

Four graduates of Brucehaven School for Retarded Children were honoured at the Hartley House, Monday evening, for their accomplishment in successfully completing the prescribed course of study, and also for being the first pupils to graduate from the school. Three of the graduates are shown as they are

presented with certificates by Mr. S.W. MacInnes, Inspector of Schools. The recipients are, from left, Patricia Tait of Walkerton, the valedictorian; Doris Weber of Formosa and Maureen Cassidy of Cargill.

—Staff Photo

Outstanding Year

The year 1966 was one of outstanding events for the Association. At the January Annual Meeting, the name of the Organization was changed to the Walkerton and District Association for the Mentally Retarded. February marked the opening of the Adult Opportunity Centre which was recognized as the beginning of the Association's Adult Services Program. The first people to work at the Centre were Maureen Cassidy, Patricia Tait and Doris Weber.

The Home Care Committee was implementing plans for a "Mothers Morning Out" program which would provide volunteers to look after small groups of pre-school retarded children in a central spot. This program was intended to give the mothers a break. The site first used for this was the basement at 9 Johnstone Boulevard under the supervision of volunteer Bea Abbott. Bernie Halpin was the first youngster to attend.

The program had two purposes: to give slow developing children the opportunity to learn social and educational skills as early as possible so that they might help themselves to develop their potential; and to take the child out of the home for two hours one morning a week to give mothers necessary relief. Volunteers were encouraged to bring their preschoolers along to make the circle larger. The door to integrated education, in retrospect, was being unlocked with this opportunity.

The Walkerton Association also assumed responsibility for directing activities of Region #5 when Clarence Thompson was elected regional chairman. Mr. Thompson was President of the Walkerton Association in 1964. Marion Tait also moved to a regional position when she was elected director to the Board of the Ontario Association for the Mentally Retarded, and James Leslie was elected Regional Secretary.

A corner-stone laying ceremony was held at the new school in May of 1966, marking the near completion of the Association's most ambitious project to date.

Following the establishment of Walkerton's Retarded Children's Education Authority in 1965, the financial responsibility for operating the school was largely removed from the Association. The 1966 budget of the Walkerton Association was set up primarily to provide funds for administrative duties, the operation of the Adult Opportunity Centre, and for Committee activities in the areas of homecare, research, recreation and institutional care.

Up to this point the Association had received no grant money from the provincial government to aid in the support of the Adult Opportunity Centre. The Finance Committee recommended that the Association must have continued public support if it was to maintain and develop the present program.

In September of 1966, the Mothers Morning Out program moved to the larger facility in the basement of the Public Library, recently vacated by the school-aged children. By the end of the year, there were three families using the Mothers Morning Out porgram and one child had moved on to attend Brucehaven School where 20 children were now enrolled.

The tenth anniversary of the Organization was marked by the official opening of the new Bruce Haven School on Jackson Street on October 19, 1966. Official ceremonies and birthday cake added to the celebrations. The new school was fully paid for.

Trainees at the Adult Opportunity Centre worked on contracts from Canada Spool and Bobbin, packaging golf tees and checking plastic caps for rubber stamp handles, wrapping dressing and tongue depressors for the County of Bruce General Hospital, and in the latter part of the year, assembling hinges for Larsen and Shaw. When work for these organizations slowed down, trainees kept up their day school studies and did craft work.

Learning processes are never-ending, and the Adult Service Program had come to the point when it was realized that much of the work at the workshop was seasonal. The committee recommended the adult program be improvised or supplemented with other ideas. One idea presented at the annual meeting was to make Christmas wreaths and flower arrangements which could be sold to the public.

The workshop was now eligible for assistance through implementation of the Vocational Rehabilitation Services Act and received a small grant on a per trainee basis. Public support was still needed to continue and expand this work.

Brucehaven School

of the WALKERTON and DISTRICT ASSOCIATION for the MENTALLY RETARDED

Official Opening

Wednesday, Oct. 19th, 1966

8:00 P.M.

THE ASSOCIATION

Mr. W. F. Schussecher, Preeldent

Mr. Clureste Thompson, Post President Mr. Jesses Lealls, Vice-President Mr. W. S. Movienes, Corresponding Secretary

Miss Leis Nelson, Recording Secretary Mr. I. Hescourt, Treesures

THE STAFF!

Mrs. Madas Leaks. Principal Mrs. bis Nelson, Teacher Mrs. Verna Sowers, Teacher

Mrs. Mary Polis, Noon-hour Supervices

THE AUTHORITY.

