

*Above and beyond the call*

# Secretary devoted to church

By CHERYL MOODER  
Herald Staff

Dedication and devotion are two words to aptly describe Phyllis Livingstone and her 20 years of service to the St. John's United Church.

The Georgetown woman stepped down from her position as secretary April 15.

In truth though, as one minister, under whom she worked, stated, Mrs. Livingstone did so much more.

Rev. Harold Martin said that Mrs. Livingstone was known to give as much pastoral care from her office as he did from his study.

"You have to be a good listener," Mrs. Livingstone said. "When I wrote out my duties," she said, "he added all his little bits," of things he felt she also did.

Among her 15-hour per week duties, Mrs. Livingstone did all the renting of the church, looked after the mail, wrote the Sunday church calendar, board minutes and annual report, ordered church supplies, looked after the minister's needs and basically kept the place in order.

During the two decades that Mrs. Livingstone has been a member of the church, she has also done visitation, and prepared meals for the Men's Club when it was active.

"Over the years you do quite a lot," she said.

Mrs. Livingstone has had fun doing the work she has done for the church. "It has been an enjoyable experience (and) one I will cherish all my life," she said.

The best part of the job for the retired secretary was the different personalities she met and the people with whom she worked.

"I like the contact with the people," she said. "That is the beauty of the job."

Over the years she was worked under the pastoral care of Rev. Robert Scriver; Rev. Harold Martin, Rev. Fred Bajsden, Rev. Hal Llewellyn, Rev. Jeffrey Davidson and Rev. Nancy Knox.

Mrs. Livingstone has also been an avid contributor to her church. When she and her husband Bud, who has been supportive of her work, lived in North York, Mrs. Livingstone taught Sunday school for the Alliston Park United Church and was a primary Sunday school superintendent.

At that time, over 25 years ago, the Sunday school helped support the church.

As a money making project, Mrs. Livingstone and the other Sunday school teachers would distribute hot cross buns.

"The children would go out and get the buns," she said, "and we would fill them."

The Georgetown resident had a lot of fun on fund-raising projects and working at the Toronto church.

Mrs. Livingstone has felt a lot of love from members of the St. John's congregation, but none so much as



Phyllis Livingstone retired from her post as secretary of the St. John's United Church after 20 years

when she was diagnosed with cancer in 1966.

"I was not expected to live," she said. "The church rallied around me. I will never forget how supportive they were of me."

One day when the 66-year-old came back from treatments at Princess Margaret Hospital in Toronto she found her mailbox stuffed with 40 get well cards.

The church kept her job open for her. "I had a goal and I reached that goal," Mrs. Livingstone said. "It was a very, very humbling experience."

Mrs. Livingstone has seen many changes since she began working August 1968, a year after her family moved to Georgetown.

The retired secretary was born and raised in London, England, moving to Canada in 1946 after the war.

Physically, the sanctuary of the church has been remodeled.

Mrs. Livingstone finds Georgetown to be a transient town and, she said, "The congregation is

of service. A reception will be held for Mrs. Livingstone Sunday at the church.

At one time her husband Bud would have known about 90 per cent of the congregation, but now, he would know about 35 per cent.

Besides her church work, Mrs. Livingstone and her husband are avid bridge players and love to walk.

The Georgetown woman also enjoys knitting and has worked as a volunteer for organizations such as the Red Cross and Meals on Wheels.

Her retirement comes at a time when she is ready to spend more time with her husband.

Mrs. Livingstone wants to fulfill her dream of visiting western Canada, as well as other travel.

She and her husband are also involved with UNICEF, and the couple wants to expand that work a little more.

Eventually, Mrs. Livingstone wants to get back into volunteer work.

There will be a retirement party for the secretary at the St. John's Georgetown Hall May 15 from 2 to 4 p.m.

# Ramautarsingh named to treasurer post

The University of Toronto Chapter of Phi Delta Kappa has elected Tom Ramautarsingh of Georgetown as its Treasurer for 1988-89. Other members elected are Michael Frederiksen (President), Lynda German (Vice-President), and Karon Falk (Secretary).



