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WATCH FOR OUR NEW WAREHOUSE LOCATION Metro Lic. A-1359 / Metro Lic. A-1358		

By KRISTYNA JONES
After opening remarks by Peel Regional Chairman Lou Parsons, Mayor of Mississauga Dr. Martin Dobkin and Peel South MPP Doug Kennedy, highlight of the official opening Friday of Sheridan Villa came when Leonard Parker, the oldest resident of the Home at the age of 98, was presented with the official keys.

Helped to the microphone by two orderlies, the exceptionally alert gentleman began in his most distinguished British accent:



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"Ladies and gentlemen, may we all here go far. I still have not got over my initial astonishment when I first saw this place. And I don't mind telling you that you know these men here who, you're the best and the nicest I have ever met."

"I believe all these people here today have something to do with a key?" he continued with a smile.

"Now I must say — the marble walls in our home, they're not like the wallpaper they make these days, the kind that pulls off easily and that sort of thing. I hope to see a lot more of these places go up and have marble walls."

Later on in the program, upon presentation of a flag on behalf of the Province of Ontario, Mr. Parker in an apologetic tone said: "Please excuse me for not rising this time, due to some malformation in the system or something."

"But I'd like to hear some of the good speakers who are here, so I'll pass on the microphone now to someone else."

Premier of Ontario, William Davis spoke a few words, ending with the line that "the temptation is great for me to join Mr. Parker for a rest after hearing about the facilities available in Sheridan Villa."

The Home for the Aged, situated on Truscott Drive, has facilities for 246 residents, with 170 senior citizens settled in as of now.

Operated under the Regional Municipality of Peel in conjunction with the Ministry of Community and Social Services, the inhabitants come primarily from Peel having either been residing in their own private homes, the homes of their children or other Homes for the Aged.

Offered in the Home is a chapel, with non-denominational services performed every Sunday by Rev. T. H. Good, a well-stocked library, craft rooms, greenhouse, swimming pool, hairdressing and barber shop and cafe and gift shop.

Social and Recreational Supervisor Katherine Hill coordinates all of the activities offered, with each day of the week presenting a different program.

"There's plenty to do for everyone" she says, "If they want to."

The swimming pool has just recently been in operation. Says Miss Hill: "I didn't think anyone would show up the first day but eight seniors came and they had a ball!" laughs the exuberant woman. "It was like seeing water-buffalo in there. They played ring-around-the-rosy and there was water all over the place" she chuckled.

Tuesdays and Fridays are sing-song days and even a small 20-person choir has been formed. Fun and Fitness classes established by the Red Cross involve exercises especially for seniors.

A group of seniors have formed the Dauber's Club with members of the painting class taking part. In the main foyer, there hangs a lovely composition, depicting a covered bridge in the winter, put together as a joint effort of those in the Dauber's Club.

Shirley Erskine, an instructor in the class claims the seniors are progressing

absolutely beautifully, painting abstracts, still life and water colors.

In the crafts room, Miss Grace Bain, who will be 90-years-old this week, just recently crocheted a delightful apple pincushion. While Mrs. Phyllis Ingram busily makes necklaces and placemats, claiming that she quite enjoys the craft sessions.

These home-made articles are all on sale in the villa.

The mall-like setting on the main floor of the Villa houses the barber shop and

hairdressing salon. The ladies receive one appointment a month free, while the gentlemen can relax at a game of pool, as in the old days, while waiting for their haircut.

Orange and black parlour-like chairs and tables sit near the cafe where ice-cream cones and milkshakes are available in the unique setting, all this with a view of the gardens from wall-length windows.

Accommodation is on a shared basis, two to a room with a two-piece washroom ensuite. Bright colours adorn the lodgings with some in lime green and orange, others splashed in mauve and burgundy. Telephones and televisions are the residents' responsibility.

Each floor contains a large in colonial style decorated with interesting novels and surrounded by windows is a fully equipped kitchenette for the preparing and serving of light snacks.

The lower level accommodates a large auditorium with two shuffleboard courts that may be used at any time of the day. In the near future, a Drop-In Centre for Seniors will be constructed by the City of Mississauga for all those in the area.

Every month Miss Hill stages a birthday party with all the residents participating and gifts distributed to those celebrating their special day. She says in despair that there aren't enough hours in the day to accomplish what she wants. Outdoor activities are organized including such games as lawn darts and croquet. Recently a fundraising association donated a set of outdoor recreational furniture for the Senior's pleasure.

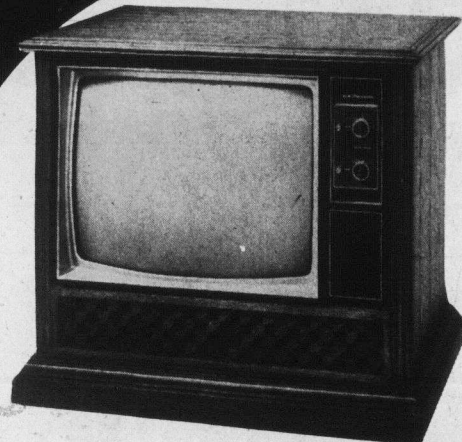
"I no wonder that one of Sheridan Villa's residents says: 'Gone are our horrible institutions of the past and thank goodness, since now we are all approaching extended longevity and will be grateful to learn that we might be destined to an institution-type residence. Our regularly scheduled programs that are available will be a constant source of stimulus and activity to help realize that although we are no longer able to look after ourselves we are nevertheless a part of the community in which we live.'"



Blessed with a few hours of blazing sunshine Friday, spectators listen to Premier William Davis' address at the official opening of Sheridan Villa Home for the Aged on Truscott Drive.

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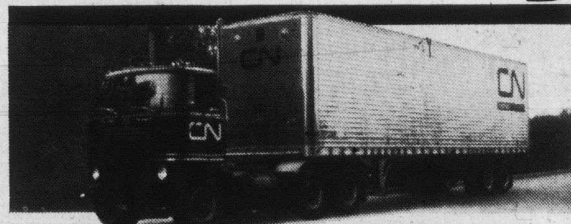
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