Mr. Jack Tell, Chestrown Mrs. E. W. Stump Mr. D. W. Cerroll Mize Phyllis Compbell Mr. W. F. Schumschor

Miss Margaret Smith, Secretary Treasurer

PUBLIC SCHOOL INSPECTOR: Mr. W. S. Maclanes, B.A., M.Ed.

My. George Davidson

PROGRAMME

"O CANADA"

I. INVOCATION: Rev. Eric Nelson 2. WELCOME:

The President Mr. W. F. Schumncher 3. RIBBON CUTTING: Mr. W. E. Creme The Mayor — Mr. Joseph Moran

The Architect, Horton and Ball — Mr. Horton
Wilhard I Mallon — Mr. Horton
Mallon The Architect, Horton and Ball — Mr. Horton — Mr. Mullen — Mr. Mullen 4. GUEST SPEAKER: Mr. F. J. REYNOLDS, B.A., M.Ed. EST SPEAKER: Mr. r. J. Mr. 1904 D. D. Administrator, Schools for Related Children Ontaria Demonstrator of Education Administrator, Ocnools for heartness Caluan Division, Ontario Department of Education Introduced by: Mr. W. S. MacInnes Introduced by:

Response by: Mr. W. S. Macinnes

Connerintendent of Schools Waterlan Ontario

Introduced by: Mr. W. S. Macinnes

Connerintendent of Schools Waterlan Ontario

Introduced by: Mr. W. S. Macinnes

Connerintendent of Schools Waterlan Ontario

Response by: Mr. Walter Hougham, B.A., M. Walterloo, Ontario 5. GREETINGS: From Onlario Association for the Mental.

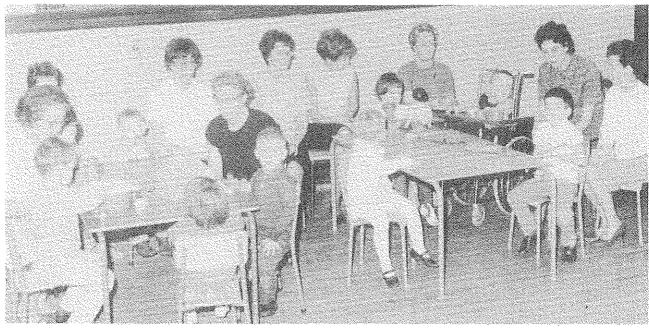
6. INTRODUCTION OF THE AUTHORITY CHAIRMAN: 7. INTRODUCTION OF STAFF; - Mr. Jack Talt

8. INTRODUCTION OF SPECIAL GUESTS 9. GREETINGS FROM VISITORS

"God Save the Queen"

Incorporation

The Walkerton and District Association for the Mentally Retarded was incorporated in 1968. Since its inception in 1956, the Association had operated under charter of the Ontario Association for the Mentally Retarded. Under president F. W. Schumacher in 1968, the Association with its expanded activities and ownership of property, was required to become incorporated.



Walkerton Kinettes purchased two kindergarten tables and twelve chairs at a cost of \$92.00 for the local Retarded Children's Preschool Nursery. In

addition to the donation of money, several Kinettes spend their Thursday mornings as volunteer helpers at the School.

The Mothers Morning Out program tripled in numbers to include 11 families and 14 children, nine of whom were mentally retarded. The Home Care Committee also began working on plans to offer a complete babysitting course to teenagers in the coming year. The first course was conducted at Brucehaven School.

Forty-three girls and one boy graduated from the seven-week babysitting course that had taken two years to develop. Mrs. Eleanor (Schumacher) Turchyn co-ordinated the course sponsored by the Association. The course was designed to make young people realize their responsibilities as a sitter in all aspects. The course was to also equip them with a better understanding of both the normal and handicapped child.

This program was the first of its kind in Ontario and the cost to participate was only one dollar. It is interesting to note that the course curriculum, with special reference to the section on babysitting the handicapped child, was incorporated into the course outline already being used by the Tuberculosis and Respiratory Diseases Organization at the invitation of the latter. This curriculum remains in use currently.

In April, another first was established for the Walkerton and District Association when Region #5 held a Home Care "Teach-In" at Brucehaven School. This "Teach-In" was designed to acquaint other districts with the "circle of responsibility" of Home Care Committees and to lend assistance to other Associations who wished to begin such programs as Mothers Morning Out and the babysitting course.

