

The Tribune

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 1978



Twenty-five year Marmill employee honored

Don Thomas (centre) of Church Street, Markham, has completed 25 years' service with Reesor's Marmill Limited. The occasion was marked, Friday, with a surprise office party and

presentation. Don received a beautiful silver tray, suitably engraved. The gift was presented by company manager, Don Reesor (left) and firm president, Charles Reesor.

'Grandma' Fretz

Town will remember a wonderful lady

STOUFFVILLE — 'