

Community Service Team at MHC

by Ken Regan

The term "unsung heroes" is one we hear bandied about quite a bit. We hear it in reference to the scientist, politician or technician who works quietly behind the scenes to contribute to a common, significant cause.

We even hear it in reference to a baseball, hockey or football player who labours consistently and unselfishly in the shadow of more visible "superstars", while performing crucial service.

Recognition

Undoubtedly many of those to whom the term is attached deserve the recognition, but there are those to whom the term should be applied but isn't because their contribution has not been recognized or is harder to

true unsung heroes

measure.

Such is the case with the Mental Health Centre's Community Services Team at Penetanguishene.

Whether working directly as a team, within their building on the MHC grounds or behind the scenes on an individual basis, within the surrounding communities, the Community Services Team go about their business quietly and unassumingly.

Team

The people involved with the team don't seek notoriety or even recognition for the work they do in helping individuals cope with emotional stress, or

along until undergoing marital therapy with CST.

Teenage

They are the teenager who constantly disrupted school until CST, through family therapy sessions, pointed out that the emotional stress being caused by the parents drinking was causing the adolescents behavior.

Those people know and appreciate that the CST is available to provide understanding and assistance in unravelling and solving the subtle emotional disturbances that can, (and often do), affect many of us.

Yes, the term "unsung heroes" is used a lot, often inappropriately. But in describing the men and women of the Community Services Team, the team is more than apt.

for assisting families to sort out their internal difficulties.

And perhaps that is why the team and the myriad counselling and therapeutic services they provide are scarcely known by most people. And contributing further to this lack of recognition is the policy of confidentiality.

Contribution

But there are those who know first hand the important contribution the CST makes to people's lives.

They are the couple that couldn't communicate and hence couldn't get

Opportunathon's dream becomes reality later this month

To this promised land of ours immigrants have come to seek the opportunities they lack in their own homeland. They look for freedom, the possibility of growth, the chance for their children to live better lives than they.

Within our borders those born here take for granted their opportunities for growth and freedom sometimes expecting more than some would dream of. And yet there is still a small group of people, here in Midland, that are now calling for basic opportunities, not for themselves, but for the mentally retarded.

These are the members of the Huronia Association for the Mentally Retarded ad hoc committee in charge of making the Opportunathon dream a reality. They have voluntarily spent many of their waking moments meeting, planning, calling, arranging and physically setting up all systems to make them in a ready state for the October 18-19 telethon to be held at the Civic Centre and aired live over the Maclean-Hunter Cable 12 system.

Live

They call it Opportunathon because, though it is monies they are hoping to gain, the cause is opportunity. What we take for granted the mentally retarded cannot.

Strange looks from passers by and lack of acceptance into the world of normalcy destroys feelings of self worth and adequacy.

Too many of us fail to look beyond their dishevelled wrappings to find the truth and simplicity we so seldom find within ourselves. We fail to allow them the opportunity to be themselves, to develop to their fullest potential as human beings and make their own gift to the world.

Opportunity to laugh, to feel joy and know the warmth of caring persons around them - these are the opportunities that persons

like Joyce Hamelin, director of the Adult Rehabilitation Centre, and Tony Vipond, program director of Hugel Place, the first residence for the Huronia Association's clients, constantly strive to obtain.

These opportunities can only be gained through the development of programs emphasizing life skills, as well as academic and vocational training. With time clients grow toward economic and social independence gaining a new pride and self worth in their life.

For once they are a necessary part of society.

It is then for these reasons that the Opportunathon was born. This is why countless hours have been spent by persons like Gail White, Helen and Arnie DeCarli, Marv Gibson, Joyce Hamelin, Tony Vipond, Paul MacDonald, Nicole Henderson, Lynn Turnbull, Harry Cox, Bill Johnson, Frank Myers and Grace McCabe in preparation for this great event.

Countless more hours will be spent by the

innumerable volunteers at the actual Opportunathon manning phones, organizing pledge pickups, operating Maclean-Hunter equipment and donating their time and talent to entertain.

