



Senior citizens in the Richmond Hill area can get some help with weekly grocery shopping. Every Thursday morning seniors are invited to shop at the IGA store in Allencourt Plaza, where store employees go out of their way to lend a hand. Here the store owner, Nathan Yermus shows how easy it is to get a half dozen eggs, if that's all you need. He hands them to Martha McClintock and Lillian Scott. (Liberal Photo by Bruce Hogg).

Patients can turn to their chaplain

We all have a need for encouragement and hope, but the need is greater for those in hospital, especially during the Christmas season.

Often a minister or priest can satisfy this need for support and assurance, so four years ago York Central Hospital set up a Unit Chaplain Program.

The purpose of the program is to assist in meeting the spiritual needs of both patients and staff, said Assistant Executive Director Gloria Crotin.

At present eight local ministers take part in the program, each identified with a particular patient unit and each using a non-denominational approach.

These chaplains usually visit two times each week and form relationships that vary from friendship to one similar to a patient and counsellor.

Loneliness is always a big thing, said Mrs. Crotin, and helping people cope with stresses of life, but there are special needs such as comforting of relatives of patients who are very ill or helping with funeral arrangements, which are best handled by the unit chaplains.

If the patient so desires the chaplain will call the person's own priest, or say a few prayers prior to surgery or maybe just give a kind word — to show someone is caring, said Chaplain James Dauphinee who visits on the Pediatric Unit.

Mrs. Crotin said she feels the Unit Chaplaincy Program promotes better understanding among hospital staff, patients, and their relatives.

"It makes the hospital more human," she said. Unit chaplains meet with the Assistant Executive Director each month to discuss the program, any problems and educational programs of advancement in the world of health care, so they are able to help more efficiently.

Chaplain Percy Brown, who visits in the Continuing Care Unit, tried to pin point this need which can so often be filled by a member of the clergy — the reaching out for assurance.

"In each of us there is a feeling that someone, or something, or some spirit is in control," he said, "and we reach out for it automatically."

Chaplain Brown said he felt that people feel a priest or a minister or a representative of the church has some sort of special power — "and they are just reaching out for some hope," he said. Chaplain James Dauphinee said he feels the chaplains are there "to listen as a representative of God and to show his concern and caring."

He added that people do not need to be religious to enjoy concern and caring. Unit Chaplains provide regular Sunday morning worship services in the lounge on the fourth floor for any patient or staff member in the hospital who wishes to attend.

Services which are usually brief, with hymn singing are described by Chaplain Brown as having "therapeutic value."

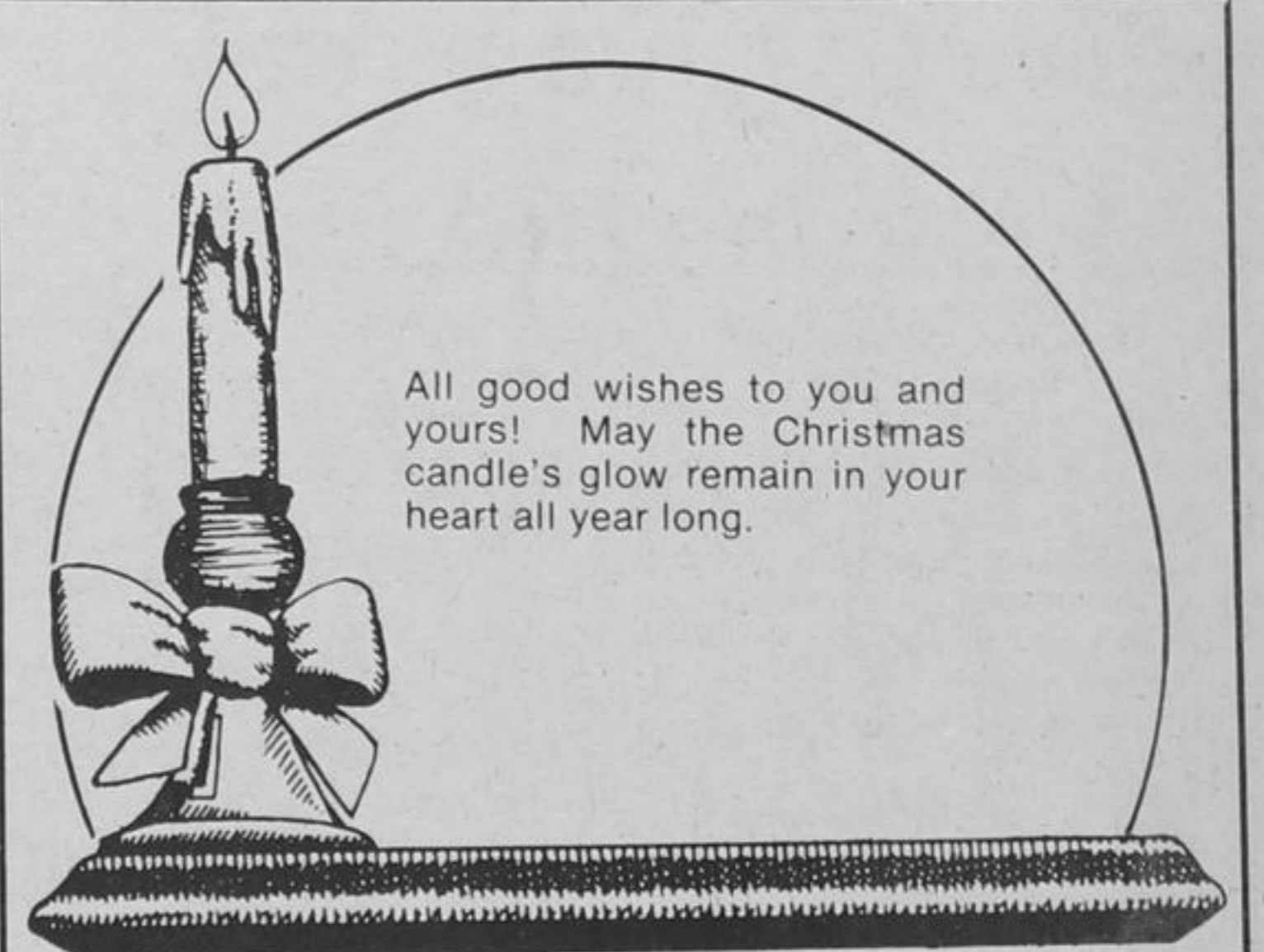
Although this Chaplain program is quite successful the hospital would

