

THE LEGAL POINT OF VIEW

-Common Law Spouses

The Ontario Family Law Reform Act, 1978 defines a "spouse" as being a married person or a person who has lived with a person of the opposite sex for a period of five years or for a shorter period if there has been a permanent relationship of some sort and a child has been born. The person who is not married but is still a "spouse" according to this definition is usually involved in what is known as a common law marriage, although, legally, there is no such thing.

The Family Law Reform Act gives "common law" spouses some of the legal rights given to married spouses when there is a separation. A common law spouse has a right to ask the court to order his or her spouse to pay financial support, for example.

However, not all the rights of married spouses are given to common law spouses who separate. When married spouses separate they each have a right to half of the family assets. Family assets are those things the spouses and their children used. Common law spouses do not have this automatic right. Their property is divided according to who paid for it, whose name it is in, who contributed work to maintain or build it and what the intentions of the spouses were regarding ownership.

For example, if a couple lived together for 7 years and then separated how would their property be divided if they disputed who was to get the T.V. and who was to get the house they lived in? If we presume that the woman bought the T.V. and made a gift of it to the man, the court would probably agree that the man keep the T.V. because that is what the woman had intended when she gave it to him. If the man had bought the house and the deed was in his name but the woman had helped maintain it and take care of it for the 7 years they were together, it is possible that the Court would say she had some legal interest in the house and would award her compensation for her contribution.

Common law and married spouses are treated the same with regard to custody of their children. The Court will decide which parent gets custody on the basis of what is in the best interests of the child. As far as financial support of children goes every parent must do their share, whether they are a "spouse" or not.

- Jane Monaghan

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CANADIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY

NORTH LEEDS UNIT

annual fund raising campaign
september 1981

HELP US TO HELP YOU!

The Canadian Red Cross Society

ONTARIO DIVISION DE L'ONTARIO

La Société canadienne de la Croix-Rouge



The monthly committee meeting of the North Leeds Red Cross Homemaker Services was held Aug. 10 at Barb Purdy's. Present were Ken Fuller, Ken Friday, Hubert Sly, Barb Purdy, Sharon Stedman and Sue Cooper. Minutes were approved and Ken Friday read a letter re the Status of the North Leeds Unit which was to be sent to the Director of Homemaker Services of Ontario.

Homemaker Service report as follows-

346.31 DAYS OF SERVICE.

HOME CARE (acute)	68 days
HOME CARE (chronic)	238.38 days
Soc. Services	8.50 days
Private	31.44 days
WORKING HOMEMAKERS	39
2 retired	
5 on holiday	

LOAN CUPBOARD REPORT

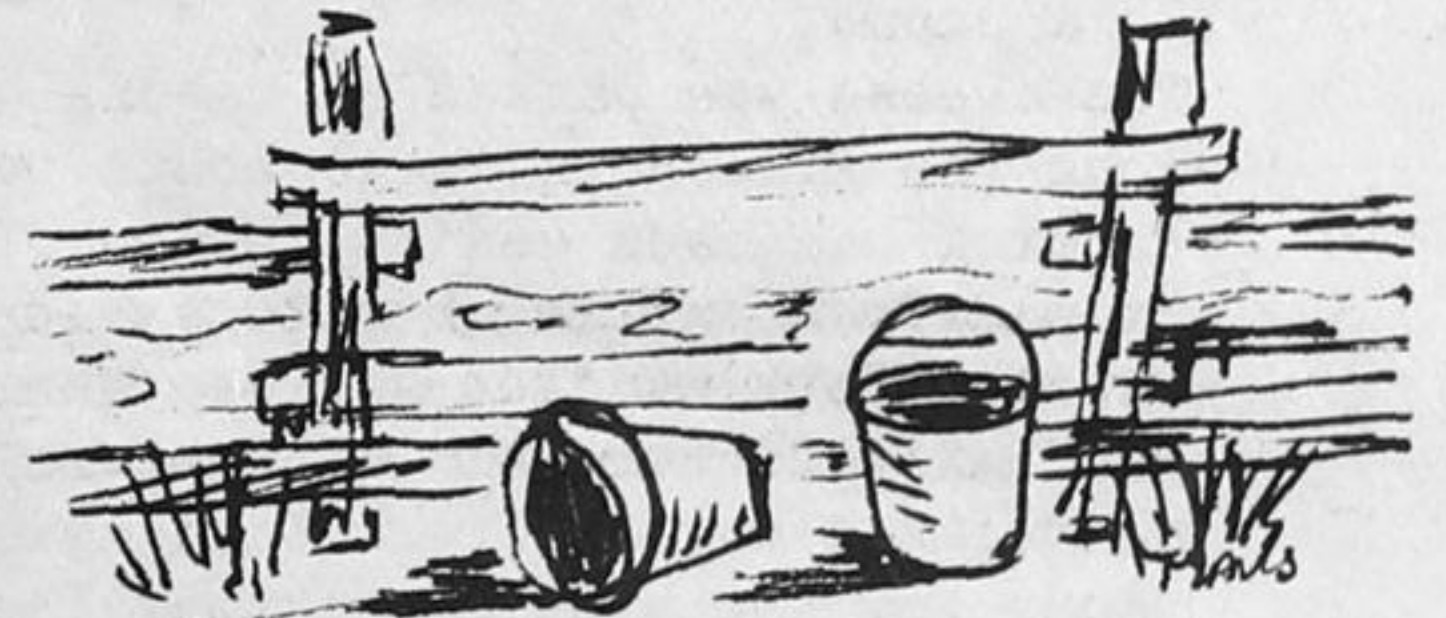
1 wheel chair
2 commodes
2 walkers plus a number of small articles at present remain in the Cupboard.
Mr. Hubert Sly is happy to report that all other equipment is out on loan in the community and

being well used. Because of the increasing demand for this equipment a discussion followed this report re future needs. The Unit received a lovely card of thanks from Barb Purdy for the gift presented to her at the last meeting.

SEPTEMBER 1981 IS TO BE FUND RAISING MONTH FOR THE NORTH LEEDS UNIT. This was discussed in some detail and Campaign Kits were distributed to those present.

Because SEPTEMBER IS CAMPAIGN MONTH it was decided to hold the next meeting Oct. 5 1981 at Rideau District High School.

REMEMBER, SEPTEMBER IS RED CROSS MONTH FOR NORTH LEEDS.



**SOUTH CROSBY NON PROFIT
HOUSING CORPORATION**

RIDEAU LAKES
APARTMENTS

ELGIN
ONTARIO

requests the pleasure of the company of

RESIDENTS OF SOUTH CROSBY AND SURROUNDING AREA

*at ceremonies to mark the official opening of
Rideau Lakes Apartments
a Senior Citizens apartment project*

at

Elgin, Ontario

on Saturday September 12, 1981 at 11:00 a.m.

Refreshments

Federal, Provincial, Municipal and other dignitaries are invited as well as all those officials who were involved in the building of the 23 unit complex.