

Colborne Kinsmen 25th anniversary



Hail, hail! - The gang of present and past Colborne Kinsmen gathered for a 25th anniversary reunion photo at the Colborne Legion Saturday night.



Colborne Kinettes - Past members of the Colborne Kinettes attended the 25th anniversary dinner, dance and reunion last Saturday.

STORY & PHOTOS
BY MANDY MARTIN

There's a lot of collective history and humour at a 25th reunion, especially when it's a gathering of past and present Colborne Kinsmen Club members. This past Saturday, people came from throughout Ontario to the Colborne Kinsmen Club 25th anniversary reunion at the Colborne Legion.

"I can remember my first day on the job I was taken to the Kinsmen meeting that

about the first person I met was Clare Rolph, the manager of the CIBC!"

Both men and their wives were at Saturday's reunion event. And, as history has it, the two banks are today talking merger: Mr. Rolph and Mr. Dwyer were portents of things to come.

Mr. Rolph, a charter member of the Colborne Club, was instrumental in the awarding of the charter on May 5, 1973. He and the late Lawrence Sayers were mem-

men under 40 years of age.

"We had a lot of fun," laughs Mr. Dwyer, reviewing photos of some of the club antics. "We worked hard and we had a lot of fun being involved in our community in a big, big way."

The list of accomplishments and community activities is impressive. New light standards for the arena, the reopening of the Colborne Cramahe Arena, arena dressing rooms, Christmas parades, blood donor clinics, the village's first winter carnival, beef barbecues, the annual Bluegrass Festivals, donkey baseball games. Always, fun was coupled with fundraising to support initiatives to benefit the entire community and beyond.

Kinsmen founder Hal Rogers came to a Colborne meeting at one point in the club's history.

The Colborne Kinsmen were enthusiastic and ardent supporters of all club activities and programs, competing in speech contests, attending conventions and even travelling to the Bahamas for events. The wives formed a Kinette Club shortly after the Kinsmen received their charter.

"We worked very, very hard, but we had a lot of fun, too," Jane Boreham recalls. "We were all so involved with the community and we had fun doing it."

The dinner Saturday night, there were a few former members carried out the exit door for insufficient "fine" payments. There were guffaws, remembrances and thanks for memories. For some people, the day's events

were the first time in over 20 years to catch up on acquaintances. Throughout the evening dance following the Legion dance, clusters of people talked and looked at old photos and memorabilia.

People move on with jobs or family commitments - and they do reach the age of 40 and beyond. Somehow, the

Colborne Club's membership has dwindled to only a handful and, unless there's a renewed membership, the club will quietly close down its charter.

But, whatever the future holds, the men and women who were members have happy memories and the sure knowledge they injected a lot

of community spirit, benefit and good will.

