



Christmas is over and Miriam McCrudden, a volunteer at Mississauga's Christmas Bureau, can spend time with her family again. After weeks of hasty meals she prepares a tasty soup.

Housewife helps strangers through Christmas Bureau

Applewood

Shirley Gabourie 279-9791

For several weeks before Christmas different articles were printed in this column about the Mississauga Christmas Bureau, which is part of Peel County community services. Now that the bureau is closed until next year, many people will wonder just what did it accomplish and how did it operate.

These two important questions can be answered by one person, Mrs. Miriam McCrudden, of Yeoville road, Clarkson. Mrs. McCrudden, the mother of three children, a son Bob and a daughter Dorothy at home, and a married daughter, Mrs. Clive Weightman, gave up six important weeks before Christmas to help others celebrate a traditional Canadian Christmas. Together with her husband John, who is employed by Bell Northern Research, the family helped with housework while mother went to work.

Every day, from Monday to Friday, between the hours of 2-4 p.m. but sometimes stretched from noon to after 5 p.m., Miriam would catch

the bus from Clarkson to the bureau at the new Robert Speck Civic Square and work at her mountainous task.

This operation began by compiling cards for referral from lists supplied to her by seven field workers for the town of Mississauga and three social workers from the Ontario government. The Victorian Order of Nurses and public health nurses supplied her with the names of 17 elderly people who were also given help. There were also hundreds of telephone calls from people with donations and inquiries to be answered daily.

Miriam's work did not end there. From her file she prepared lists of over 200 children who could be entertained by different service clubs. Then came distribution of the various donations. This was by no means a small task, not when you are thinking in terms of 375 families including 1,177 children. In some cases a call would be received from a donor wanting a needy family in his area with a certain number of children and perhaps even a certain number of boys or girls. Mrs. McCrudden would refer to her files and produce such a family in a matter of

minutes.

Cash donations (about \$800 last year) rose to over \$3,000 this year. This money was converted to food vouchers from a grocery store close to the recipient. Also, the Central General Radio Service Radio Club ran a toy drive and they took care of toys for children listed on Mrs. McCrudden's file.

Volunteers prepared baskets at the bureau for other families and the Lake Ontario Citizen's Band and church groups started to deliver them Dec. 21.

Even though the bureau was successful and was open for six weeks with many families helped everyone's needs were not fully realized. A few one child families could not be reached by the bureau.

Mrs. McCrudden was still receiving calls with donations as late as 5 p.m. on Christmas Eve. The files were at the bureau locked away so she had to rely on her memory to distribute these last minute gifts.

Now that everything has been packed away for another year the McCrudden family is back to normal with Mom home at her permanent job taking care of her own family.

Clergy meet to organize two pre-marital courses

Clarkson

Jacqueline Fraser 822-1392

One of the deepest concerns of the church today is to adequately prepare engaged couples for their marriage. In line with this, the clergy of Mississauga have been meeting ecumenically for some time to organize courses for couples who are planning to be married.

Two courses will be offered: the first, from Feb. 6 to March 19 at St. Luke's Anglican Church, 1513 Dixie Road; the second, from April 9 to May 28 at St. Dominic's Parish, 625 Atwater (at Cawthra). Additional courses are already in preparation.

THANK YOU

The Clarkson branch of the Canadian Cancer Society held a successful Christmas tea at the home of Mrs. James Johnston recently to say thank you to all the canvassers, drivers and workers who volunteer their time for the society. There were 120 gaily wrapped gifts brought in by those who attended and these were distributed on Christmas Day to patients at the Princess Margaret Hospital. Mrs. Peggy Dale and Mrs. Pat Nelson were the social convenors.

This past fall members of the various branches of the Canadian Cancer Society in Mississauga have been selling hand-painted hastenotes and gift enclosure cards made by Mrs. Margaret Ross of Clarkson.

The money raised was to buy a color television set for the Princess Margaret Lodge. Mrs. Mary Cline

(who is in charge of driving for C.C.S.) talked to her husband Bill (manager of Retail Marketing Service for the Sun Oil Co. Ltd.) who, through their advertising agency, contacted Philco-Ford about purchasing a set.

Philco-Ford donated a color television to the Princess Margaret Lodge and had it installed Christmas Eve. The money (close to \$600) will now be used to buy black and white sets for the hospital.

RECREATION

Clarkson residents, there is no need to be bored in the new year. The Mississauga Recreation and Parks Department have many interesting classes to pick from, and, mothers, daytime babysitting is available.

GET TOGETHER

Twelve years ago, when Herb and Joyce Kearney moved into their new home on Truscott Drive, in Fairfield Manor, they decided to invite all their neighbors (still strangers to them) to a holiday party. It was such a success that they have been holding a neighborhood get-together ever since.

Among the guests attending their recent party were Elsie and Charles Abel, Mr. and Mrs. Len Russell, June and Mac MacGregor and Mr. and Mrs. Don McHugh.

DECORATIONS

The home of Mr. and Mrs. James Rae, of Fairfield Manor, was beautifully decorated for their seasonal party which was held recently. Stephen and Lynn Rae kept busy answering the door, putting away coats and serving. Among the guests were Mr. and Mrs. Peter

Hare, the Len Bolgers, Pat and Lionel Mohr, Mr. and Mrs. Bob Rogers and Sheila and Bob Gilmore.

SHERRY

Mrs. William Cline, of Randor Drive, held an afternoon sherry party recently for neighbors and friends. This is a much-looked forward to yearly event.

Among the guests present were Mrs. Mel Webster, Mrs. Nancy Wallace, Mrs. Marjorie Firth, Mrs. Margaret Windeler, Mrs. Enid Prior and Mrs. Frances Crouse. Mrs. Paul Brayman (the former Carol Cline) assisted her mother.

OPEN HOUSE

The invitation showed a delightfully plump Santa and read: "Hope you can come to an Open House". This was Erna and Kris Hansen's way of entertaining this holiday season. Their home in Fairfield Manor, Clarkson, had one complete recreation room wall covered with beautiful bright Christmas cards from places such as Denmark, Japan and Pakistan.

The open house included a buffet dinner and finished with a sing-song with host Kris Hansen at the piano.

POT LUCK

The Alpha Epsilon Service Club had their annual Christmas pot luck supper at the home of Mrs. Gordon Oughtred recently. The food was scrumptious and Mrs. Eve McHugh acted as Santa Claus distributing gifts from under the Christmas tree.

Nice to see some former (who still work hard for the club) members — Mrs. Doreen Cavan, Mrs. Gwen Gibson, and Mrs. Mary Arntfield.

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