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Sisters serve together

Three sisters, including two from Castleton, worked with Missionary Adventures of Canada

CECILIA NASMITH
NORTHUMBERLAND TODAY

CASTLETON — Irene Clarke, Linda Marshman and Doris Thomas have each undertaken service projects on their own, but the one the three sisters went on together in India was something special.

Clarke and Marshman, both of Castleton, gave a presentation on the experience recently at Castleton United Church, though Thomas (a Kingston resident) could not be present.

In October 2014, the sisters gathered the \$2,155 in donations and proceeds from a garden-party fundraiser and headed for Calcutta (population 4.7-million).

Working with Missionary Adventures of Canada, they were committing three weeks to work in the slums of one of the world's poorest cities, inspired in part by the work of Mother Teresa and the news they'd been hearing of the struggles that faced the women and young girls of that area.

They paid all their own expenses and even purchased the supplies for the Bible school they would teach in the morning, applying the \$2,155 to purchasing what they would need for afternoon sewing lessons for local women.

To do this shopping, they negotiated streets teeming with cars, trucks, vans, taxis, bicycle rickshaws, human rickshaws, pedestrians, cows, chickens and pigs. They emerged with six old-fashioned treadle-powered machines and many metres of beautiful colourful fabric to go with the yards of lace they had brought from home.

Their sewing classroom was less than ideal.

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Two of the three sisters who spent three weeks in India with Missionary Adventures of Canada showed up recently at Castleton United Church to make a presentation - Irene Clarke (left) and Linda Marshman, both of Castleton. Doris Thomas of Kingston, the third sister, was unable to be present.

CECILIA NASMITH/NORTHUMBERLAND TODAY

Alnwick-Haldimand landowners singled out in effort to curb urban sprawl

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To the editor:

My wife and I were very fortunate back in 1993 to find our dream home in the country. Over the years we have fallen in love with our quality of life amongst the rolling Northumberland Hills, our wide open vistas from our backyard.

We happen to own some acreage which has always been farmed and will continue to be its primary use.

Back in 2001, the Oak Ridges Moraine came into existence. A moratorium was put in place to last for 10 years.

A portion of our property was designated to be on the moraine.

Immediately things began to change for farmers and landowners alike who have always been very proud of their existence and a feel for their land.

Stiff challenges regarding severances, building lots, transfer of deeds, etc. were imposed on this part of the county.

It seems that Alnwick-Haldimand Township would be singled out with over 50 per cent of its land affected by the Oak Ridges Moraine and the Green Belt freeze.

Seriously? How can this be?

We are now past the 10-year moratorium and the promise to relax some of the established rules from the inception has not transpired.

At the end of the day farmland cannot be manufactured. It is a finite commodity. Once it is gone it is gone.

Landowners and farmers on the moraine should not be held solely responsible for the inexcusable behaviour of the developers and decision makers who allowed woodlots to be cut and sensitive areas of land to be bulldozed over to continue the urban sprawl north and west of Toronto in the name of greed.

Lou and Jane D'Onofrio,
Grafton