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Praise home-helper

By Win Napier Home Support Coordinator, Betty Courage, has another difficult assignment next month, namely, finding a replacement for Dolores Jennings.

Dolores has been one of the Coordinator's most successful home helpers over the past two years. Regrettably, she is leaving with her family to take up residence in Sandford, north-west of Uxbridge, after fifteen years in the Stouffville area.

"Home Support has been good, really good," says Dolores, a mother of three children, aged 17, 15 and 11. "Perhaps it's not a big thing, helping seniors in their own homes," she says, "yet it makes all the difference. Without our help, many would end up in nursing homes or institutions. And nearly all seniors want separately to keep their own homes."

There's a look of genuine concern and compassion in the dark eyes of this attractive home-helper as she talks about seniors. "We're saving the government thousands of dollars," she points out with a conviction born of experience, "what's ten or fifteen dollars a day compared to the cost of institutional care?"

One of the senior's homes she's visited weekly during the past year is the residence of Edith and Clifford Ritchie. Mrs Ritchie, over 80 years of age says: "My needs are not great. As long as I can stay in my own home, I'll be happy." She speaks in glowing terms of Home Support and particularly of Dolores who has become an essential part of the household. "She's been a good friend and a wonderful help to me," says Mrs Ritchie.

Although Dolores worked previously as a nurses' aid, she has found being a home-helper even more rewarding. "The clients often become attached to you," she says, "and you always know that you're needed. It's a great feeling. Also, you make some good friends along the way."

During her tenure with Home Support, the home-helper has provided a great variety of services for clients. "With some seniors, visiting them is just as important as doing the household chores," she explains. "Sometimes, the companionship means so much, I'm reluctant to take time off, even for illness."

For other seniors, Dolores tries to act as a concerned family member and ends up shopping, spring cleaning, mending whatever needs doing.



Dolores Jennings, (left), Booth Drive, Stouffville, has been one of Home Support Services' most energetic and enthusiastic home-helpers. Here, she assists Edith Ritchie and son Clifford at their residence on Winlane Drive, Stouffville.

—Jim Thomas

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