

Credit Legion ladies treat veterans



IF ONLY I WAS A FEW YEARS YOUNGER might be the sentiment of 90-year-old John Fox, the oldest veteran in attendance at the annual Christmas party as he hugs Mrs. Helen Robb, convenor.

Ninety-three veterans of the World Wars I and II converged on the Port Credit Legion Wednesday for their annual Christmas party sponsored by the auxiliary.

Two giant buses pulled up to the door of The Legion and paraplegics were trundled off the vehicles in wheel chairs. Some wore their medals and clutched at berets as legionnaires greeted them.

"Wee" Mary Fletcher was first in line to hug "her boys" and help them select a place at the circular tables decorated with Christmas candles.

The veterans, inmates of Sunnybrook Hospital in Toronto, have been coming to Port Credit since the end of WWII.

It is one of the many excursions which they take around Ontario throughout the year.

ENTERTAINMENT

The party got off to a festive start when Stan Macbeth, a blind musical entertainer of the Canadian National Institute of the Blind, delivered a merry tune on his accordion.

Others were delighted by the presence of attractive auxiliary members dressed in hostess gowns for the gala event.

John Fox, a 90-year-old native of Lancashire, Eng., who had a merry twinkle in his blue eyes, even let Mrs. Helen Robb, convenor, sit on his knee for several minutes.

Robert Hay received a big kiss from Mary Fletcher who was making the rounds saying, "God bless them - I love em all."

Veteran James Flaxman, 72, an ex-Royal Marine, father of eight children, talked of modern fashions and said Sunnybrook was a good place to live.



Veteran Herbert Gilveary is trundled off the bus by a volunteer legionnaire. The veterans, all of Sunnybrook Hospital have taken over 30 excursions throughout the year. Staff photo.

"We can stay out until midnight and there's always some entertainment around - shuffleboard," he explained.

An 88-year-old South African veteran seemed to be wearing the most military medals at the dinner.

Sgt. Alfred Lawrence, who had a tattoo on his left hand from the old days, said the high spot of his soldier life came during his two years in South Africa.

St. Lawrence sneaked into the army at the early age of 14 and remained until retirement.

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Write or telephone: The Executive Director
ACHIEVEMENT SCHOOL FOR CHILDREN
3487 Pinesmoke Crescent,
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Musical entertainment was provided by blind Stan Macbeth of the Canadian National Institute for the Blind during the dinner. He is a professional entertainer.

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