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Wednesday, November 28, 1979

Daybreak: 10 years as part of the community



Dominion Store employee Jim Barnett hands a cheque for \$500 to members of New House at Daybreak, while Tim McKenna of the Knights of Columbus prepares to present him with a plaque in appreciation of the community work he has done. In the front row are Janice Byrel, John Bloss, Anne Marie Pickard and Ellen Weinstein (right).

Putting labels on people inhibits our ability to really see them.

Daybreak, located in the north part of Richmond Hill, is a small community of people living and working together.

Some might label Daybreak a home for mentally handicapped adults, but this term goes against everything the concept of Daybreak is trying to do.

The facts are Daybreak opened its doors ten years ago to mentally handicapped adults, both male and female, between the ages of 18 and 56, and all capable of some day program.

There are now 22 handicapped residents with 13 assistants sharing one of four homes on the five acre farm, working on the farm or in the community and generally enjoying day to day life together.

The idea of handicapped and assistants living together is described by Assistant Director of Daybreak, Joe Egan, as 'just a group

of people trying to share a common life'.

Mr. Egan said many people think of a handicapped person as someone to be feared, but in fact they are people with the same value and rights as anyone else — the right for meaningful work, a place to live, available recreation in the community and the chance to worship in a local church or synagogue.

"They are more like us than not," he said. "They have a lot of gifts to offer, especially in the whole area of human relationships."

Most of the assistants at Daybreak have a university degree, not necessarily in the field of working with the handicapped, and most come out of the desire to share day to day living with the handicapped, said Mr. Egan.

These assistants coordinate meals and organize the life in their particular house, as well as showing the handicapped general life skills such as handling

money, using public transit or other community facilities.

It is not a job, said the assistant director.

"We have a responsibility, but our work and our home are the same."

Mr. Egan said the relationship is best understood as a family, but the term is misleading as assistants are not in the parent role with responsibilities of parents. "The assistants do not come to do for," he said, "but to do with."

Once each month there is a 'Coffee House' held in one of the four homes on the property, a time to sing or dance or just chat.

The idea is for a friendly get-together of the people who live at Daybreak and a chance for the community to come and meet the handicapped as people.

Mr. Egan encourages people in the area to come to the Coffee House. He said he feels the people who live at Daybreak need friends outside in the community — a friend to have dinner with or go to a hockey game.

He warned though, this friendship could not be done out of a sense of duty or doing good, because anyone can "pick that up" and it "doesn't do anyone any good".

"Just come to get to know us a little bit," he said, and "let things evolve."

Daybreak now has another house in the town of Richmond Hill, on Church Street, where four handicapped adults, one married couple as assistants, with their two children and another single assistant live.

Two more homes in the city of Toronto give people the option of the setting they want to live in.

"Some like to work on the farm, but others found it too isolated," said Mr. Egan.

These group homes are funded by the government, have no official affiliation with a church but are ecumenical, with a Christian philosophy behind the work they are doing.

"Our view is to show respect and dignity for

each person," said Mr. Egan. "The Christian milieu is an important part of our life."

Recently, those now living at Daybreak celebrated ten years of successful operation with a dinner at Richmond Hill Lions Club.

After dinner parents and friends of the Daybreak community were invited for special tribute to Daybreak complete with a birthday cake and a dance.

Civic Corner

The following meetings of Civic interest have been scheduled during the next two weeks:

Monday December 3, 7:45 p.m. Council Chambers, Regular Council Meeting.

Tuesday December 4, 4 p.m. Finance Committee Room Finance Committee Meeting.

Tuesday December 4, 7:30 p.m. Council Chambers, Planning Committee Meeting.

