

# PROFESSIONAL AND BUSINESS DIRECTORY

## Rambling Around

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to the readers in the hope that those people who are in need of this information will see it, and that others may learn to understand the enormous social problems which the Department of Welfare has to cope with every minute. All source material has come from the Department of Welfare, Province of Ontario. This column deals with information concerning the general assistance program as laid down by the department.

### General Assistance

General welfare assistance which is so familiar to the municipal welfare officers of Ontario, has come to include many services besides the simple issuance of direct relief. Through the municipalities, supplementary aid to categorical programs, post-sanitarium allowances, nursing home care, hostel accommodation, and of course, the medical welfare plan and hospital insurance are available in all appropriate circumstances.

### Who Is Eligible For General Welfare Assistance?

Some families or individuals in needy circumstances are not eligible for aid under the special allowance program. Many of these persons require help temporarily because of illness, unemployment, or other unforeseen misfortune. For such persons, municipal authorities may grant immediate or continuing relief. The municipality is responsible for 20 per cent of these general welfare assistance costs on behalf of their residents, with the senior governments contributing the remainder. Those who can be served by the program would come under the following categories, (a) unemployable persons and employable persons put out of work and in needy circumstances, (b) persons who require nursing home care in municipally licensed nursing homes, (c) persons requiring a post-sanitarium allowance and transients temporarily maintained in hostels, (d) the recipients of welfare allowances and old age security who need supplementary aid. In addition to the allowance for food, clothing, shelter, fuel, household sundries and other incidentals, provision is made for coverage under the medical welfare plan and hospital care insurance.

Indian bands also may be approved for the issuance of relief to their members and receive subsidy in the same manner as the municipality. In areas without municipal organization the provincial authorities administer general welfare assistance directly through the regional offices of the department.

### What Is General Assistance?

It is the straight payment of an allowance to employable persons, married or single, who are put out of work, and to unemployable persons. It doesn't matter how long you have lived in the city or Ontario. Immigrants get the same treatment as anyone else.

In Ontario, maximum monthly allowances are for a family of two supplying its own heat, \$185 . . . for three, \$201 . . . for four, \$215 . . . for five \$227 . . . for six, \$237 . . . seven or more, \$245. This includes allowances for mortgage or rent payments, taxes, utilities, etc., to a maximum of \$65 a month.

These allowances are \$110 a month higher for families which live in quarters where the heat is supplied and the household costs are usually higher. A single person may get a maximum allowance of \$167 a month. An extra allowance up to \$118 may be made for special diets. Women may keep the federal family allowance cheques, but there are restrictions on other income and assets.

How does one get general assistance? A person should go directly to the welfare office in his municipality. In small centres, he should see the person who looks after welfare duties. He may be the town clerk or he may have a wide variety of public posts. In unorganized districts . . . there are five in northern Ontario, one should see the provincial welfare officer in his region.

Persons on general assistance will have their medical costs covered. But they should inquire about the status of their hospital insurance. Some municipalities automatically pay the premiums, some don't. Emergency tooth extractions may be done at the recommendation of the municipal welfare officer but if other dental work is involved you'll have to pay for it yourself. Other special allowances which include supplementary aid is designed to help defray high rental or drug costs by paying up to \$20 a month to persons receiving widows' allowances, Ontario old age assistance, federal old age security, blind persons and disabled persons allowances.

Post-sanitarium allowances are given to persons released from a tuberculosis sanitarium. This assistance one can get from his municipality if he's required to convalesce at home and can't work. If he is single he may get up to \$75 a month. If he lives with his family, the maximum allowance may be paid in addition to other assistance given needy families such as mothers' allowances or dependent fathers' allowances . . . but at reduced amounts. The condition of the person getting the special allowance is reviewed every six months.

Incapacitation allowances, made for the person who is unable to work because of a disabling illness, may get up to \$60 a month under conditions similar to the post-sanitarium allowance. When the person reaches the age of 65 his special allowance may be replaced by old age assistance.

There is a transportation allowance service to help a person or a family who travels to Ontario and becomes stranded without funds. The federal government, province and municipality will pay the cost of transportation back to the person's former home after making arrangements with authorities in the other province. Transportation allowances may be used to fly such a person to his former home or a hospital when necessary. If the person requiring the aid is drawing one of the old age pensions, he would be required to contribute 85 per cent toward the fare.

