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Tea In Historic Home At Thornhill  
Is To Help Pull Back Dark Curtain



A preparatory feature of the May 3-4 fund-raising "blitz" of 7,000 York County homes by 150 White Cross Volunteers of the York County Branch, Canadian Mental Health Association, will be the April 29th afternoon tea at the famous Log House, John Street, Thornhill, the residence of Mr. and Mrs. R. H. Neil. Shown above is Mrs. Neil with grandson Ian Townshend-Carter whose mother, Mrs. P. A. Townshend-Carter, is association president. The log house is a pure Canadiana in every detail, some examples of which are the old-fashioned baby crib, stool, and corner ironstone china, seen above.

In the next twelve months approximately fifteen thousand persons - nearly equivalent to the population of Richmond Hill - will be admitted to hospitals and other institutions for the mentally ill in Ontario.

Three of the children in every classroom today will be hospitalized by the "dark curtain" disease at some time during their lives. In Ontario, half of the budget of the Department of Health is spent on mental health care.

Those are drastic and disturbing figures. What is being done about the situation of which they are a reflection? Particularly, what is being done about them in York County?

York County Council has taken action. It included \$12,000 in its budget this year for the establishment of a mental health clinic. The province will contribute another \$23,000. The clinic will function under the direction of the York County Health Unit. But even those large amounts will be entirely inadequate for the work which has to be done. To help meet the continuing challenge, the York County Branch of the Canadian Mental Health Association will stage its first fund-raising drive on May 3rd and 4th, visiting some 7,000 homes in the county. Hundreds of White Cross volunteers will "blitz" 20 centres in all.

Three Month Job  
Mrs. Donald Strickland of Thornhill, who is executive director of the York County branch, is campaign manager. With executive members, she has been preparing for the blitz for the past three months. It will open with an afternoon tea at the famous Log House, the residence of Mr. and Mrs. R. H. Neil, John Street, Thornhill, on April 29th. Conventions will be held at the residence of Mrs. M. B. Dymond, wife of Ontario's Minister of Health, will help Mrs. William Clack, wife of the former Warden York County, and Canadian Mental Health Association president Mrs. P. A. Townshend-Carter. A bake sale will be held at 2.30 p.m. and sewing and other handicraft work by residents of approved county homes will be sold.

"A key reason for the tea is to bring patients into active contact with the society," said Mrs. Strickland. "The patients themselves have reacted splendidly to our plan. They have not only produced a variety of excellent handicraft work but they also made the tickets and bound them in blue folders stamped with 'Blitz'." Contact is needed, white crosses.

Mrs. Strickland feels keenly about the need to create more frequent contacts between the patients and society.

There are eighteen approved homes in the county, each of which accommodates from ten to twenty persons. C.M.H.A. personnel and volunteers make regular visits to nine of these homes.

The government pays for the patients' keep while the public pays for visit-facilities and research necessary to the broad rehabilitation program, which includes employment aid and measures for the prevention of mental illness.

In Richmond Hill and Thornhill alone 250 persons are doing volunteer work, said Mrs. Strickland, and 150 volunteers will engage in the two-day fund-raising blitz.

Historic House  
Many citizens to gain a fresh appreciation of Canadian history when they visit the Neil home. The log house, constructed by three professional builders from France, is a museum of pure Canadiana, filled with historic furniture which depicts, as nothing else can, the life of early Canada. The Association, in co-operation with the Ontario Hospital at

Aurora, will hold Open House at the Hospital on May 2nd. Refreshments will be served from 7 to 9 p.m.  
Mrs. Strickland points out that over half the mentally ill admitted to Ontario hospital are discharged within three months. Another gratifying statistic is that 80 per cent of the total admitted are discharged following treatment. She suggests, simply and earnestly, that on May 3rd and 4th citizens of good-will everywhere in the county help push back the dark curtain a little bit more, through their financial contributions.

**ELGIN MILLS and JEFFERSON NEWS**  
Correspondent:  
The Evening Branch of the Women's Auxiliary of St. John's Anglican Church  
TU. 4-2798 TU. 4-1534

Scouts, Cubs, Brownies & Guides  
The Mothers' Auxiliary held their April meeting at the school on April 18th with Mrs. Thomassen leading the discussions about the father and son banquet the ladies were to serve. Plans were made for the Spring Tea to be held at the school on May 13th and it is hoped every mother will make an effort to do some baking and help out any way she can. (See coming events)

The Father and Son banquet was held at St. John's parish hall on Thursday, April 20th with a full turnout of boys and only a few fathers unable to come.  
Mr. Ron Browne, president of the Group Committee, welcomed everyone. Tommy Post presented a toast to the fathers and Mr. J. Laughlin toasted the boys. Skipper Ensor gave his annual report. Guest of honour for the evening was Mr. Brian Connert, producer of the Gang Show and also a district scout master.

The boys saw a very interesting film called Bear Country.  
A presentation of a bulletin board was made to the Rev. D. C. H. Michell by Dennis Gamble and Leslie Laughlin in behalf of the cubs.

Skipper and Akela express their thanks to the Mothers Auxiliary and the Group Committee for a delicious dinner and enjoyable evening.  
Many thanks to the Mothers Auxiliary for their contributions, to General Bakeries for the dinner rolls and to Cousins Dairy for the ice cream.

**Neighbourhood Notes**  
The Afternoon Branch of the W. A. held its April meeting in the parish hall last week when the main business at hand was the annual meeting, beginning on May 1st and plans for their spring money-raising event.  
The Evening Branch will meet at the parish hall on Thursday, May 4th at 8.30 p.m.

**Neighbourhood Notes**  
Mrs. G. Kerswell returned home last week after visiting her daughter and family. Mr. and Mrs. Jack Boughner, in Sarnia. At a recent meeting of the Ontario Golf Course Superintendents Association at St. Andrew's Golf Course, Mr. Arthur Dodson was appointed treasurer.

**Neighbourhood Notes**  
Mr. and Mrs. D. Proudfoot of Callender visited Mr. and Mrs. William Bell last week.  
The Monday Niteers enjoyed their card game at the home of Mrs. E. A. Terry last week. The prize winners were Mrs. I. Petersen, Mrs. R. Kerwin, Mrs. E. Terry and Mrs. R. Browne.

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