HELPMATE INFORMATION COMMUNITY CALENDAR

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	
<p>Your community needs you</p> <p>to get involved in one of the following activities as a volunteer:</p> <p>ADOPT A GRANDPARENT — visit a senior citizen at Country Place Nursing Home</p> <p>BE A BIG BROTHER OR SISTER — teaching and sharing with a Little Brother or Little Sister.</p> <p>ENTERTAIN A GROUP — sing, play an instrument, show slides, give a talk at a Senior Citizen's group.</p> <p>BE A TUTOR — helping 9 and 10 year olds with reading at 16th Avenue Public School.</p> <p>LEARN FIRST AID — by becoming a member of the York Central Branch of the St. John Ambulance Brigade.</p> <p>If you are interested in sharing your time and talents in one of the above volunteer opportunities, or if you would like more information, call Lillian Silver at the Richmond Hill Volunteer Bureau, 883-2235.</p> <p>883-2234</p> <p>November</p> <p>December</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Pottery and Weaving Sale, Burr Craft House, 1 to 4 p.m.</p> <p>Group Run from Family Y 9 a.m.</p> <p>Thornhill United Church CGIT Christmas Vesper Service 7:30 p.m.</p> <p>Richvale Lions Bingo, 31 Spruce Avenue, Richmond Hill, 7:30 p.m.</p> <p>Cantabile Chorale at Ontario Place Theatre 11. 7 p.m.</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Richmond Hill Group of Artists Workshop, 7:30 p.m. Crosby School. Info: 889-1362.</p> <p>A presentation of Christmas Music by Cantabile Chorale at Trinity Anglican Church, Brooke St. Thornhill, 8 p.m. Guest quintet 'Dickens Singers'. Info: 881-1105.</p> <p>Richmond Hill Community Schools meeting, Crosby school library, 7:30 p.m.</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Our Lady's Guild Meeting at Our Lady of the Annunciation School, Bond Cresc., Oak Ridges, 7:45 p.m.</p> <p>Al-Anon St. Matthew's United Church, 8 p.m.</p> <p>Creative recreation at Walter Scott, Oak Ridges & St. Mary Immaculate schools, 6:30 - 8:45 p.m.</p>	<p>5</p> <p>St. John Ambulance Training Session, Richvale Community Centre lounge, 8 p.m. Info: 884-4204.</p> <p>Wheelhouse Club euchre 1:30 p.m. 12 King Sideroad, Oak Ridges.</p> <p>Curtain Club 'The Lady's Not For Burning' 8:30 p.m. Tickets: 884-3703.</p> <p>Book Sale, Thornhill Public school, Yonge & Arnold, 9-4 p.m.</p> <p>R. Hill UCW evening unit, Christmas meeting, 212 Rosemar Gardens 7 p.m. 884-1066.</p>	<p>6</p> <p>ROTARY TV AUCTION, Cable 10, 6 p.m.</p> <p>Richmond Hill Lions Meeting 6:30 p.m. Lions Hall, Centre Street, Richmond Hill.</p> <p>Richvale Writers Club, 79 Denham Drive, 8 p.m. All Welcome. Info: 889-6703.</p> <p>Curtain Club 'The Lady's Not For Burning' 8:30 p.m. Tickets: 884-3703.</p> <p>Ward 1 ratepayers annual meeting, 8 p.m. Beverley Acres School.</p> <p>Bake sale, Top of the Hill Nursery School, 9-11 a.m. St. Mary's</p>	<p>7</p> <p>ROTARY TV AUCTION, Cable 10, 6:30 p.m.</p> <p>Curtain club 'The Lady's Not For Burning' 8:30 p.m. Tickets: 884-3703.</p> <p>Wheelhouse Senior Citizens Club craft and work day 1:30 p.m.</p>	<p>8</p> <p>ROTARY TV AUCTION, Cable 10, 6:30 p.m.</p> <p>'Brunch with Santa', Simpsons Hillcrest, 9 a.m. Tickets at office, 883-1222</p> <p>Curtain Club 'The Lady's Not For Burning' 8:30 p.m. Tickets: 884-3703.</p> <p>Pioneer Christmas Crafts, Richmond Hill Public Library, 2 to 3:30 p.m. ages 7 and up. Pre-register 884-9288.</p>
<p>9</p> <p>York Philharmonic presents 'Messiah' at Wesley United, Toronto, Tickets: 889-7320 or 783-6348.</p> <p>Group run from York Family Y, 884-0961.</p> <p>'Carols by Candlelight' at St. Matthews, 7:30 p.m.</p> <p>CGIT Christmas Vesper Service, R. Hill United, 7 p.m.</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Richmond Hill Group of Artists Workshop, 7:30 p.m. Crosby School, 889-1362.</p> <p>Camera Club meeting, Richmond Hill High School, 7:30 p.m.</p> <p>Richmond Hill Community Schools meeting, Crosby school library, 7:30 p.m.</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Al-Anon, St. Matthew's United Church, Crosby Avenue, 8 p.m.</p> <p>One Parent Families Assn. general meeting, Crosby school, 8 p.m.</p> <p>Creative recreation at Walter Scott, Oak Ridges & St. Mary Immaculate schools, 6:30 p.m. 884-4811.</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Christmas get-together at Family Y, 7-8:30 p.m.</p> <p>Women's Program at St. Paul's Lutheran, 8 p.m.</p> <p>Curtain Club 'The Lady's Not For Burning', 8:30 p.m. Tickets: 884-3703.</p> <p>Wheelhouse seniors Social Day, 12 King Sdrd. Oak Ridges, 1:30 p.m.</p>	<p>13</p> <p>Travelogue, Richmond Hill Rotary at Bayview Sec. School, 8 p.m.</p> <p>Curtain Club 'The Lady's Not For Burning', 8:30 p.m. Tickets: 884-3703.</p> <p>Civic Improvement meeting, Committee Room B 8 p.m.</p> <p>YCAMR adult coffee house, St. Mary Immaculate Church, 8 p.m.</p>	<p>14</p> <p>Curtain Club, 'The Lady's Not For Burning', 8:30 p.m. Tickets: 884-3703</p>	<p>15</p> <p>Cantabile Chorale, Markham Place Mall, 7 p.m.</p> <p>R. Hill Maple Leaf Accordion Band Christmas Bazaar, 10-noon, Thornhill United Church.</p> <p>York Philharmonic presents the 'Messiah' at St. John's, Newmarket.</p> <p>Curtain Club 'The Lady's Not For Burning', 8:30 p.m. Tickets: 884-3703.</p>	