The province in co-operation with Ottawa has an elaborate rehabilitation system for the disabled, but if an unemployed or employable person does not qualify under the program he may be eligible under the general assistance. The municipality will provide him with living allowances, depending on his need, will supply artificial limbs when necessary, and will undertake to give him vocational training or retrain him to take over an automation job.

Finally, the municipality contributes to the costs of meals and beds for transients who spend a short time at the various hostels in Ontario's cities.

(Next month, mother's allowances and nursing home care, more services designed to keep the family together.)

## Flashback

(Continued From Page 2)

Tugs went to the rescue of the Hiawatha and another channel was cut across the river to Port Huron. A week before, the ferry City of Cheboygan was caught in the ice for three hours before being freed.

Some headlines in the January issues of "The Liberal" might have been written yesterday instead of 44 years ago: For example,

U.S. Rounding Up Reds.  
Sinn Fein use Explosives at Balltarian Barracks.  
Plans Ready for Tunnel from England to France.  
Signals from another Planet.  
Million Paid to Out-of-Work Men.

### Gideons Provide

## Testaments For Grade 5 Pupils

The newly-formed Woodbridge Gideon Camp sought and was granted permission by Vaughan Township School Area Board to donate New Testaments for each grade 5 pupil in the township's public schools. The Gideons are a group of businessmen who provide Bibles for hotel rooms, hospitals, schools and other public institutions.

The testaments which will be presented to the grade 5 pupils in a short ceremony also contain the Psalms and Proverbs. The Gideons also provide, it was reported, complete Bibles for an entire class when these are required for religious instruction.

## J. O. Dales Addresses

### Medical Wives Ass'n.

Joseph O. Dales, Q.C., reeve of North Gwillimbury addressed the January 18 meeting of the York County Medical Wives Association on the subject of estate planning.

The meeting was held at the home of Mrs. Crawford Rose in Aurora. Mrs. W. Mahon of Keswick introduced the speaker and he was thanked by Mrs. R. A. Bigford of Maple.

Refreshments were provided by the social committee, Mrs. Clayton Rose, Aurora, Mrs. J. A. McPhee, King City and Mrs. W. J. Vail of Newmarket.

Among the members present were Mrs. C. C. Schofield, Mrs. W. B. McClintock and Mrs. H. Jackson of Newmarket, Mrs. A. Ferron of Nobleton, Mrs. George Burrows of Sutton, Mrs. J. R. Langstaff, Mrs. J. B. Wynne and Mrs. A. T. Aral of Richmond Hill and Mrs. M. J. Abrams of Thornhill.

The next meeting of the association, which now has 55 members, will be held in March at the home of Mrs. D. F. McGregor, Richmond Hill.

## Charles Hooper Heads

### Past County Wardens

Charles Hooper, Markham Township reeve, was elected president of York County Past Wardens Association at the annual luncheon and meeting in York County Building January 13. Ken Thompson, Weston, will serve as first vice-president, Lorne Goodfellow, King, second vice-president; J. L. Smith as secretary-treasurer; and M. McCurdy, Vaughan as auditor.

Honorary president will be Earl Bales and S. G. Harris. Albert Rutherford who was warden of the county in 1964 was formally inducted into membership in the association.

Reminiscences of past years in York County were given by many of the past-wardens in the group. Former Metro Chairman F. G. Gardiner, Q.C. was president in 1964.

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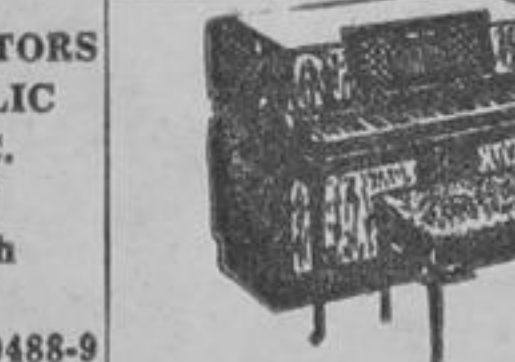
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