

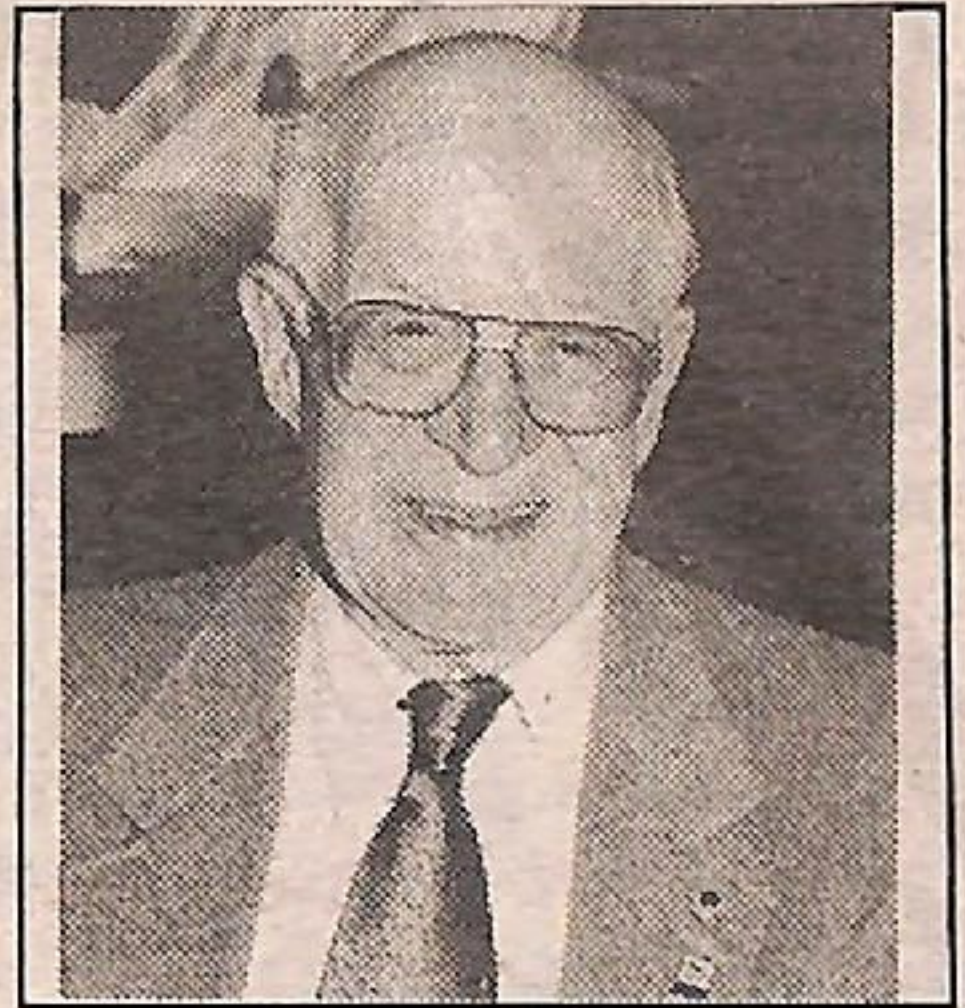
Well Known Longtime Local Resident, Benny Grant, Turns 80

Wilfred A. (Benny) Grant and his new bride, Helen, moved to Sudbury almost 50 years ago in 1946. In 1948 they moved again, to Whitefish where Benny became manager of the local general store then owned by Welland Gemmell, the area's local MP. Seven years later, in 1955, Benny and Helen purchased the business and it became Grant's General Store, catering to the needs of the locals with hardware, clothing, gasoline, animal feed and groceries, as well as the post office of which Benny was postmaster and Helen operated it. The store was indeed a general store of a bygone era and as Benny used to say, "If I don't have it, you don't need it".

Benny's community involvement started in the late 40's after the Barbershop Quartet he belonged to, with Lorne Scoville, Vic Parent and Jim Scott, won a major music festival. They were then instrumental in supplying their singing talents and helping organize the first Radio-Thon in Sudbury in 1947. Television didn't arrive until the early 50's. Benny still loves to sing around the campfire at the camp on Penage, his favorite place in the world to be, and they have been on the lake for over 40 years. As a matter of fact, Benny was one of the crew that blazed the trail for the North Shore Road and he maintains that they didn't have a drink until they were done?

In 1956 he was the first elected to the local school board on which he served for three terms seeing the construction of Robert H. Murray Public School. During these years he also coached Little League Baseball, a game he still enjoys to watch very much, and last year Benny finally got to his first game in the Skydome, where his favorite Jays beat the Minnesota Twins.

As if his business, the post office, school board and coaching wasn't enough, he also joined the committee which carried through the establishment and construction of St. Johns United



Benny Grant

Church in Whitefish. It was also during these years that Benny and Helen helped many families in the area make it through strikes and hard times by carrying their grocery charges in their store until better times came along. Their caring, understanding and assistance was always open to all, even though they sometimes found themselves going without.

In 1963 Benny's business interests expanded with the purchase of a second store in Dowling. Even running two businesses, Benny found the time to join a group which organized and started the area's Lions Club. At 80 he remains an active member and one of the few Charter and Life members still around.

Benny and Helen retired in 1979 and started to do some of the travelling they had wanted to do until Helen, his wife of over 40 years, passed away on her birthday, May 31, 1988.