REGULAR EVENTS

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>Bingo, Thornhill Comm. Ctre. 7:30 p.m.</p> <p>Thornhill Barbershoppers, Highland Jr. Hi School, Don Mills & Cliffwood, 8 p.m.</p> <p>Cantabile Chorale, Thornhill Baptist, 8 p.m. 881-1105.</p> <p>Lions Bingo, Centre St. 7:40 p.m. R. Hill.</p> <p>Bridge, 12125 Yonge, 8 p.m. 884-1689.</p> <p>York Philharmonic practice, R.H. Baptist, 7:30 p.m.</p> <p>York Solars bingo, York Farmers' Market, 7:30 p.m.</p> <p>St. Paul's United Church crafts, 1:30 and 7:30 p.m. 773-5603.</p> <p>Thornhill Lodge, B'nai B'rith</p>	<p>RCSCC Patriot Sea Cadets, St. Mary's Anglican, 7:30 p.m. 884-3630.</p> <p>R. Hill Aquatic Club practice, Centennial Pool, 5:30 p.m. Monday-Friday, 884-8003.</p> <p>YCAMR Crafts instruction, Richvale Comm. Ctre. 7:30 p.m., Orff Music, 12 & under 7 p.m., over 12, 7:30 p.m.</p> <p>Navy League, R. Hill United Church, 6:30 p.m.</p> <p>R. Hill Library, pre-school story hour, 10-10:45 a.m. Pre-registration.</p>	<p>Thornhill Comm. Ctre. Library story hour, children 3-5, 1:30 p.m. Pre-registration, 881-5668.</p> <p>Legal Aid Clinic, 7-10 p.m. 884-9148.</p> <p>Mothers' Break, 9:30-11:15 a.m. R. Hill United, 884-4294.</p> <p>Yoga, R. Hill United: 7:15 p.m., beginners; 8:30 p.m. intermediates, 884-2671.</p> <p>Thornhill Community - Band practice, Thornlea Sec. School, 7 p.m., beginners; 8 p.m. concert band, 889-9620.</p> <p>CGIT, R. Hill United, 7 p.m. 883-5971.</p> <p>York Choral Society rehearsal, Our Lady Help of Christians School, 8 p.m. 884-4532.</p>	<p>York Floor Hockey League, Crosby Hts. Public School, 6:30 p.m.</p> <p>Hilltop Operetta Society, St. Mary's Anglican Church, 7:30 p.m. 884-4831.</p> <p>Thornhill Community Centre Library story hour, 3-5 years, 10:30 a.m. Pre-registration, 881-5668.</p> <p>Thornhill Lions Bingo, Thornhill Comm. Ctre. 7:30 p.m.</p> <p>Parent Concern Meeting, 8 p.m. Call Joyce, 884-3503.</p> <p>Counterweight at R. Hill Library, 7:30 p.m. 255-4421.</p> <p>A.M.O. at R. Hill United, 9:30 - 11:15 a.m., 884-9722.</p> <p>Seniors euchre, 1:30 p.m., 10149 Yonge.</p> <p>Bridge, 12125 Yonge 1 p.m. 884-1689.</p> <p>Richmond Hill Legion bingo, Legion Hall, 7:35 p.m.</p> <p>Pre-school story hour, R. Hill Library, 2 p.m., Pre-school French classes, 2 p.m.</p> <p>Thornhill Village Artists, Gallanough Library, 7 p.m. 889-6320.</p> <p>Richmond Hill Lions majorettes & drum corps practice, Lions Hall, 7 p.m. 884-6745.</p> <p>Yoga, R. Hill United, 8 a.m. beginners; 10:15 a.m. intermediates.</p>	<p>Thornhill Recycling Depot, Bayview & Green Lane, 7-8:30 p.m.</p> <p>Air Cadets, male & female, 13-19 yrs. Legion Hall, Ohio Rd., R. Hill, 7 p.m. 884-4521.</p> <p>R. Hill Youth Concert rehearsals, 7 p.m. St. Joseph's School, 884-8873.</p> <p>Maple Leaf Accordion Band, MacKillop School, 7-9 p.m. 884-8390.</p> <p>Duplicate Bridge, 12125 Yonge St. 8 p.m. 884-1689.</p>	<p>YCAMR Teen Drop-In, Thornhill Baptist Church, 7:30 p.m. 889-0536.</p> <p>R. Hill Recycling Depot, Elgin Mills & Leslie, 10 a.m.-noon.</p> <p>Thornhill Recycling Depot, Bayview & Green Lane, 10 a.m.-noon.</p> <p>Seniors euchre, 10149 Yonge St. 1:30 p.m.</p> <p>R. Hill Minor Hockey skate & equipment resale, 1-3 p.m. new arena.</p> <p>YCAMR bowling league, Newkirk Bowl, 2-4 p.m.</p> <p>Crest Club, Centennial Pool, 1-2 p.m.</p>