



Rosemary Ball from Richmond Hill has no trouble putting the finishing touches on her Christmas tree, even though she is confined to a

wheelchair. Rosemary is attempting to set up a social club for young people similarly handicapped. (Liberal Photo by Bruce Hogg)

No barriers

New club needs helping hands

Rosemary Ball, who travels everywhere in a wheelchair herself, is looking for other handicapped youths who would be interested in joining a social group in the Thornhill-Richmond Hill area.

As a result of an operation on a brain tumor three and one-half years ago, 22-year-old Rosemary became paralyzed down one side

of her body and is now confined to travel in a wheelchair.

But, her handicap has not limited her zest for life and interest in participating in community events to the fullest extent.

Rosemary, and a few friends similarly handicapped, are aware of programs in the city, where members enjoy films, participate in

indoor games, such as bowling or cards, or take part in outings to the theatre or shopping.

Films are available which attempt to motivate a handicapped individual to enjoy skiing or horseback riding, despite their handicap, by showing others in action.

What Rosemary has in mind is a similar group, in this area, formed to

enjoy each or any of these activities.

Barb Bamford, an Occupational Therapist at York Central Hospital, applauds the idea of a local social group and said she is willing to help out in any way she can until the group gets on its feet.

Mrs. Bamford encourages any handicapped youths in the community to contact Rosemary at 889-5858, and she also urges anyone who would be willing to volunteer in the way of offering transportation for outings or helping to serve tea or coffee, to come forward.

"I'm sure any helping hands can be used," she said.

25 years as cop, Deputy Chief resigns

York Regional Police Chief Bruce Crawford accepted with regret, last week, the resignation of one of his top men; Deputy Chief Wallace Harkness.

The man hailed as "super policeman" and once looked on as heir apparent to the Chief has resigned from the York Regional Police Force and will begin a new career in private enterprise.

In an interview last week, Mr. Harkness explained his decision to leave.

"I have an opportunity to enter private enterprise, and I think the time is right."

He continued, "It's going to take quite a bit of adjustment. I've spent more than half my life as a cop, and it will be hard to change."

"I'm not going out the door with a great bravo, you know."

The 45-year-old Deputy Chief has been a policeman since he was 17 years old, when he became a cadet with The Metropolitan Toronto Police Force.

He became a constable in 1955 and joined the detective branch in 1961.

When Police Chief Bruce Crawford headed up the fledgling York Regional Police Force in 1971, he asked Wally Harkness to work for him.

When asked why, the chief answered, "I had worked with him in Meiro, and always knew him as an excellent worker, and that's the kind of man I needed."

"I will regret losing him, but he cannot turn down such a good opportunity."

Wally, as he has always been referred to, will establish a security system for the Magna International Corporation in Toronto, but he and his wife June are not going to

move to the big city.

He says, "We are happy here, and have no intentions of moving."

Mr. Harkness went on, "We are both a bit apprehensive about the change, but the opportunity is just too good to turn down."

He has always had a good rapport with his fellow workers and with criminals.

"I still get Christmas cards from quite a few people in prison. I never tried to cheat them, and as long as you're fair with them (the criminals), they'll respect you for it," he continued.

As to who will take over as the new Deputy Chief, Mr. Crawford said, "It's not too soon to think about it, but it's too early to make the decision."

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Pelliccione is returned as chairman

York Region Roman Catholic Separate School Board trustees seem content with their chairman, Larry Pelliccione of Markham.

He was unanimously re-elected as chairman for 1980 at last week's board meeting.

Frank Kelly of Georgina was elected vice-chairman over Kathleen Taylor of Newmarket.

Mr. Pelliccione's inaugural address stressed the rapid growth of separate school population in the area up 11 per cent over last year; and that funds for capital projects must keep pace with that growth.

He noted that Education Minister Dr. Bette Stephenson is faced

with provincial government restraint, but stated, "We must fight for our share of the funds that are being reduced every year."

Mr. Pelliccione considers his first year as chairman as a learning experience.

At the same time, he announced his new committees for 1980.

The management committee will be headed by Jack McDermott and will consist of Leo

Wigglesworth, Tony Diodati, Con Thompson, John O'Mahoney, Elio Bellon and Kathy Taylor.

The education committee is as follows: Frank Kelly, June Mallon, Ernie Nyitrai, Pat Burzillo, Dan DiRocco, Rita Zanatta, Father Don MacLean and Tim Byrne.

Jack McDermott, June Mallon and Elio Bellon will make up the personnel committee.

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