Guest Spots

The telethon will open with the Varitone Five and include guest spots from writers Charles Templeton and Ron Lawrence as well as sports announcer Brian Williams.

Host regulars throughout the program Bob MacLean, of the Bob MacLean show; Midland lawyer, Fred Hacker; Province of Ontario Sports Commissioner, Jim Vipond; Commodore Hotel manager, Bob Monteith; and Opportunathon chairperson Gail White will keep the night long vigilance at the marathon event in the attempt to gain more opportunities for those who have few.

The committees have all finished their preparatory work. Now it is up to us to help make the Opportunathon dream a reality.



Million dollar smiles

It was a red letter day for Jim Finley of Midland, right, when he presented a cheque for \$1,258.58 to Clarence Rittenhouse, left, president of the local chapter of the Cancer Society. The sum was raised in Jim's walk to Calabogie, Ontario. Centre is Grace

Blackhurst, also of Midland who acted as chief pledge collector for Finley. Anyone having sponsored Finley should contact him at 526-4408 for an official receipt from the Cancer Society.

Last chance to rub shoulders with visitors

"The Thanksgiving Midland and surrounding area will have this year to rub

shoulders with world travellers," says Vern Farrow, Curator of Huronia Museum.

"We will be closing for the season at 5:30 Thanksgiving Day after having hosted visitors from 55 different countries during the past five months," he stated.

Almost from the opening day, overseas visitors were showing up, with some of the first coming from Australia. Others have come from Argentina, Brazil, Belgium, Bermuda, Barbados, Bahamas, Colombia, Channel Islands.

For the first time, this year has seen visitors from China, Korea, Poland, Romania, Yugoslavia, Hungary and Vietnam.

There were the usual European countries, such as England, Denmark, France, Finland, Germany, Greece, Gibraltar, Holland, Italy, North and South Ireland,

Norway, Portugal, Scotland, Spain, Switzerland, Sweden and Wales.

Further afield, there were addresses from French West Indies, Hong Kong, Israel, Iceland, Jamaica, Japan, Mexico, Malaysia, New Zealand, Puerto Rico, Philippines, Pakistan, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Turkey and Venezuela.

The Curator is getting the impression that residents of Prince Edward Island are not travellers, for he has never seen one of them in the museum. As usual, this year, all other provinces have been represented as well as the Northwest Territories.

People

Stating that he is already assured of a record attendance this year, Vern Farrow said he is confident the total attendance figure will be in excess of 16,000 people.

Ogilvie will oppose town at OMB hearing

An Ontario Municipal Board hearing on Oct. 20 will hear an objection from Midland resident William Ogilvie to town council's application to debenture money over 20 years to buy land for a parking lot.

An earlier hearing in January was postponed until this month.

Ogilvie's objection is that taxpayers should not be asked to assume such a financial risk over 20 years.

He feels parking lots should not be a priority item in the town's budget when the money could be put to better use in other areas, the town's roads, for example.

Town Planner Bryan MacKell, Monday explained the town wanted to buy two pieces of property, on the east side of King Street downtown belonging to the owners of the Eleithea Shop and Perrin's Flower Shop. But in the interval since January the Eleithea Shop has changed hands, and the Perrin property is the only property now available to the town. The result he said, is that the amount of money the town wants to debenture has decreased.

Council in January was thinking of borrowing around \$100,000 but because of the unavailability of one of the properties now, the figure has, MacKell said, been reduced considerably.

Objection

Ogilvie bases his objection on the assumption that \$100,000 is needed and that over 20 years, with interest, the total cost would, he estimates, be over \$200,000.

He suggested Monday, since the town is so sure revenues will pay for the acquisition in the long run, some other group should assume the cost.

Anybody but the taxpayers, he stresses. There is no guarantee, he said, the downtown will not undergo dramatic changes in the future, as a result, perhaps, of development of the Highway 27 strip.

Ogilvie took the position that the town has done enough for the downtown merchants.

The Perrin property the town wants to buy is east of the municipal lane behind Perrin's Flower Shop.