

Outlook on Halton Hills

Sister recalls Fred Schouten as "doer, giving person"

Former Georgetown man father of Baby Gabriel

By BRIAN MacLEOD
Herald Staff

When Georgetown native Fred Schouten died of an apparent heart attack Dec. 8, his sister Irma was left as the lone surviving member of the Schouten family. The family emigrated from Holland 34 years ago.

Fred Schouten, 38, was the father of Baby Gabriel, the infant born without a brain but kept alive so her heart could be transplanted into a British Columbia child.

Now, Irma plans to get together with Fred's first wife, Marilyn Kirby, to write a tribute to her brother in a letter to the Toronto Star.

Fred died the same way as his mother and father did before him,

said Miss Schouten.

Mary Schouten died on Dec. 19, 1963 of a heart attack and Bert Schouten (his real name was Lambertus) died after suffering a heart attack just four months ago on Aug. 22, said Miss Schouten. "My father was strong as an ox. He stood six foot three," she said.

"As a unit we were very, very close," she said.

"Freddy" always liked working with wood even when he attended Holy Cross School and Georgetown District High School, said Miss Schouten who now lives in Mississauga.

He played football for the Rebels while he was a teenager, she said.

Fred left Georgetown in 1984 for the Barrie area where he lived until his death.

After high school he attended Cambrian College in Sault Ste. Marie to seek an education in wood and forestry.

He married Marilyn Kirby in 1976 but the two were divorced in the early 1980s, recalled Miss Schouten.

While Fred was at Cambrian he suffered a heart ailment caused by fluid around his heart, she said.

He returned to Georgetown for a while until he felt well enough to return to school, she said.

He worked for a small firm for six or seven months tending wood before moving onto a Malton firm in

a management position, she said.

Mr. Schouten then became a University of Toronto lecturer in forestry management. He was recently working on his own business, she said.

"He was a very proud individual. We were all a very proud breed," said Miss Schouten.

"He was a very giving individual."

Irma managed to drop into the Schouten's home in the Barrie area every once in a while to talk to her brother.

"He was a real goer and a doer," she said.

"When it comes to the crunch he's there for you."

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