

Plans afoot

Terminally ill benefit from hospice services

By KATE GILDERDALE
 First the hospital, now a hospice—that's the dream of Carol Perley, a nurse at Scarborough's Centenary Hospital with experience in palliative care.
 She brought together a group of people last March and suggested linking Hospice Markham Stouffville to the new area hospital.
 Stouffville group member Kitty Evans explained that the concept is based on similar organizations in England, namely St. Christopher's Hospice in London, which offer care and assistance for terminally ill patients and their families.
 The objectives of Hospice Markham Stouffville would be to support the patient's family and to assist terminally ill individuals who wish to be cared for at home.

It would also help maintain a special quality of life by providing caring, trained volunteers when requested.
 "These volunteers would run errands, provide transportation and offer relief care for the patients to allow their families some respite from constant caregiving," Mrs. Evans said.
 She pointed out that volunteers would not need previous training.
 "We would provide education programs for medical and non-medical people," she stated. "We want to educate the public and health professionals regarding our service."
 The group's next step is to obtain registration, so the group can accept donations.
 Though the long-term goal is to establish a building to house ter-

minally ill patients who can no longer be cared for at home, the program will initially provide in-home care and will be run entirely by volunteers.
 The hospice would work closely with the medical profession and patients would be referred to the group by doctors.
 Two hospices are already functioning in King City and Thornhill with another planned for Newmarket.
 "Hospice King has done so well and they started out like us," Mrs. Evans noted. "They have been a great help to us."
 In addition to providing patient care, the organization would help bereaved families come to terms with their loss.
 A hospice provides a unique service for those who are terminally ill and no longer require hospital treatment by allowing them to be with their families and minimize institutional care.
 Anyone interested in the program is invited to a meeting on Thursday May 5, at the Markham Library at Hwy 7 and 48, between 7 and 9 p.m. For further information call Kitty Evans at 640-4466.



Sesquicentennial essay winners at Claremont

In conjunction with Claremont's upcoming Sesquicentennial Celebrations, students in all grades participated in a recent Essay Contest related to this historic event. Winners were announced Friday. Receiving medallions from Margaret Britton of the Women's Institute are Kyla Vitek, (left), Grade 3 and Julie Chadwick, Grade 4. Absent was Brandi Key, Grade 8.
 —Jim Thomas

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