



(Staff photo by Draper)

In her two years as a Red Cross homemaker Mrs. Madeline Nichols of Richmond Hill has had a lot to cope with, but it has been very rewarding. Each case is different. She has worked in one-room apartments and in a millionaire's home. "I see what has to

be done and I do it, just as I would in my own home," says Mrs. Nichols, and it beats sitting at home and looking at four walls by a country mile.

## Work is rewarding but the need for homemakers is desperate

**By Margaret Lade**  
For any woman sitting at home looking at four walls, bored with television, bored with life, Madeline Nichols, Balkan Road, Richmond Hill, has a word of advice. Become a Red Cross homemaker.

She did it two years ago after reading an advertisement in The Liberal, and she is glad. Life has not been dull since. Work schedules are flexible. Mrs. Nichols takes a vacation in the summer to be with her family. And a homemaker does not have to take every case offered her, although Mrs. Nichols says, "I have never turned a case down."

**Emergency aid**  
A homemaker is called in when the person who would normally care for the home is unable to do so. Usually illness is the cause — sometimes physical, sometimes mental illness. In most of her cases, says Mrs. Nichols, surgery is involved. And sometimes it is a young mother with a back injury which makes it impossible for her to take care of her home and her family.

Sometimes the person in need of a homemaker is elderly and alone. Such a person, she says, needs encouragement as well as help around the home. Sometimes someone in the home has had a nervous breakdown and outside help is needed. Mrs. Nichols has been called in in mental health cases for people of all ages.

"I help to keep them occupied, take them shopping and so on." Homemakers are allowed to do banking and grocery shopping for the people they are serving, she explained. "The work is very interesting, and I have learned a lot. Our duties vary — light washing and housecleaning, cooking, the things we would do in our own homes. I see what needs to be done and do it."

There is a lot to cope with, she admits, but there are a lot of rewards. "My whole family has noticed a difference in my personality since I have been getting out." Mrs. Nichols and her husband, Keith, a sheet-metal worker, have four children — three grown up

and a son, David, 11, a student at Crosby Public School. David is very proud that his mother is helping other people.

**She's happier**  
Others have noticed Mrs. Nichols is happier, too. A year ago a friend decided that she, too, would like to be a homemaker, and when her sister-in-law came from Coburg for a visit she was so impressed she is now working as a homemaker in her own community.

Health officials in the region wish a lot more women could be similarly inspired.

"There is always a shortage of homemakers," says Dr. Owen Slingerland, commissioner of health and social services for the Region of York. "They are usually needed in cases of illness or accident where the mother-figure cannot take care of the home."

A person's stay in hospital can often be shortened, or they can be kept out of hospital altogether if there is a homemaker available to take over the duties of the household.

When no homemaker is available, says Dr. Slingerland, the only alternative is often to keep a member of the family home from work or from school, to get a neighbor in, or to leave the children without adequate supervision.

**Perennial shortage**  
Director for Mrs. Rose Rank, director of the Red Cross Homemakers service in York, the shortage of homemakers is a perennial headache.

Since the service was established, the Red Cross has supplied uniforms and trained new homemakers, telling them what to expect and how to cope with the many different situations they may encounter in other people's homes. But there are never enough applicants.

Seneca College has now relieved the Red Cross of responsibility for the training program. It is offering courses at its King Campus, and those who, on completion of the course, stay with the Red Cross as homemakers for three months have their fees paid for them by the Red Cross.

It is a certificate course with classes from 7:30 to 9:30 pm once a week for from 10 to 12 weeks. Campus

nurse Linda Roth is coordinator of the program. One course finished in December and another is getting under way this month. For further information call 884-9901 or 895-1581.

**Fees increased**  
The fee paid to homemakers was recently increased from \$19 a day to \$26 a day. The full amount is paid by the Red Cross, regardless of the ability of the client to pay. In cases of need, the service is subsidized by the Region of York.

Commenting on the pay increase, Mrs. Nichols says, "I think it is a good thing. I am lucky I don't have to work, but some of the women really need the money."

Regarding the work, she has no reservations: "For any woman sitting at home looking at four walls, this is it. You can work whenever you want to, or not work. It is not like a steady job where you have to be there every day all year round."

**Greater rewards**  
Besides, there are rewards greater than money — the satisfaction of knowing you are needed, that you are helping someone. Women interested in becoming homemakers may call the Red Cross office in Newmarket, 895-1341, or Helpmate-Information, Richmond Hill, 884-2727. (After January 9, the Helpmate number will be 883-2334.)

Plans were approved for a meeting of people of all churches at 8:30 pm January 19 to begin the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. The meeting will take place in Our Lady Queen of the World Church, Bayview and Crosby Avenues.

"The Gospel and Action" will be the theme, giving a practical demonstration of the unity all churches share and their active love and concern for all people. Thanks were expressed to Rev. Robert Shorten of Richmond Hill United and Father Henry Kea of Our Lady Queen of the World for their report on plans for the event.

**Mixed housing, including low-rental and home ownership for newly married couples, is an**

**THE FIRST 1975 Y.C.A.M.R. "500" WINNER**  
TOKEN NO. 346  
JOHN A. FLEMING  
RICHMOND HILL

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**Unity meeting**  
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### Here are scheduled events in southern York this week

**"The Odd Couple"**  
Theatre Aurora is presenting the original Broadway version of Neil Simon's popular comedy, "The Odd Couple" beginning Thursday with a wine and cheese party following the performance. The show will be presented again Friday and Saturday and on January 16, 17 and 18 in the Factory Theatre, Henderson Drive, east of Yonge Street, first north of CN subway, first south of Murray Drive. Opening night all seats \$3.50, subsequent performances adults \$2.50, students and senior citizens \$1.25. For information call 727-9064 or 727-3617.

