

Helped found Learn and Live Friendship Club

Cecil Lawn is taking time to do other things

By JIM ROBINSON
Staff

After 14 years of holding almost every post possible — including president more times than he can remember — Cecil Lawn has retired from the Learn and Live Friendship

Club. Lawn is one of the three surviving founding members of the club — his wife Lillian is another — and his continuing direction has kept this club for seniors based in the Burnhamthorpe Community Centre going strong.

At age 81, he's still spry,

although he's been slowed since August when he fell from a ladder and broke his right leg. The recuperation has been lengthy.

The good news is, his visiting Red Cross nurse can stop coming in the New Year because of the improvement in his mobility.

"That's not why I'm retiring from the group," he said, "I just want to take some time and turn my attention to something new.

"Every time my wife wanted to go somewhere, for instance, I'd have to say no because I had to help out at the club.

"I don't really know what I'm going to do. I haven't had much time to think about it. I might become a volunteer at The Queensway Hospital."

Lawn was born in Swansea and lived in Etobicoke for 43 years. For

the past 27 years, Cecil and Lillian made their home on Fieldgate Dr. His involvement with the club began

in January of 1980 when a public meeting was held at the Burnhamthorpe Community Centre to discuss a 100-unit seniors residence that was slated for the area at the time.

"During the meeting, the woman who was running the meeting, I forget her name, said there was a chance there might be a room set aside for seniors to hold regular meetings.

"Someone got up and asked why there couldn't be a seniors club in the community centre," Lawn said.

Two weeks later the club was formed. Lawn went to Ottawa for a \$5,000 New Horizon grant.

The money was turned into a movie projector and screen and two carpet bowling mats that are still in use to this day.

Cecil also built a cabinet that stands 6-feet high, 3-feet deep, and 8-feet long in which to store the club's equipment. It, too, is still in use by the club today."

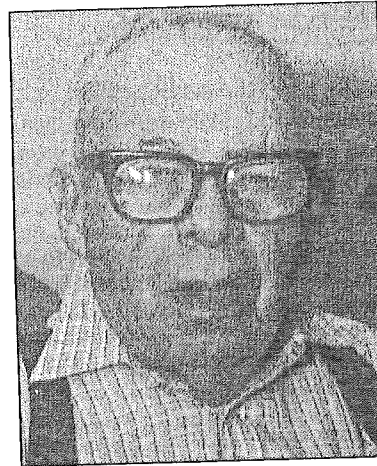
"I sure hope the club isn't going to fall apart, but I've told them that I've retired.

"I'm going to make myself available if they need help with anything, but it's time for me to look for something else."

At the annual Learn and Live Friendship Club Christmas Dinner, Lawn was publicly thanked by club members for his years of service.

Burnhamthorpe Community Centre recreation supervisor Donna-Lynn Rosa said, "Cecil is a heck of a guy.

"He's the kind who's always ready to help out others. We're going to miss him around here a lot."



Cecil Lawn

PEEL BIOGRAPHY LAWN, Cecil

The Miss. News

Jan. 4/95