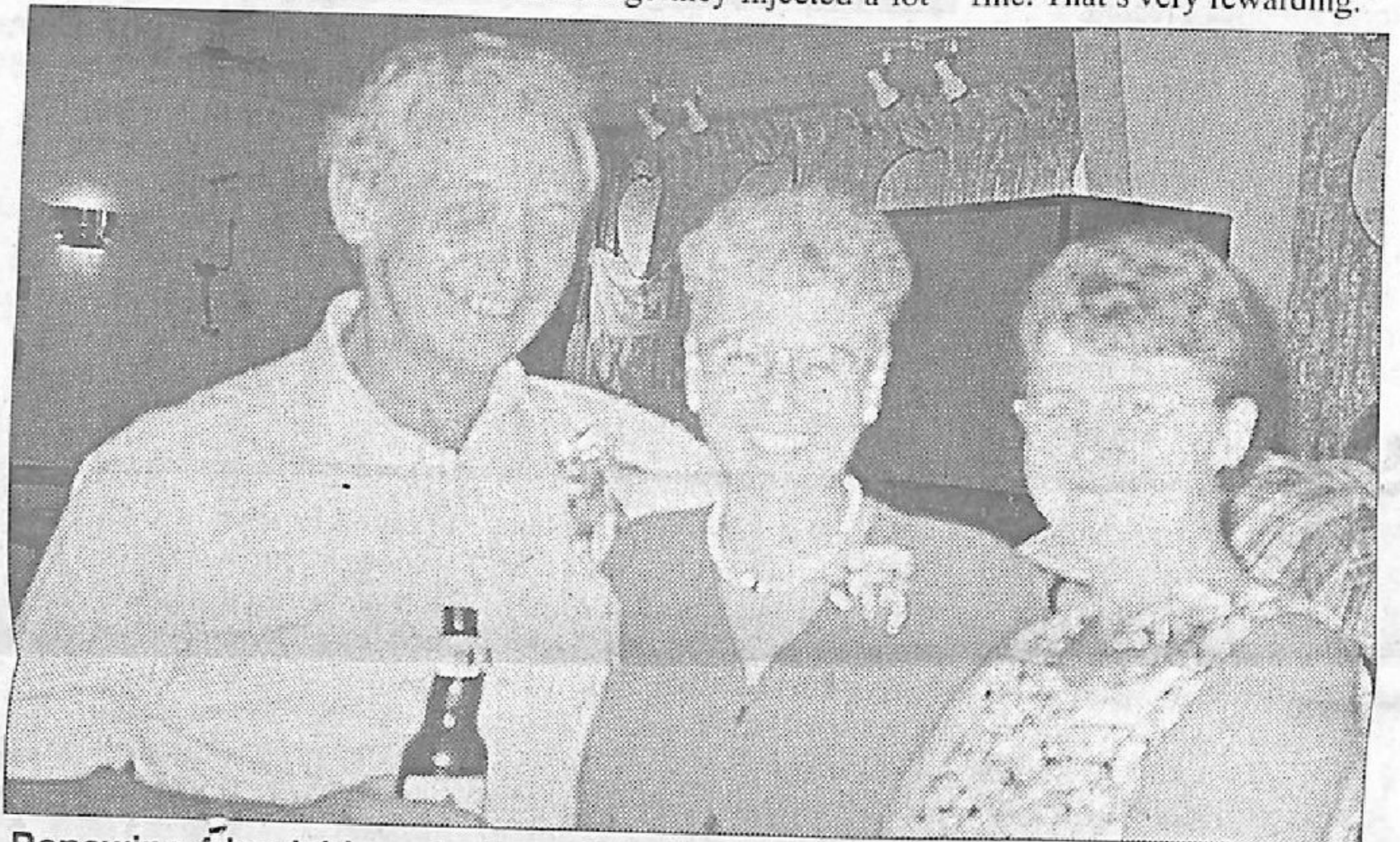
"One of the things we used to do quietly was to seek out young men who might go in the wrong direction and bring them in," recalls Mr. Dwyer. "There is more than one face I see in these pictures (of 20 years ago) who has turned out fine. That's very rewarding."



Past Presidents - John Boreham, right, with the Colborne Kinsmen Club presidential medallion over his arm, was the Club's first President in 1973. Left is Bill Vosburgh, the most recent Kinsmen Club president in attendance at last Saturday's reunion held at the Colborne Legion.

evening," Jim Dwyer, now of Beaverton, recalls. "I opened up a branch of the Toronto Dominion Bank here and just

bers of the Cobourg Kinsmen and decided to pursue a club of their own for Colborne. In those days, Kinsmen Club membership was restricted to



Renewing friendships - Left to right Harold Walker of Colborne, Carol Whitaker of Guelph and Donna Colling of Colborne at the Saturday night dinner and dance to mark the 25th anniversary of the Colborne Kinsmen Club.



Studying the old photos, newspaper clippings, programs and memorabilia of 25 years of Colborne Kinsmen Club history, Clare and Joan Rolph of Cobourg and Jane Boreham of Colborne. Clare was the CIBC bank manager in Colborne

