



by Robin Nutbrown

1981 has been designated by the United Nations as "The Year of Disabled Persons." In a statement to the United Nations General Assembly, Canadian MP The Honourable Walter Dinsdale, speaking of this year said, "I believe.....the International Year of Disabled Persons, while it might not add years to their lives, will certainly add life to their years. After all, a more abundant life is what we are all seeking."

This statement could easily have been used

to describe the role of Scouting as it works with the disabled. More and more Groups are discovering the joys of involving a disabled boy or boys in the regular program, of adding "life to their years." If your Group is not one of those, why not make 1981, The Year of Disabled Persons, the year when Scouting is brought to a boy in your community who would otherwise not enjoy this great program.

For those leaders who might be concerned about such an action, there is a wealth of

resource material available from your Scouting With The Handicapped, Advisory Committee.

There is a special handbook published by Scouts Canada, there is a training weekend at Blue Springs (Nov. 7-8-9) and, in most regions there are individuals who can visit you and give personal assistance. Help is as close as your District Service Team, your Field Executive, your Regional Scouting With The Handicapped representative, or your local

mail box into which a letter to Ontario Headquarters can be posted.

In preparation for the Year of Disabled Persons, the fourteenth World Congress of Rehabilitation International will be held in Winnipeg in June this year. Lt. Col. Joe Craig, our Assistant Provincial Commissioner for Scouting with the Handicapped, will be attending as an official delegate from the Salvation Army. He has promised to keep in mind the needs and work of Scouting during his involvement with the Congress.

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