

Meals on wheels people honored

The Red Cross Meals-on-Wheels participants for Midland were honored at an annual Christmas celebration Dec. 6.

A turkey dinner with all the trimmings, white wine and party crackers, was served by Susan O'Halloran and her food services staff at Huronia District Hospital.

Santa Claus showed up, too. (He looked suspiciously like Bill Gibson). He brought with him two helpers in Rov

Scout uniforms, Larry Melnyk and Guy Johnstone, who provided musical accompaniment to a Christmas singalong. Ninety people attended, seven of them recipients of meals.

Helena Dunlop has been a client since the program began 16 years ago.

"I know nearly all the volunteers," she said and wouldn't miss the Christmas party. "I enjoy it. I've been sick and I rose to the occasion to be

here."

Eva Moore and her husband Alex, from the Calvary Baptist Church, shared a table with Dunlop. They have been volunteers for years.

Vi Kennedy, Red Cross Meals-on-Wheels co-ordinator for Midland, had special praise for the four church co-ordinators. They recruit and train the volunteers and one day a week they are on duty to see that volunteers are on hand. Bill Bartlett is in charge

at Calvary Baptist, Helen French at St. Paul's United, Marg Tyndall at Knox Presbyterian, and Ray Church at Alliance Church.

Kennedy said current volunteers are overloaded. They are delivering 20 meals a night per team of two in a car. She said they would like to set two more routes.

Cathy Kytayko, regional co-ordinator, said they have approached two more churches,

St. Margaret's Catholic and St. Mark's Anglican. "We could serve at least 50 meals a day," she said.

Kytayko noted volunteers provide more than meals to the recipients. She said, "They see them. They talk to them. They call in if the client isn't feeling well."



In the spirit:

Santa Claus (Bill Gibson) was on hand to award the people who make the Meals on Wheels program a success. With Mr. Claus are Guy Johnstone and Larry Melnyk. The volunteers were at the organization's annual Christmas party.

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