Meanwhile, programs under the Home Care Committee were expanding to include a "Big Sister" or "Big Brother" program. This was started locally on a trial basis and was successful. The committee's babysitting course was now being sponsored and co-ordinated by the Walkerton Kinette Club.

Four Walkerton representatives attended a Youth Organization Conference in Hamilton where Youth Across Canada for the Mentally Retarded was formed in September 1968. Local youths helped the Association with organizing social events throughout the fall and winter with Hallowe'en Trick or Treat, a Christmas party and tobagganing party. In February 1969, Supporting Mental Aid with Student Help (SMASH) was formed. The group arranged a St. Patrick's Day party for local mentally handicapped individuals and assisted with a bus trip to Toronto.



Certificates were presented at Brucehaven School to 43 girls and 1 boy who had successfully completed the Babysitting Course which was sponsored by the Walkerton and District Association for the Mentally Retarded.



Seen boarding the bus for a Christmas party at the Listowel High School are some children from the Walkerton School for Retarded, with a few of their SMASH volunteers, Elaine Ellis, Dianne Waechter and Cathy Schnurr.

Board of Education Takes Over Brucehaven

On January 1, 1969, the ownership and operation of Brucehaven School was handed over to the Bruce County Board of Education by virtue of the Secondary Schools and Boards of Education Act enacted in 1968. The school which had been operated by the Walkerton Retarded Children's Education Authority was taken over by the new County Board of Education as a facility in which to educate retarded children. The ownership transfer took place without compensation.

A "Needs and Resources" survey, conducted by the Association in early 1970, gave a clearer picture as to the overall care and needs of mentally retarded people in the area. It was discovered there was a need for workshops, residences and more recreation for handicapped adults. The Association also received a request from the South Bruce Workshop Advisory Council that Walkerton's Adult Opportunity Centre be designated as an area workshop and sell its services to the Chesley, Saugeen and Kincardine Associations. Three new trainees from Saugeen, Chesley and Durham joined Walkerton's program to bring the total number of participants at the Adult Opportunity Centre to nine.

These trainees had also been actively involved in helping with the Association's Flowers of Hope Campaign which continued to be successful for the Association. Funds raised through the campaign, which saw trainees attach packets of flower seeds to more than 3,000 letters, was the main source the Association had to obtain funds needed to operate various programs.

The Flowers of Hope Campaign saw 4,500 packets of seeds attached to letters mailed in 1971.

The Association also helped the county town of Walkerton celebrate its 100th birthday in 1971 by entering a float in the parade. The Association's float won first place in the institutional class.

As part of its ongoing commitment to improving services and helping other Associations learn more, the Walkerton Association's Home Care Committee held a seminar for Region #5. The aim of the seminar was to help familiarize those interested in mentally retarded people with the purpose of a Home Care Committee.

The title Home Care was changed to Family Services effective in 1971.

The Advisory Committee on Schools for the Trainable Retarded was set up in 1971 by the Ministry of Education. Three members from the Bruce County Board of Education and three from the memberships of five local Associations made up this committee. Jim Leslie was Walkerton's representative on the committee.

The committee was created to act as a liaison between the Board of Education and the local Associations. Its role was to advise on matters of policy and make recommendations. However, the committee did not have the authority to vote on issues.

Expansion Means Hiring More Staff and Looking Ahead

With the continuing success of the Adult Opportunity Centre and its growing enrolment, the Walkerton Association hired additional staff to help with the program.

Enrolment at the Centre, which could handle a maximum of 20 trainees, was now up to 17. Trainees attending the program came from Port Elgin, Southampton, Tiverton, Kincardine, Paisley, Durham, Chesley, Hanover, Formosa, Walkerton and surrounding townships.

The program's skill-learning and development areas continued to be emphasised. An Adaptive Functioning Test was now being used to measure behaviours usually considered necessary for independent functioning in the community. Work through the program was a balance of contract work and crafts, and it was the craft section which continued to grow. The experience of trainees had also broadened to include wood crafts.

The Association, realizing Orange Hall was no longer adequate for the workshop, began looking for a new workshop location. The Orange Hall had limited work space and storage of materials was a problem.

The Association's Planning Committee, in its annual report, said the number one priority was in the development of new workshop facilities as the present facility was being rapidly outgrown.

In 1973 there was a major change in the financial footing of the Association. In January of that year, the Ontario Ministry of Community and Social Services announced a revision and increase of grants to workshops which could justify a program meeting certain standards. As a result, this Association qualified for a full increase from \$25 to \$40 per trainee per month.

