

New film tries to motivate volunteers

By JO ANN STEVENSON
Times staff writer

What can one person do when suicides, rapes and child and wife battering in Peel are increasing faster than the population?

What can one person do when social service requests in Peel have doubled in one year, the same year as serious budget cut-backs?

What can one person do when the population of Peel has increased 44 per cent in the past three years, putting pressure on all our social resources?

Volunteer. That's what. The Volunteer Centre of Peel, with the help of Wintario, produced an audio-visual film promoting volunteerism. The film was premiered last week at the Blue Flame Room and is available now for use by agencies, schools, or businesses which may use volunteers or can stimulate volunteers.

The film, called Do it, Volunteer, follows a range of volunteer activities in Peel, including work with the physically handicapped, the mentally handicapped, the elderly,

the hospitalized, fund raising for United Way or other agencies, carpentry work on special projects, drivers for meals on wheels or the Canadian Cancer Society and counselling.

The film appeals to the individual to contribute his unique traits to help someone else. And the film promises a learning experience and the gift of involvement.

Norma Hamilton spearheaded the volunteer group which produced the film. She's also a Red Cross volunteer in charge of the homemaker's committee. "We had fun and learned a lot," she says, "although we decided to play down the title of the film when some retired people found it too harsh — especially after a lifetime of being told to 'do it yourself.'"

Gene Walsler, active with Peel Association for Handicapped Adults, says he needs the skills of volunteer carpenters, electricians and welders to help adapt homes for the elderly or handicapped. He says volunteers



"ordered" through courts via the Elizabeth Fry Society provide labor and paper work on many projects.

The volunteers in last week's audience responded to the film's message.

Frances Butterfield, a hospital volunteer who is shown in the film, talked about making up menus and talking the sick into finding an appetite. "I try to make their trays attractive and put in what they like," she says. Linda Norris, a volunteer and a former patient, says she was on a 200-calorie diet when she first met Frances, and she made her smile again.

Bob Holmes, a retired businessman, says he will volunteer to promote the film in industry.

Joyce Lavalle, from Thornewood Public

School in Mississauga Valleys, thought the film would adapt for showing to children or adults, motivating them to feel worthwhile and to act on their willingness to help.

Brian Walker, Peel Social Services, said the film has great impact and makes one wonder how best to get involved.

Wanted the film states... people who can swim, drive, act, sing, write letters, think, listen, organize, walk, talk.

For more information about the Volunteer Centre of Peel at 93 Dundas St. E. call 275-4299.

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Service
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11:00 a.m. Sung Eucharist or Morning Prayer
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12 Years & over — 11:45 a.m.

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625-7923
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9:30 a.m. Sunday School
Sunday Worship Service
11:00 a.m.

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7:00 p.m. Evening Praise Service
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Friday 7:30 p.m. Youth Fellowship
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PASTORIAL ASSISTANT — ALTON DUDLEY

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Morning Worship — 11:00 a.m.
& children's Church
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828-9669

Lorne Park
1500 Indian Road
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Toddlers to Adults
11:00 a.m. Morning Worship
Rev CW LOHNES
278-7833

LAKESHORE

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278-0201 (Mense 276-6922)
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