

Home Support Services

Provide aid for Seniors

STOUFFVILLE — The Home Support Services' program in Whitchurch-Stouffville is growing and so is the need for additional volunteers, co-ordinator Betty Courage informed The Tribune this week.

The number of users now totals 42 with 23 senior citizens availing themselves of this assistance during the month of January. Assignments included eight medical trips, five shopping trips, eleven visits, one errand, six trips to a hairdresser and three snow-shovelling chores.

Seniors in Town are urged to get involved. The cost is based on "ability to pay". The office number, 9 a.m. to 12 noon (Monday to Friday) is 640-6554.

"What we really need are people willing to

make visitations, particularly in the Musselman's Lake area," Mrs. Courage said.

Home Support Chairman Ged Stonehouse said the idea behind the program is to allow seniors to retain their place of residence for as long a time as possible. This can be done, he said, by "people helping people". Transportation is a high priority service along with home maintenance (inside and out), household chores and friendly visits.

"The program's becoming better known," he said, "folks are beginning to use it". A main problem, the chairman explained, is convincing seniors they should use it. "They have a lot of pride and this desire for independence

keeps them from asking. This shouldn't be," he said.

Volunteers for Home Support are: Marion Acton, Diane Cowan, Lynda Dewolde, Eva Diller, Kathy Glick, Charlie Jackson, Alma Johnson, Claude Kerr, Linda Lafleur, Joyce Miller, Betty MacDonaid, Karen Pascoe, Shirley Risk, Lovanna Sanders, Vi Schoppe, Mahlon Shantz, Clara Stout, Gordon Wyatt, Shirley Rehill, Leanne Gribble, Doris Lang, Ab Boles and Marie Couperthwaite.



The 1981 Home Support Services' Board, Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville

Sixteen Whitchurch-Stouffville residents serve on the board for Home Support Services, an organization interested in assisting senior citizens who wish to maintain their own residences. Members are: Front Row (left to right) - Betty Courage, Honor Nicholson, Marie Adams, Lavanna Sanders, Sheila Jones, Claude Kerr, Rev. Ted Green and Ann Goldring. Rear Row (left to right) - Joe Nighswander, Herb Diller, Ged Stonehouse, Mahlon Shantz, Dr. John Button, Otto Schweizer and Jim Sanders. Absent are - Jim Rehill, Rev. Ted Green and Ann Goldring.

—Jim Thomas.



People Helping People

By MAHLON W. SHANTZ
Home Support Services

The ten minute walk to the bus stop was a pleasant and healthy exercise for Mr. Wilson who would be sitting at his desk most of the day. Also, it gave him a chance to see and observe many interesting sights and activities not noticed while driving the car.

He was especially interested in a repair job in progress on the front porch of a small house he passed each morning. Several men worked on this project together and appeared to be non-professional householders. All were older men, one of them was leaning on his cane watching the others.

Finally, one morning Mr. Wilson stopped and was soon in conversation with this interesting "gang" of workmen. He learned that the man with the cane was the owner of the house but was too feeble to do his share of the work. One was a neighbor but the other four had been strangers scattered around the next block until this repair project brought them together.

This picture of people helping people kept coming back to him all day as he studied the suggestions and proposals that came to his desk. He worked for the ministry of social services and there was this problem of finding a suitable alternative for people having increasing difficulty coping with the day to day care and maintenance of a home. There is a long waiting list of people waiting to move into a senior citizens home while many of them are not emotionally ready to give up housekeeping and enter an institution. As the picture of the men repairing the porch kept coming back like a replay he saw a possible solution to this particular need. This was the beginning of what is now known as "Home Support Services".

This organization is made up of volunteer men and women from a cross section of the community representing municipal council, merchants and professionals, churches, service clubs and senior citizens. Costs of administration are funded jointly by the Provincial and Regional governments providing an office and one person part time to co-ordinate the activities.

More next week on how this involves a variety of people both young and old, including you!

Gordon Forgie

Historical chairman

MARKHAM — Gordon Forgie, 16th Avenue, will head up the Markham Historical Society for 1981. The election of officers was held at the organization's annual meeting in January.

Others filling executive and committee positions follow: Paul Burkholder, 1st vice president; Albert Duffield, 2nd vice-president; Dawn Duffield, secretary; Carmen Lewis, treasurer; Ruth Hutchings and Marj Pringle, Social; Archie Little, Sam Murdock, Levi Diller and Bill Brown, Festival; Levi Diller, Management Liaison; Carmen Lewis, Telephone; Albert Duffield, Membership; Trevor Watson, Newsletter; Anne Armstrong, O.H.S.; Albert Duffield, LACAC; Tom Hoch, Paul Burkholder,

Albert Duffield, Program; Alleen Lunau, Crafts and Dawn Duffield, Carmen Lewis and Mary Champion, Souvenirs.

Directors are: Bill Brown, Tom Huehn, Sam Murdock, Dawn Duffield, Bob Hagerman, Carmen Lewis, Norm Reid, Paul Burkholder, Levi Diller, Gordon Forgie, Albert Duffield, Archie Little, Russell Pearson and Murray Reesor.

The Society is hoping to re-locate First Markham Baptist Church at the Museum site this year.

Assistant curator Mary Champion attended an "open house" hosted by the Ontario Ministry of Culture and Recreation. In conversation with The Hon. Reuben Baetz, she was told that the Ministry looks on Markham's museum project as "one of the great success stories".



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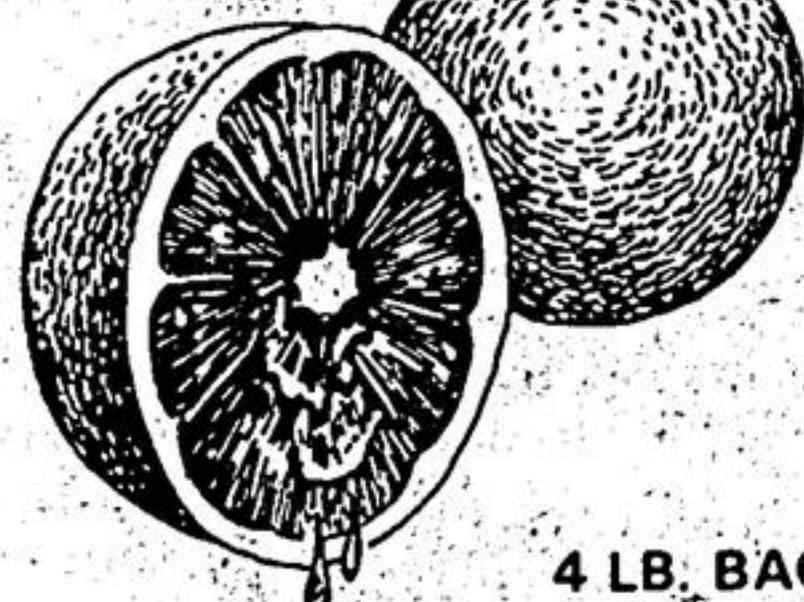
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