The Ministry of Community and Social Services also suggested several changes which could be made in the program. These included the initiation and continuation of a life skills training program; increasing the number of and salaries of staff; increasing the number and wages of trainees; lengthening the work year an extra six weeks in June and July; and an increase of 24 per cent over the 1972 workshop revenue.

Pre-school students attending the Walkerton Day Care Centre were attending the centre three half-days weekly at this time. However, lack of space at the centre in 1973 forced the program to move into an empty classroom at Sacred Heart Junior School.

Bruce-Grey Developmental Clinic

The initial meeting for the Bruce-Grey Developmental Clinic was held in April 1974, followed by the appointment of a planning committee with representatives from various agencies and services in Bruce and Grey counties.

The clinic, held at the County of Bruce General Hospital in Walkerton, was for children and adults with suspected mental handicaps and was serviced by a multi-disciplinary team of doctors provided by CPRI in London. The main goal of the clinic, co-ordinated by Mrs. Phyllis Kenny, Supervisor, Public Health Nurses, was to provide a broader scope of services to meet identified needs of families with a mentally handicapped person.

The main team members at the clinic were a pediatrician, psychologist and social worker, but, depending on the person attending the clinic, additional people such as education liaison personnel, speech therapists, audiologists and psychiatrists would assist in assessmenmt or counselling.

The first clinic was held on July 4, 1974 and by December, 20 people, ranging in age from 20 months to adults in their 30's, had been assessed.

Marion Tait assisted as volunteer receptionist at the clinic with other volunteers being recruited as needed. The receptionist would greet clients and their families and escort the children and parents to their place of appointment, eg. x-ray and laboratory. The hospital provided the services of medical records, laboratory and x-ray departments free of charge to the clients of the clinic.

There were equal referrals made to the clinic from Bruce and Grey counties by parents, teachers, family physicians, public health nurses, directors of ARC and others interested in the present and future of the mentally handicapped.

By 1977 there was a decline in the number of referrals to the clinic which eventually closed in April of 1978.

In March of 1974, the Planning and Fundraising Committees were looking into the possibility of a new workshop for the Association. Seven months later, in October 1974, the final arrangements were made for the purchase of the Farmers' Central Insurance Building to



Mayor Arthur Brown officially gives the Walkerton and District Association for the Mentally Retarded a cheque for \$5,710.00 as the Town of Walkerton's share toward the purchasing of the new Adult Rehabilitation Centre, the former Farmer's Mutual Insur-

ance building. Shown with Mr. Brown are, from left, Mrs. Marg Wenzel, President; Mr. Art Racey, Mrs. Nan Mosser and Mrs. Mineke Spencer, members of the fund-raising committee.

accomodate moving the Adult Rehabilitation Centre (ARC Industries). The building, consisting of office space, three apartments, and a four-car garage, was located on two and a half lots on Durham Street. The Fundraising Committee's objective was to have the new Centre paid for in three years.

"When we started ARC, many adults previously unknown to the Organization, who had until now remained at home, were looking for a suitable program to attend." Marg Wenzel, President, stated in her report.

An announcement, made by the Ministry of Community and Social Services in 1975, said workshops would receive capital grants and operating subsidies up to 80 per cent of approved costs. Furthermore, the province would provide 100 per cent subsidies for the care and training of school-aged, handicapped children. Also, 80 per cent of capital grants would be provided for the acquisition or construction of new community residences as approved by the Ministry of Community and Social Services.

For the Walkerton Association, the announcement meant less worry about funding for operating expenses. It also permitted the Association to have more leeway to expand the centre's woodworking operation, to initiate a program in homemaking skills, to provide for more extensive recreational and social activities, and to make provisions for counselling, testing facilities and office space.

-17 -

Your Hospital Is,



Adult Rehabilitation Centre

99 DURHAM STREET EAST ONTARIO WALKERTON



executed by Walkerton-District Association for the Maniatty Retarded

Phone 881-0233

20th May, 1975.

Mr. E. Ef Timoffee, Administrator, Bruce County General Hospital, Walkerton, Onterio.

Dear Mr. Timoffee:

Our trainess from A.R.C. Industries have completed their tours of Bruge County General Hospital, conducted by Mrs. J. O'Connor. At the end of each tour, Mrs. Inglis and her staff supplied them with a special treat which our trainses enjoyed.

Please convey our thanks, for the time and consideration given to our group, by your staff during these tours.

