. "But with the present facility, we're at a standstill as far as more jobs are concerned", she adds.



Chairman of the ARC industries fund-raising campaign Herb De Jong outlined preliminary plans to campaign organizers at a meeting last week. The drive, which hopes to net \$25,000, begins on May 17 and will run for two weeks.

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What the centre is really interested in doing, she says, is teaching the workers good social and work habits, rather than a particular job. All ARC clients live in the community — at home or in a room and board situation. The centre and counsellor Tony Vipond work closely with both the landlords and the parents.

**Three major concerns**  
The guiding force behind the local ARC centre is the Huronia Association for the Mentally Retarded. The major concern of the association, according to president Claude Buck, "is to give these people the opportunity to take their place in society to whatever extent is possible."

Through the ARC program, these people are "being given all the

equipment necessary to becoming members of society". ARC industries serves to prepare them to go out and work, live independently, and fit into society.

And for those who are not able to go out in society, ARC provides sheltered employment. ARC is just a beginning. "We're just starting to touch on the potential of these people", says Buck.

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## Youth convicted of break, enter

Robert Corbier, 16, will be returned to the Bowmanville Training School before he is sentenced in provincial court in Penetanguishene on four charges of break and enter May 27.

Corbier admitted breaking into four Midland residences between April 20 and 23 while absent with leave from the Bowmanville training centre. He will be returned to face charges in the Penetanguishene court room when a presentence report can be compiled.

Two impaired drivers  
There were only two impaired driving convictions in Provincial Court in Penetanguishene Thursday morning.

Keith Hargrave, 20, pleaded guilty to an impaired driving charge and was fined \$175. Hargrave, a student at the University of Guelph was living with his parents in the Midland Bay Woods when he was charged April 11.

Dennis Cusson of Balm Beach pleaded guilty to a February 17 charge of impaired driving and was fined \$225. He was charged following an accident on Highway 27.

**Fighting**  
Anthony Latondress was fined \$50 in provincial court in Penetanguishene Thursday morning after he became involved in a fight in Victoria Harbour April 23.

Latondress was on probation at the time of the fight.

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