

That's My Line



Robert Morton

Manor administrator

by Murray Moore

"I like old people - I like young people too - but I enjoy working with old people," Robert Morton says.

The administrator of Georgian Manor likes older people's honesty. "For example, if you ask the residents, 'How are you today?', they'll tell you. They won't say they're fine and carry on. If they're upset they'll tell you."

Morton, who has been in charge for three years of the 60 fulltime and parttime employees at the Penetanguishene home for the aged, which has a population of 105 senior citizens, thinks older people are frank because they no longer feel the social pressure to conform. "They feel they have paid their dues." They don't have a job to lose, and they mellow as they age, he thinks.

Morton suggests that perhaps he will allow any miserableness he now suppresses to emerge when he gets older. "You're allowed," he says.

Older people also have the benefit of a wealth of experience, he thinks. A person who "takes the extra time to learn something about them will discover that behind their disability, whether it be simple old age or something more, that they are very real people," Morton says.

Georgian Manor is one of three homes for the aged in the county, and is operated by the county.

Homes for the aged differ from nursing homes in part in that applicants who are accepted as residents must be sufficiently in-

dependent to look after themselves, at least in the beginning.

Nursing care is provided in a home for the aged at the same level as required in a nursing home. The general level of health is higher in a home for the aged because a greater percentage of the residents in a home for the aged are in better shape than are the residents of a nursing home, Morton says.

No one is refused admittance solely for an inability to meet the rent, Morton says. Part of the application process is an interview with him during which an applicant's income and assets are examined. Applicants who are accepted are expected to pay all of, or part of, their rent. If an applicant cannot pay all of the rent, he or she "can still stay all the same."

Morton took the job at Georgian Manor, and left an administrative job at Huronia District Hospital, because the new job was "an opportunity to be in charge, to be the boss - maybe that's not a good word - to be in a position to make decisions that affect people."

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Harmful

Pregnant mothers who smoke can injure their unborn children. How and why a mother's smoking can harm the fetus or threaten the baby's respiratory system after the child is born is explained in the booklet 'Smoking and the Two of You' distributed by your local lung association;

-When a pregnant mother smokes, harmful gases from the smoke enter the blood and pass through the placenta directly into her baby's circulatory system. These gases narrow the baby's blood vessels and those in the placenta, and they force oxygen out of the red blood cells of mother and baby - cutting down the amounts of badly needed oxygen and food that are delivered to the developing child.

-Women who smoke while pregnant have a higher percentage of still born babies, spontaneous abortions and premature deliveries than do women who don't smoke, and their babies are more likely to be born undersized or to die soon after birth.

-After birth, breathing smoke-filled air can cause a baby's tiny airways and lungs to constrict, blocking or impairing the child's breathing. -And because babies and young children breathe much faster than adults, they inhale more pollution in proportion to their total body weight. For more information about smoking and pregnancy, contact your local lung association for a copy of 'Smoking and the Two of You' at 65 Peter Street North, Orillia or call 325-0454.



HAVE YOU HEARD

by Joan L. Parker

If you don't hear as well as you'd like to, you may have one of two types of hearing loss.

CONDUCTIVE loss is caused by an obstruction that prevents sound from reaching the inner ear. The barrier could be scar tissue, fluid from an infection, a stiffening of the bones, or just wax. Sounds are heard faintly.

People who have PERCEPTIVE hearing loss, on the other hand, can hear noise quite well - often too well for comfort. But speech sounds fuzzy to them. This form of deafness often comes with aging or noise damage.

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110 Dunlop St., W. Barrie
Call for an appointment today 737-1113



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*Many thanks for luncheon considerations go to:
Burnie's Drive-in Bakery, Georgian Home Bakery,
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"Shatter Silence Week" in Midland and
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