Sincerely,

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County of Bruce General Hospital

Walkerton

The Family Services Committee also expanded in 1974. The committee established a recreation program and a physical education class for handicapped adults which started in September that year. Another committee was formed to arrange for local churches in the community to sponsor social evenings. The Kinsmen Club offered to help the Association with transporting the adults on these social outings. The committee also surveyed local clubs the school children wanted to belong to, and as a result handicapped children now joined Pioneers, Guides, Scouts and Cubs.

Expansion of Family Services was made possible through a LIP (Local Initiative Program) grant which became available in January 1974. This grant enabled the committee to extend its home support services.

ARC Industries had a busy year in 1974. Renovations were completed on the new centre and by September the building was in full-use. New and continuing programs were working out well, and the added space and additional worktables made craft and contract work easier to organize. A new woodshop, machinery and tools helped provide for a first class working situation. There was also a new kitchen, laundry facilities and grooming area at the new location.

The social-recreation program also proved itself popular with clients who made good use of the lounge, games room and physical education equipment.

The total cost of the renovated building to the Association was \$123,427.

A.R.C. Industries

Purchased and remodelled 1974-75

By the Walkerton and District

Association for the Mentally Retarded

with generous support

from many individuals, service clubs,

other groups of interested persons,
the Municipalities presently being served

and the

Ministry of Community and Social Services

Province of Ontario

President: W.& D.A.M.R.: Mrs. T.S. Wenzel Chairman, Planning Committee: W.C. Spencer

This plaque acknowledging the support received when the present A.R.C. Industries building was purchased and renovated is displayed at the building.



Official Opening

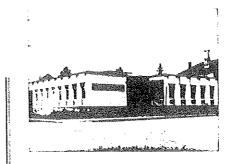
Of The

Adult Rehabilitation Centre

Operated By

THE WALKERTON AND DISTRICT ASSOCIATION FOR

THE MENTALLY RETARDED



Wednesday, November 19, 1975

8:00 P.M.

PRESIDENT — (Mrs.) Margaret Wensel
PAST PRESIDENT — Karl Heitigers
PAST PRESIDENTS — (Mrs.) Elisabeth Cartoll
VICE PRESIDENTS — Larty Easto
RECORDING SECRETARY — (Mrs.) Gillian Mayne
CORRESPONDING SECRETARY
TREASURER — Ran Lobsinger

DIRECTORS - (MIS) Verna Rolstin
(MIS) May Watts
(MIS) Add Mason
(MIS) Adn Jegelewski
J. Pattinson
J. Pattinson
J. Gibbs

ADULT SERVICES COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN Jack Tait
SEC. TREAS — Ron Lobisinger
(Mrs.) Mike Taylor
(Mrs.) Carol Facker
(Mrs.) Sandy Ambert (Kincardine)
(Mrs.) Sandy Ambert (Kincardine)
(Mrs.) Pat Lambert (Kincardine)
(Mrs.) Winterburn
Howard Winterburn
Karl Heiligers

BPAZZIZE COMMILLEE

CHAIRMAN — Bill Spencer
CHAIRMAN — Bill Spencer
SECRETARY — (Mrs.) Maylis Kenny
(Mrs.) Phyllis Kenny
(Mrs.) Ris Halpin
(Mrs.) Ris Halpin
(Mrs.) Leila Neisan
Jack Tait
Clarence Thompson
The Executive

FUND RAISING COMMUTTEE

CHAIRMAN — (Mcs.) Mineke Spencer
(Mrs.) Man Mosset
(Mrs.) Nan Mosset
(Mrs.) Nan Mosset
(Mrs.) Nan Mosset
(Mrs.) Nan Mosset
(Art Clearence Thompson
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PROGRAMME

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2. WELCOME ~ (Mrs.) Margaret Wenzel

3. GREETINGS — (Mrs.) Margaret Rintoul, Director & Chairman of Georgian Bay Council on Mental — Peler Nobes De Buegh, Chairman of Adult $s_{\rm ervices,~O.A.M.R.}$

GUEST SPEAKER — Alan Gordon, Assistant Deputy Minister, Developmental Resources, Ministry of Community and Social Services Introduction — Bill Spencer $R_{esponse} \sim lack T_{ait}$

 $\tilde{\sigma}$ -INTRODUCTION OF STAFF \sim Jack Tail

6. RIBBON CUTTING - By First Trainces of the Centre. Maureen Cassidy Palricia Tail, Docis Weber 7. TOPR OF FACILITIES

District Working Group

In the last two years the Ontario Association for the Mentally Retarded had revamped its regions' boundaries to coincide with the Ministry of Community and Social Services' districts within Ontario. The Ministry of Community and Social Services engaged the services of a "Mental Retardation Co-ordinator" for each district and formed District Working Groups to work with the co-ordinator to identify gaps in the present delivery system and to eliminate these gaps.

