



Home Support Services homemaker Alida Nauta enjoys the time she spends with seniors through the Stouffville program. She's become good friends with a number of residents over the years, including Rae Pipher (left), who she sees twice a week.

In-home seniors' service flourishes

By KATE GILDERDALE

One of the most enlightened government initiatives in recent years has been the move towards caring for senior citizens in their homes for as long as possible, rather than placing them in institutions. For many older people, the freedom to retain the privacy and comfort of familiar surroundings is one they cherish; that freedom is often made possible through the efforts of Home Support Service, set up in Stouffville in 1980.

"It started as a pilot project," explains co-ordinator Jean Anderson. "The provincial government felt seniors needed assistance to remain in their own community."

The organization helps people retain their independence in their own homes, something which helps seniors and their families, who often live some distance from them, notes Mrs. Anderson.

Two types of service are provided by Home Support. One is the volunteer program, the other is the homemakers' program. Volunteers help out by clearing driveways, doing yard work and transporting seniors on various errands. Homemakers go into the senior's home and help with cleaning and meal preparation, as well as offering companionship.

"If you have a husband and wife, and one is becoming confused, the other one can't get out. We'll go in and stay with the person and allow the care giver some time to themselves," explains Mrs. Anderson. Home Support has about 28 volunteers, as well as 12 students from Grade 12 at Stouffville District Secondary School, who offer help through a program called 'Hand in Hand.'

There's a desperate need for homemakers to join Home Support at present. Mrs. Anderson estimates the organization could take on at least four more people, in addition to the 11 who are currently serving about 52 seniors. The job would suit community oriented people who care for seniors, she says.

Homemakers receive \$7 an hour to start, with a minimum requirement of 10 hours per week. There's also the advantage of working locally and getting to know others in the community.

"It's nice for people who have just moved here, it's a way of getting to know people and becoming part of the community."

Homemakers and clients often become close friends, Mrs. Anderson stresses, and the involvement makes the job more worthwhile.

"Some of the seniors haven't got family nearby, and they begin to rely on the homemaker almost as an extended family member," Rae Pipher is one senior who strongly endorses the program.

"I couldn't stay at home if I didn't have somebody like her," she emphasizes as homemaker Alida Nauta arrives. "I don't know what I'd do without her."

For Mrs. Nauta, it's the perfect job, giving her the flexibility she enjoys and "a tremendous amount of satisfaction."

She became involved through Jean Anderson who attends the same church.

"She said 'Why don't you come and work for us?' My first reaction was to say no." In the end, Mrs. Nauta decided to try it for a few months. That was three years ago. "I've never regretted it because I have gained many friends."

Crime stoppers Keyboards stolen from high school

PC GARY McBRIEN
York Regional Police

Toronto and Regional Crime Stoppers and the York Regional Police are asking for the public's help in an effort to apprehend those responsible for a theft of musical instruments.

Between the dates of Jan. 6 and Jan. 23, of this year, unknown person(s) went to St. Robert's Catholic High School on Leslie St. in Markham.

The suspect(s) gained entry into an electrical room on the upper floor of the school and removed six keyboards from the storage room. The stolen property is described as follows:

- a) Yamaha Keyboard Model YPR9, serial No. 23049
- b) Yamaha Keyboard Model YPR9, serial No. 23050
- c) Yamaha Keyboard Model YPR9, serial No. 23055
- d) Yamaha Keyboard Model YPR9, serial No. 23082
- e) Yamaha Keyboard Model YPR9, serial No. 23048
- f) Yamaha Keyboard Model YPR9, serial No. 24284

Each of the above mentioned keyboards had been stored in brown cardboard boxes. The stolen property is valued at \$3,000.

The Crime Stoppers toll free number is 1-800-387-8477 or locally in the Toronto calling area 222-TIPS.

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| Rump Roast (cut from outside) | 3.58 lb. - 7.90 kg. |
| Veal Chops | 4.99 lb. - 11.00 kg. |
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50 Lockridge Ave. Unionville (One block west of Warden) **477-9591**

APPOINTMENT

ANDREA KELTER

Debra Weller, Director of Advertising is pleased to announce the appointment of Andrea Kelter as Print Sales Manager of the Markham Economist & Sun.

Andrea, successfully held the position of Retail Sales Representative for the past 2 years and brings with her 8 years experience in the advertising field.

Please join me in congratulating Andrea.

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