

Shriners deliver gifts to children

Twenty Mississauga Shriners paid their annual visit to the children's ward of the Mississauga Hospital before Christmas, accompanied by Santa Claus and a bagful of gifts.

Mississauga has 125 Shriners. The hi-jinks and parades of the Shriners are sometimes more visible than the work they do for children, which is at the root of their commitment to their communities.

There are 939,000 Shriners in North

America, supporting their own 18 orthopedic hospitals and three institutes that specialize in treating burn victims. Through these institutes, a new treatment has been developed in treating burns that has become accepted around the world.

The 2,500 Shrine Clubs in North America support 181 temples — each committed to a specific goal — all related to maintaining their hospitals and helping sick children.

The temples must raise \$43 million every year to support their own hospitals. If individual temples raise surplus monies, this is used to help individual children who need special treatment or smaller projects in local hospitals.

Last Christmas, a special wheelchair was given to Mississauga Hospital when the Shriners paid their annual visit. This year, after the 35 children had received their

flashlights, transistor radios, monopoly and jeopardy games, Sid Strauss, president of Mississauga Shriners, presented a cheque to the hospital to assist in the purchase of shelving, equipment and toys for the pediatric ward.

"At one time, we visited the hospital on Christmas morning," said Robert Hall, a Mississauga Shriner. "However, as many children as possible are sent home for Christmas Day

and then returned to the hospital. By planning our visit a little earlier, we reach many more children."

In order to become a Shriner, it is necessary for a man to have reached the 32nd degree in Masonry, "which, in itself, requires a good deal of hard work. We know that a man who becomes a Shriner has already made it abundantly clear that he has a commitment to our work."

More mothers work, more kids alone

By JO ANN STEVENSON
Times staff writer

Two out of every five workers are women and so more children are spending at least some hours alone in their homes. Under the criminal code it is illegal to leave children under ten years of age unattended. Police constable Derek Green of Peel Regional Police say if police find children unattended they are bound to find adult care from them.

"We try to locate the family, neighbors or friends. If this fails we contact the Children's Aid Society," Green says police avoid taking children to the police station whenever possible.

Although the legal age for leaving a child alone is ten, the Canadian Red Cross Society recommends that the age be stretched to 12.

Babysitting courses offered by the Red Cross and the YMCA-YWCA train children (12 or over) to administer minor first aid, and to deal with day-to-day or emergency situations competently.

"In Britain we used to call these children latch-key children," says Green. Parents should be aware that latch-key children tend to drift around the community and congregate at plazas where they could begin some poor relationships.

Green urges parents to train their children for emergencies. They shouldn't admit to callers on the phone that no-one is home. They could say "My parents are busy. Can they call you back?"

Teach them not to boldly swing open the door to callers. They should be sure it's a friend before they open up.

Liquor, firearms and matches should be kept out of reach. Even well-meaning children can start fires by planning a surprise. They may burn rubbish in their room or set a welcome home blaze in the hearth that backfires. Children shouldn't use appliances while adults are away, especially stoves, broilers, fryers and ovens.

Children should know how to reach their parents if the need arises. Numbers of police, fire department, ambulance and doctors should be posted near the telephone.

"Ideally, parents should arrange for neighbors or friends to check in on the children even when they are of legal age," says Green. "Children are unpredictable. You can't be too careful."



THE TIMES

Kids can

Grade 7 and 8 students of Green Glade Public School proved that kids CAN. They collected a total of 3000 tin cans of Christmas staples for needy families with the goods carried off in Salvation Army vans last week. Capt. Robert Ratcliff of the Salvation Army said there was enough to supply every needy Mississauga family this season with some to spare. This is the first effort of this kind to be held at the school. One student, Tricia Ryan, collected 50 cans and another class collected over 700 cans. Among the participating students are Peter Foller, Joe Birt (left) Lorri Will (centre) Ricky Loch and Harold Black (right) Michele Bork and Sarah Everitt (rear).

SAVE NOW AT MAYFAIR JANUARY CLEARANCE SALE STARTS TODAY

1/2 PRICE OFF ALL STOCK FABRICS

Choose from a huge selection of stock fabrics collected from all around the world. Our direct from the mill buying program ensures top quality fabrics at low low prices.

NOW YOU SAVE 50%.

Choose your fabric and Mayfair will measure and make up your draperies with their top quality expertise.



**FREE
SHOP AT HOME SERVICE
CALL YOUR NEAREST LOCATION**

Mayfair Consultants will bring samples of a wide range of drapery fabrics to your home or office. Choose your draperies at your leisure without obligation. For day or evening appointments telephone now!

FOR DAY OR EVENING APPOINTMENT CALL YOUR NEAREST LOCATION NOW



25 YEARS SERVING METRO

**5 LOCATIONS
TO SERVE YOU**

4699 Keele St.
S. of Steeles
661-2131

5441 Yonge St.
(At Finch)
223-9651

2673 Eglinton Ave. E.
Scarborough
267-8297

1807 Lawrence Ave. E.
at Pharmacy
751-1574

1187 Hurontario
Mississauga
274-2579