eventually like to have a full-time co-ordinating chaplain.

Chaplain Percy Brown, who visits three hospitals on a regular basis, recently acted as full-time chaplain in North York General while their full-time chaplain was away.

Chaplain Brown said there is a definite need for such a person in any hospital — to always be available no matter how small the need. Some just need to talk, others need spiritual counselling, he said, and others just a lift and encouragement before an operation.

At Christmas the special need is for the lonely and desperate who must spend this time away from friends and family, as well as the increase in numbers due to illness brought about through loneliness, mental stress and the mad rush of holidays causing accidents.



All good wishes to you and yours! May the Christmas candle's glow remain in your heart all year long.

Gordon S. Wood

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Two are jailed for torching Thornhill home

A Jackson's Point man has been sentenced to three years in prison for arson and a Vaughan man will serve a year in reformatory for the torching of a Thornhill house in 1975.

Morris Friesner of Jackson's Point was convicted last week, of arson when a house at 99 John Street, Thornhill was burned in 1975.

Friesner was spotted at the scene the morning of March 23, 1975, just hours after the house caught fire, and was arrested after Detective Sergeant, Robert McCausland of the York Regional Police, found a key to the John Street house and memos with directions to the house in the accused's vehicle.

The vehicle he was driving was identified by a witness, Lawrence Kelly, as that seen in the area the night before.

Another man, Leonard Pasternak was convicted as an accessory and sentenced to spend one year in Provincial reformatory for his part in the affair.

Evidence pointed to a meeting between Friesner and Pasternak the night before the fire, and witnesses saw Pasternak pass Friesner

Citizen committee member selection could be illegal

A motion brought up at Richmond Hill council Monday had some members condemning a practice as illegal and others resenting the fact the motion made such an accusation.

Councillor Dave Amos introduced the matter of procedure followed to pick citizen committee members, saying to appoint members to a committee by vote on a secret ballot was contrary to the Municipal Act.

Committee, Local Architectural Conservation Advisory Committee, the Library Board and Parks and Recreation Committee and have council members pick the number needed for each committee by ballot.

Councillor Wainwright said he felt it would be more appropriate if members of council were individually polled to announce their votes openly.

Mayor Dave Schiller and Councillors Al Duffy, Mike Burnie and John Birchall said they resented the suggestion the present procedure was illegal, and argued they felt the present system was less embarrassing to those present when the decision was made.

Remarks were banded back and forth about members 'playing politics' and using 'backroom politics', but all agreed there was a need for a policy and each was prepared to go along with the final decision.

Councillor Wainwright was asked to outline exact procedure he would suggest council follow at the next council meeting.

Councillor Lou Wainwright agreed with Councillor Amos. "I think it is illegal and I can't accept it," he said.

It has been the practice of Richmond Hill council to advertise vacancies for town representatives on the Committee of Adjustment, Property Standards Committee, Civic Improvement

Committee, Local Architectural Conservation Advisory Committee, the Library Board and Parks and Recreation Committee and have council members pick the number needed for each committee by ballot.

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