The Walkerton Association fell into the Georgian Bay District. This district was so large that three Sub-District Working Groups were created. Mrs. Marion Tait was the Walkerton and District Association for the Mentally Retarded representative on this group.

After she attended a conference in Toronto, Mrs. Tait said in her 1975 report that "it was apparent to me what a tremendous benefit to the handicapped people could emerge from the partnership of the public and voluntary sectors in any community."

Over the year, representation on the Working Group expanded to include members from the Children's Aid Societies, the health units, boards of education and municipal social services. The Working Group approved proposals offering services to fill obvious and immediate needs, ensuring no overlap of services and that gaps uncovered were being filled. The Bruce-Grey Developmental Clinic acted as a task force under the Working Group.

One of the projects established by the Working Group was a pilot project in transportation and it was the only one of its kind in the province. After the Working Group approved a proposal, it was sent to the Ministry of Community and Social Services for approval.

In 1982 the group was renamed the Bruce-Grey Mental Retardation Services Advisory Committee, but by 1983 the Ministry of Community and Social Services had reduced the number of members on the committee. In less than a year, the committee saw even more major changes. The Ministry of Community and Social Services had reduced the role of the Bruce-Grey committee to planning within its own area because a central Mental Retardation Services Advisory Committee had been set up for the region.

In 1976 two financially pleasant events took place for the Association. First, the Association received a \$110,000 legacy from the estate of the late Mrs. John Korman, and another legacy of approximately \$50,000 from Cornelius Obermeyer. The Associaton was now in a position to pay off the mortgage on the ARC Industries property purchased in October 1974.

The Adult Services Program also received a big boost that year from a large contract with Canada Spool and Bobbin. The contract provided clients with opportunities to practise different skills including screen-printing and assembly using power tools and packaging. A new sign making machine was added to the machinery shop at the Centre, while crafts and woodshop products continued to provide necessary job skills for many clients.

The first of a series of accommodation facilities and programs also got underway for the Association in 1976. The Association purchased its first apartment complex, numbers 19 through 27, on Durham Street East. The apartment at 19 Durham Street East was chosen to accommodate eight permanent and two short-term residents. The effort to provide residential services was spearheaded by Mr. Bill Spencer, Chairperson of the Planning Committee. This committee was highly involved in the renovation project for what would become an Adult Training Home.

This accommodation was classed as an Adult Training Home, designed to provide a program for independent living which could last from six months to two years. From there the individual might move to a group home or serviced co-op apartment.

In November 1976, Mr. William Desmond was hired as the Accommodations Manager for the Association.

In 1977 the Walkerton Association once again experienced several "firsts". The mortgage held on property owned by the Association was burned, and in June the Association established a residential service with the opening of Schumacher House.

The main objective of the Schumacher program was "to help the trainable handicapped to become assimilated in community living and work, and to help the residents become confident, capable citizens, contributing to society, while enjoying the freedom and benefits it can give."

In June 1977, Schumacher House began to provide a safe, secure and comfortable place to live for its residents.

The 113-year-old Schumacher House would have a full-time staff of five, part-time staff of four, and seven full-time residents. Life skills programs, with the objective to eventually see independent or semi-independent living for the handicapped, were geared individually to each resident.

All adults in the house would pay a portion of their disability pension cheques to the Association, while the balance of the cost would be covered by the government.

Two important happenings also took place for the Adult Services Program. In December, the Association received funding for an enrichment program which would permit it to operate a community work and training program in 1978. This would find clients out-of-shop opportunities like snow removal, window cleaning and lawn maintenance.

The second matter of importance was the hiring of Mr. John Murray as the Association's first Executive Director in November 1977. The position was created to fill an urgent need for a full-time person, acting under the executive committee, to plan, control, direct and co-ordinate various programs sponsored by the volunteer Organization.

The Executive Director's duties that year included co-ordinating and implementing a revised payroll and personnel policy; assuming more of the responsibility for the day to day operations of the Association; and being a resource person for program managers in maintaining a team approach in all areas with the most important team member being the resident or client.

President Ken Brown, in his report, brought several interesting facts to the Annual Meeting in 1978. The first was to say that in 1967, only 10 years after the Association began, the Association's total expenditures were \$6,000. This figure was reaching the half million dollar mark by 1978.

