The Mississauga Times, Wednesday, January 3, 1979 - 17

## The Scots first-footed

By JO ANN STEVENSON Times staff writer

Judging from the number of steak pies sold at McDougall's Bakery, the Scottish in Mississauga had a traditional Hogmanay. Shortbreads, black bun and potato scones were other popular Hogmanay items.

Helen and Nicol Nelson are a husband and wife team who came to Canada five years ago. Helen is from Glasgow and Nicol comes from Fifeshire. He was employed at the Scottish bakery (located at Cawthorpe Plaza, Cawthra and Burnhamthorpe) and decided to take it over about a year ago.

Last week the couple finished preparing the hundreds of meat pies ordered by Mississauga's Scots and then flew to Scotland to ring in the new year with family. But there were other Scots who saw the New Year in right here in Mississauga.

Jimmy and Wilma Chalmers of Bromsgrove Road are traditional Scots who came to Mississauga from Glasgow five years ago.

"It doesn't matter where we live, the Scottish like to ring in the new year in the old style. We see the year in before serving a meal of steak pie, potatoes and shortbread. Drinks are served after the meal to toast the new year," said Chalmers. "Mind you, since the oldcountry midnight is only 7 p.m. here, a few Scots started to celebrate a wee bit early," he said.

Chalmers said the old Scottish custom of first-footing still goes on in Mississauga. It is good luck to have a dark male be the first to cross the !threshold after midnight.



Helen and Nicol Nelson bake Scottish meat pies for Hogmanay.

## Distress Line calls increase over holidays

For most of us Christmas and New Year's is a time of joy and togetherness with the ones we love but to many it is the worst time of the year.

"For those who have no families and no place to go," says Tom Raterman, director of Distress Line, "it is a very lonely time."

Raterman says distress calls during the holiday season increase dramatically and the calls come from various segments of the community.

"One pattern we've noticed during the season," he says; "is the increase in calls from handicapped persons and seniors."

Raterman says the centre also gets many calls from single persons who are alone through divorce, death of a spouse or a recent marriage or relationship breakdown. "Those people are all too aware of loneliness," he

says, "because it may be the first Christmas they've spent without their partner."

Out-patients, who were formerly in institutions, are also high on the list of distress line callers. Raterman says these persons, who are ill-adjusted to society, find the holidays a very difficult time.

There is a desperate need for volunteers. "We need people so we can operate on a 24-hour basis," he says. "It isn't always possible because of lack of volunteers." Anyone interested in helping should call 278-7208.

## Get-fit class starts Jan. 16

Erindale College, the Mississauga campus of the University of Toronto, is offering ladies' fitness classes for the community on Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 10 to 11 a.m., beginning January 16th.

The class will consist of a half hour of fitness and a half hour of recreation, including squash and cross-country skiing.

Same information call



bysitting is available. For further information call the	COFFEE HOUR OPTIONAL FOLLOWING SERVICE EVERY FIRST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH		998 Indian Rd. 278-9245 Rev. James M. Perry, B.A., M.Div. Sunday Service - 11 00 a m Nursery Provided Ramp for Wheelchairs Bethesda United Church 3311 Fieldgate Dr Phone 625-7923 Rev. J. A. Gazzard, B.A. B.D Sunday, Jan. 7th, 1979 9:30 a.m.—Sunday School		January 14th—Baptism
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