



Gil Beardsall

Red Cross

Helpers needed

There's much more to the Canadian Red Cross Society than meets the eye. But in the Markham Stouffville area many of the society's services aren't in place because of a severe shortage of volunteers.

The thought that comes to mind first when Red Cross is mentioned is the blood donor service which the society runs across Canada.

Blood Donor Clinics are held on a regular basis in most communities and are well received by the public which donates blood and time to serve the clinics.

But other Red Cross services like water safety, first aid courses, seniors services, emergency services, Red Cross Youth and tracing and reunion don't have the high profile of the blood donor operation and need volunteers desperately.

The Red Cross Society in this area was recently reorganized. What used to be the Newmarket branch now serves the entire region of York.

The regional area has been divided in three sections one of which includes the Markham and Stouffville areas.

The new divisions have in turn created the need for Red Cross volunteers in each local area. Markham and Stouffville are extremely short staffed for almost every service.

Gil Beardsall, vice president of the Red Cross in this area is seeking volunteers to head up the other services which are provided in every region.

Mr. Beardsall said the society can't be as active as it would like to be locally until more volunteers come forward.

"If I had more help I could do more lectures," he said adding that one of his main objectives is to improve Red Cross Youth services.

Red Cross Youth provides co-curricular resource programs in health and safety education and human values to school students. These include courses in water safety, first aid and babysitting.

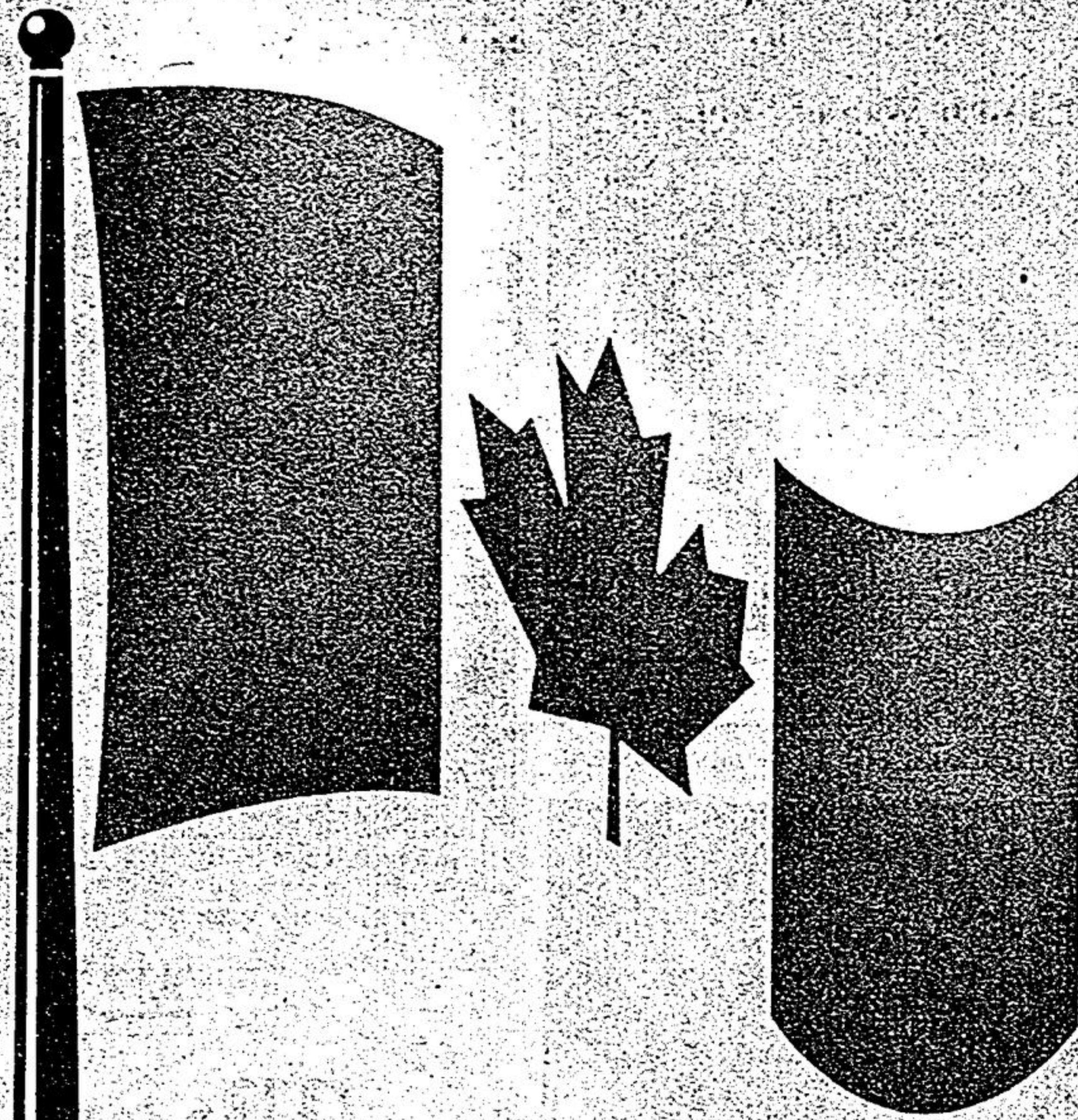
Seniors can enjoy Friendly Visits, Telephone Friendship Link and Fun and Fitness classes which are organized by the Red Cross senior services.

Emergency services come into play during disasters, such as the Barrie tornado in June, 1985.

In all 667 Red Cross volunteers helped 36,098 people during 1985.

In Markham and Stouffville volunteers are also needed for support services such as financial resources, public relations and volunteer administration.

Anyone interested in helping out with this worldwide organization is invited to call the Region of York Branch of Red Cross at 881-8791.



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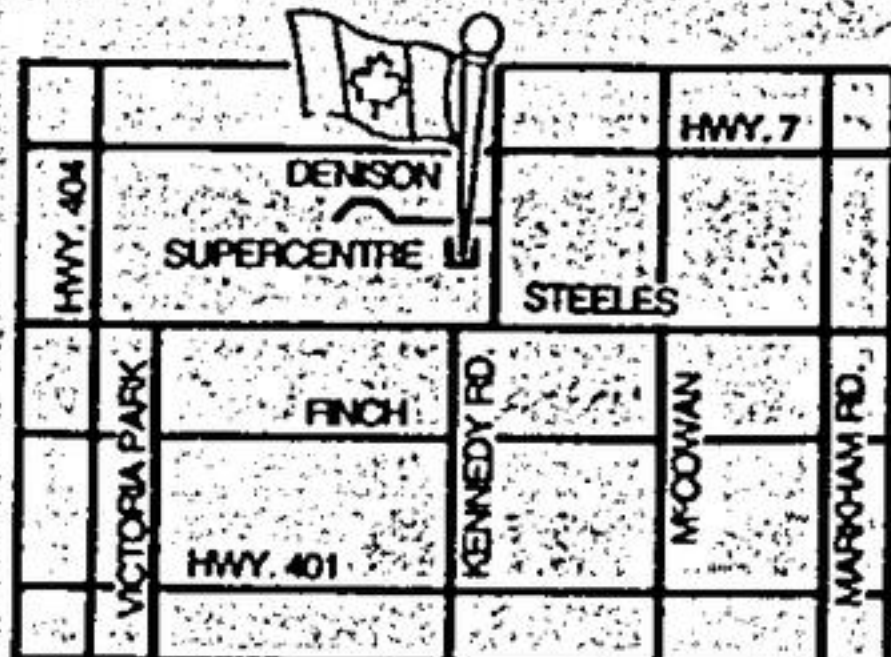
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