The second interesting fact was that the Association had grown from having only one staff member in 1965 to now boasting 23 members serving in excess of 50 clients.

He remarked that the Association was constantly growing and providing more services. He explained that this was due to the continual and dedicated effort of volunteers and employees.



The Walkerton and District Association for the Mentally Retarded recently elected its new executive for 1978.

Shown, back row, from left, are John Murray, Executive Director; Ron Lobsinger, Treasurer; Ken

Brown, President, and Carl Remus, First Vice President.

Front row, from left are, Mrs. Mac Campbell, Recording Secretary; Mrs. John Tait, Past President, and Mrs. William Baillie, Second Vice President.

This growth reflected the Ontario Association for the Mentally Retarded's goal "that retarded people live in a state of dignity, share in all elements of living in the community and have the opportunity to participate effectively".

During the last year the local Association's Community Work Program competed for and procured new work contracts in town, leased a van, built a small storage garage, and bought a planer, riding lawn mower, snowblower and trailer.

The Adult Service Committee, in the annual report, said it hoped the Community Work Program would allow clients to demonstrate their skills to the public. The committee also hoped the program would lead to more independent work situations. In 1978, there were 46 clients involved in this program.

This was the first time in the Association's history it no longer used school buses to transport clients. Four carrier vans, covering 100,000 miles a year, were now transporting the clients.

Meanwhile, after completing their main portion of training, four Schumacher residents moved into the residential community of Walkerton. This was done by the Association establishing

an Auxiliary Residence at 137 Jackson Street. These individuals would stay at this new residence, which placed less emphasis on training, for an indefinite period of time.

Until now, a new service added to the Association had only been wishful thinking. Family Support Services, which started March 30, 1979, offered new programs in hopes of reducing the need for institutions.

Family Support Services occupied office space on the second floor of the County of Bruce General Hospital, Walkerton, and received total funding from the Ontario Ministry of Community and Social Services. The staff employed were Bea Abbott, Family Case Management, and Nancy Malloy, Behaviour Training.

The Family Case Management program was designed to help parents and families of the retarded person meet challenges right in the home. This would help make certain the developmentally handicapped person received appropriate training and care to ensure maximum development. This program would also bring more resources to area families to ensure the family remained a unit and the retarded person's true potential could be realized. A social worker was now available to work with families having children ranging in the age from birth to 18 years of age. After an assessment by the social worker, an individual program would be set up to include short and long-term goals.

The second new program, Behaviour Training, was also offered in the home. A Behaviour Therapist would train parents as teachers to assist their child to overcome behaviour difficulties and problems. A trained therapist would be available to help the family in this new program.

With 1978 and 1979 being key years for the Association, after initiating several new programs and employing a part-time secretary, Mrs. Lynn Bell, the coming year would be one to monitor, evaluate and reorganize these and other programs.

Since the inception of Family Support Services, several significant support programs had evolved. Those included the revitalization of the Home Visitors Program, which had its beginnings in the early days of the Association; the development of a Young Mothers Group; the establishment of a youth group; the development of a proposal for integrated Day Care at the Walkerton Day Care Centre; and a proposed Extend-Your-Family (eventually to become Extend-a-Family).

While clients in the Adult Services Program enjoyed bowling, skating, swimming, dancing, snowmobiling, tobogganing and taking part in the Special Olympics, they continued to complete contract work for Larsen and Shaw, Canada Spool and Bobbin, Union Carbide, Hammond Electric, the County of Bruce General Hospital, Canada Packers, Huron Tractor and Zellers.

However, Executive Director John Murray expressed his concerns with the Ministry of Community and Social Services' restraint policies.

"What the government fails to realize, or apparently doesn't recognize, is that a workshop such as ours, in a rural non-industrial area, is finding it more and more difficult to keep revenue producing contracts growing at the rate expenditures are rising", he wrote in his annual report.

The Accommodation Committee reported, only a year after the Auxiliary Residence was set up, that residents of the Jackson Street house had progressed so well they were now able to move on to apartment living with very little supervision.

Family Support Services had many active involvements in its early stages. The staff and committee developed respective mandates to work towards mutual goals, while the caseload began to build. In 1979, 10 volunteers from the Home Visitors Program, going out in pairs, managed to visit approximately 50 area families.

Other projects were also initiated by this service to meet the need for personal friends for the handicapped child. YACMR (Youth Across Canada with the Mentally Retarded) started with the Walkerton Association in 1979. This was started by a group of high school students who found ways they could be of service to mentally handicapped individuals.

