

Club Chimo When being single means being alone

By MARK SMYKA
Times Staff Writer

Ever since singles bars were put under the stage lights of the Toronto media, being single and on the prowl has been pictured as a hip and happy state. But that's not necessarily the case, says a community development worker with the City of Mississauga.

Beyond the media glow, there are some darkened corners, where single people are just as lonely and in need of a friend as they ever were. The people who dwell in these shadows are those who don't fit into the predatory chic of the swinging singles scene.

They're people suffering from the emotional disarray of a recent marriage break-up or the death of a partner — people who haven't the will or the skill to manoeuvre in singles bars.

For these kinds of people, the City has helped organize Club Chimo, a place where single people over 25 can meet and talk.

"It's to provide a non-threatening social atmosphere, where people can meet other single people without feeling the pressure of the bar scene," says Rick Ioi, who has worked with club organizers since its inception three years ago.

The idea of a singles club came from three Mississauga women who were unattached and looking for some way to meet people other than

through the bar circuit.

Under the guidance of Ioi and the Mississauga recreation and parks department, the club was formed and meets regularly in the basement of a local church.

"They're not formal meetings," explains Ioi. "They're more like drop-ins where people can meet to talk, play cards or board games, or just have some light conversation over coffee."

A lot of the people are just looking for a friend or perhaps a sympathetic ear says Ioi.

He admits candidly that the club has stumbled over the three years, mainly because most of the people who join are looking for a mate or companion and once they meet that person they tend not to come back.

As a result, no solid core has established itself.

The club took a summer recess and started activities in September.

The club is flexible and the actual format of meetings and activities will be decided by the people who join.

Ioi says Chimo can be a tool, to help people meet other singles and extend their interests in other areas. If there is an increasing demand for programs aimed specifically for singles, the city department may design such activities, he says.

Those interested in joining Chimo can call Ioi at 279-7600, extension 405.



DEBBIE SANDERSON/THE TIMES

Members of The Human Race

Russ and Lois Jackson and their family are gearing up to support their favorite charity, The Association for the Mentally Retarded. They plan to cycle in the bike-a-

thon called The Human Race on Sunday, Oct. 15 at 8 a.m. Pledge sheets may be picked up at participating Mac's Milk Stores.

It's a show for the brides

Welcome Wagon will host a fashion show for brides on Wednesday, Oct. 25 at 8 p.m. at the airport Howard Johnson's Hotel.

The fashion show will feature the bride, her

attendants and the rest of the wedding party, as well as street clothes for the honeymoon.

There will be displays and demonstrations as

well as a bag full of gifts for each bride-to-be.

There is no admission charge. For free tickets phone Mary Lou Hislop at 822-0609.

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