Tom Ramautarsingh

Phi Delta Kappa is a professional education fraternity dedicated to the improvement of publically supported and universally available education. It was founded in 1908.

It is a society for men and women who are in the field of education. Members include teachers, school and Board administrators, college teachers, ministry of education officials, university professors and educational specialists. To be a member a person has to be nominated, examined by a committee and then

accepted. Members must be in education for 15 or more years, hold a post graduate degree or belong to a faculty of education teaching staff.

There are 565 Phi Delta Kappa Chapters in the world. On Oct. 22, 1965, the University of Toronto Chapter was established as the

first Chapter in Canada. Other Chapters have been organized in Nova Scotia, Quebec, Manitoba, Alberta and British Columbia.

In 1985, the University of Toronto Chapter hosted the Biennial Council with over 1,000 delegates from around the world in attendance. It was the University of Toronto Chapter's 30th anniversary and the first time the Conference was held outside the United States.

Mr. Ramautarsingh said, "It is an opportunity to serve in the field of education at another level and in another sphere and I look forward to the challenge."

An inspiring address was given by member, Dr. Bernard Shapiro, Deputy Minister of Education, and the Educator of the Year award was presented to William A. Jones, former Secretary of the 106,000 member Ontario Teachers' Federation.

# Resident upset over destruction of spruce

Delrex Boulevard resident Susan Lorito is furious with the town for a letter by the town telling her to cut the trees. But a personal inspection by the town engineer showed only a small trimming was needed, she said.

Mrs. Lorito, whose home backs on to Joseph Gibbons Park, said she was told by a town engineer last year to trim her tree back only one or two centimetres because it was intruding on the sidewalk.

Mrs. Lorito had already been sent a letter by the town telling her to cut the trees. But a personal inspection by the town engineer showed only a small trimming was needed, she said.

But Mrs. Lorito left the tree for a few days through a storm. One day while her husband was home during the day a town worker pulled up and took a chainsaw to the tree, said Mrs. Lorito.

The chainsaw has killed the front of the tree, said Mrs. Lorito.

"This sucker took a chainsaw to a 20-year-old blue spruce and saws out three-quarters of the front of my tree," she said.

Those trees are supposed to be carefully clipped, she said.

Mrs. Lorito said the tree is worth between \$500 and \$800.

"I want something to be done about it. It's disgusting what's happened to this thing," she said. "It's very ugly. Very upsetting."

The town worker didn't knock on the door first, she said.

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# New equine centre at Guelph

Premier David Peterson will arrive by horse-drawn carriage to attend the May 17 opening ceremony at the new \$2.5-million Equine Research Centre located at the University of Guelph. Unique in Canada, the centre will conduct research for the racing, riding and show horse sectors of Canada's multi-billion-dollar equine industry. The building and equipment funds for the centre were donated largely by Ontario's horseowners, equine organizations and other horse-enthusiasts.

Canadian research centre that would support the equine industry by dealing specifically with horse-related problems, says ERC director Russ Willoughby. By economic standards alone, the equine industry is one of the country's largest. Equally important, it is a source of recreation and pleasure for thousands of Canadians.

The Canadian horse industry generates almost \$4 billion annually

in economic activity. More than 220,000 Canadians are involved as horseowners and another 100,000 are employed directly. Each year, horse shows and races attract 18 million people as spectators. Of the provinces, Ontario's equine industry is by far the largest.

Whatever their involvement, the people supporting the Equine Research Centre share a common appreciation of the horse and its welfare.

Following the 2 p.m. ceremony, Peterson will tour the facility with other guests and start the centre's high-speed treadmill. Guests include Jack Riddell, Ontario's minister of agriculture and food; Jack Pemberton, chair of the Equine Research Centre Advisory Council; Bill Stewart, University of Guelph chancellor and former minister of agriculture; Burt Matthews, president of the University of Guelph; Frank Drea, chair of the Ontario Racing Commission; and other representatives of the equine industry. Public tours will be offered from noon to 1 p.m. and 3 to 4 p.m.

When Princess Anne turned the sod for the facility almost two years ago, it signalled the beginning of a

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