**Children's Play**  
The Stouffville Players are presenting "Harry and the Skimbonians", an original play by Stouffville resident Gord Ness. Audience participation will be a part of the action. The cast includes, "Skimbonians, a king, a princess, music, fun and a bad witch. There will be three shows — at 7 pm Friday, and at 1 pm and 4 pm Saturday — in Latham Hall on Park Drive South, opposite Stouffville Arena. Admission for children is 25 cents.

**One Parent Families**  
"Coping with Loneliness" will be the topic at a meeting of North York Chapter of One Parent Families at 8:30 pm Tuesday in North York Community Hall, 5090 Yonge Street, Willowdale. The speaker will be Mario Bartoletti, director of the Family Life Centre in Markham. All single parents are invited to attend.

**Money talk for One Parent Families**  
Richmond Hill One Parent Families will hear Dick Edmunds, director of York Region Credit Counselling, talk about money management at a meeting at 8 pm tonight at St. Mary's Anglican Church, Yonge Street at Vaughan Road. All single parents welcome.

**Quilts and wall-hangings**  
Ten colorful contemporary quilts, designed and hand-crafted in conventional patterns of modern cotton fabric by members of the North York Red Cross will be on display at Gibson House, 5172 Yonge Street behind Willowdale Post Office, beginning Sunday and continuing to February 2. Also on display are wall-hangings by Mrs. Gweneth Caldwell and made from naturally dyed materials with subjects including landscapes, animals, birds — especially owls. The exhibition includes tapestries, chair pads and rugs — some of them for sale. The Gibson House museum and galleries are open from 9:30 am to 5 pm Monday to Saturday and noon to 5 pm Sunday. Adults 50 cents, children 25 cents.

**Hymn Festival**  
In celebration of the 50th anniversary of the United Church in Canada, a 200-voice massed choir gathered from Metro area churches will lead in the singing of church music, old and new, in Metropolitan United Church, 51 Bond Street at Queen, at 8 pm Sunday. Free admission.

**Sub-Igloo**  
A transparent bubble developed by Dr. Joseph McInnis is on display at the Ontario Science Centre until mid-February. The bubble was stationed 40 feet below the surface of Canada's Arctic waters and served as the main station for many exploratory dives. Open daily 10 am to 6 pm. Adults \$1.50, students 75 cents, children 25 cents.

**Non-profit organizations planning programs of interest to readers in Southern York may submit items for this column to Social Editor Margaret Lade, "The Liberal", 10101 Yonge Street, Richmond Hill, 884-8177 or 881-3401. Deadline is noon on Friday.**

## Ministerial Association studies housing family services, school values, marriage

Christian unity, housing, family services, "values" education and marriage preparation were among the many topics considered at the recent annual meeting of the Richmond Hill Ministerial Association.

The meeting took place in Our Lady Queen of the World Roman Catholic Church with Father Francis Robinson as host.

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essential community need, the assembled clergy agreed, and one that they should continue to press for. It was also agreed they should continue the BAIF survey headed by Rev. James Dauphinee of St. Paul's Lutheran and Rev. Shorten.

The association will continue to support family services throughout York Region and agreed to a recommendation there be representation by members to town and regional councils on behalf of these services.

Also in the area of community involvement, the hospital chaplaincy committee under chairman Dauphinee will continue discussions with York Central Hospital.

**School values**  
"Values" education in the schools should be studied further, the clergy agreed, and approved a recommendation Brian Burnham and Denis Middleton of the York County Board of Education's administrative staff be invited to discuss this at a future ministerial meeting.

There was discussion of the Marriage Preparation Courses sponsored by the association — evaluation of the last school in October and arrangements for the next course January 18 and 19 and for four other courses.

**TRY Barths CLEANING CENTRES**  
**EIGHT HOUR DRY CLEANING**  
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set for the ensuing year. Rev. William Wallace of Richmond Hill Presbyterian agreed to act on the arrangements committee.

**Bible Society**  
The meeting approved preparations to assist with the Bible Society annual meeting to be held at the Free Methodist Church, Hillside Drive on March 23. Representing the

ministerial association will be Rev. Lamb, Rev. John McTavish of St. Matthew's United, Rev. Fred Jackson of St. Mary's Anglican and Rev. Robert Quick of the Free Methodist Church.

The busy and convivial meeting was closed with prayers and heartfelt wishes for a blessed and joyous new year to all people.

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January 10 to 19  
Coliseum Exhibition Park

Friday, Jan. 10: 5:00 pm to 10:30 pm  
Weekdays: 12 noon to 10:30 pm  
Saturdays: 10:30 am to 10:30 pm  
Sundays: 1:00 pm to 7:00 pm

Admission: Adult: \$2.00  
Youth (15 to 17): \$1.00

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# SALE

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## NOTICE PROPOSED BY-LAW

To Stop up and closed part of a Public walkway running north from Aberfeldy Crescent, 125 feet east of Cobblestone Drive for a distance of 168 feet.

Take notice that the corporation of the Town of Markham intends to pass a by-law to stop up and closed that portion of a public walkway described as block W on plan M1442.

The proposed by-law and plan showing the land to be affected may be seen at my office, Municipal Building, 8911 Don Mills Road, Markham, Ontario.

The council of the Corporation of the Town of Markham shall hear in person or by his counsel, solicitor or agent, any person, who claims that his land will be prejudicially affected by the by-law, and who applies to be heard at a meeting to be held Tuesday, January 14 at the municipal offices at 2 p.m. or as soon as possible thereafter.

N.J. Pickard  
Clerk Administrator  
Town of Markham  
8911 Don Mills Road  
Markham, Ontario