It was found that mothers needed-support too, and a Mother's Discussion Group was established that year. The first meeting, held in March 1980, was attended by nine mothers who could share information as well as common concerns. In just over a year since the start of Family Support Services 31 clients were involved in the programs.

April 15, 1980 was the start date for a new program at the Walkerton Day Care Centre. The Preschool Integrated Handicapped Program would find between four and six children participating at the centre under the supervision of a resource teacher.

On September 3, 1980, a Volunteer Appreciation Night was hosted by Walkerton and District Associaton for the Mentally Retarded at which time all parents, staff and handicapped people expressed "thanks" to the many volunteers who contribute so generously to the successful operation of the Association. Presentation of logo pins was made by clientele.

In November of 1980 Extend-a-Family began offering handicapped children the opportunity to further their social development through new friendships within the security of a volunteer host family. Co-ordinator Peggy Munro was hired to recruit host families. It was the aim of the program to match a handicapped child with a host for regular visits.

In the 1981-82 annual report, Extend-a-Family reported there were 23 natural families and 17 host families participating in the program.

Yet another program was started by the Association in December 1980. The aim of the new Citizen Advocacy Program, led by Karen Boyce, was to establish relationships between handicapped adults and volunteers from the community. At the time of the annual report, there were seven matches in progress. This program was operated through proceeds from the Cash for Life Lottery operated by the Ontario Association for the Mentally Retarded.

While the past year was a banner one for the Association, it was also a time when new names were given to already existing committees. In 1980, the Adult Services Committee became the Vocational Services Committee and the Accommodations Committee was renamed the Residential Services Committee.

Archie Dowker, the Association's second Executive Director, commented on the size of the Association in his 1980-81 annual report. He said the Association had grown to include 31 full and part-time staff, to have a payroll of \$387,000 and have a projected expenditure of \$670,000.

Mary Campbell was hired as Executive Secretary at this time, after capably serving as volunteer secretary to the Board for several years.

As the Schumacher House and the Jackson Street group homes continued their successful patterns, the Association also began an apartment program in October 1980. The apartment

program offered three apartments for five people which would have a support system established between the residences and apartment. In February 1981, a fourth apartment was opened by the Association in Hanover for an additional two people.

In its second year of operation, Family Support Services unfolded further to include more families and expanded services. The Home Visitors Program continued, while the Family Case Management Program expanded quickly to a caseload of 60 families.

The Behaviour Training Program added a Toy Library to its services. The library was funded by a special government grant and received gifts from pupils of Mildmay-Carrick Public School. The Toy Library would provide a source of stimulating toys to be used by the families of the Association's handicapped children. In less than a year, individuals from Mildmay, Walkerton and Hanover were using this service.

Silver Anniversary

The Association's Silver Anniversary of achievement and growth in the community was observed by celebrations on February 3, 1982.

In the words of Carl Remus, Association President, "from humble beginnings and a pioneering dedication, we have reached a size that our positive impact and presence in the community is felt".

Some of the accomplishments and highlights of the Association's 25th year included: provision of summer recreation programs in three locations; the administration of the Infant Development Program was transferred from Owen Sound and District Association to the Walkerton and District Association; the Association received approval for expansion of its apartment program to accommodate four more people. In March of 1982 the administration office moved from 25 Durham Street East to 202 Cayley Street.

It was also a year to recognize the contribution of Verna Rolstin, as she retired after 11 years of service as Manager of ARC Industries.

Through Vocational Services more employees were placed in jobs apart from ARC that year. Job placement worked wonders on self-esteem and dignity, and further helped fulfil the Association's goals. The permitted enrolment of the program was 55 employees, but the Association was now serving 60 with several prospective persons still on a waiting list.

The Association made a proposal to the Ministry of Community and Social Services for funding of a life-skills and pre-vocational program for a number of employees who would benefit from it. Unfortunately, after more than a year of trying to get funding for 10 to 20 of the current 60 clients, the Association was unsuccessful in its bid.

Public awareness was also increasing for the Association's Family Support Services. Family Case Management, now with a caseload of 90 families, Infant Development and Behaviour Training now made services and resources more accessible in meeting the needs of clients and their families.

The Infant Development Program, the administration of which was assumed by the Association, in July 1981 employed two staff members, Carol Patterson and Katey Poore. This was a service for infants up to 35 months of age whose development was delayed, who were in a "high-risk" category, or whose parents needed extra guidance. This program, which received 27 referrals during 1982, also had a waiting list.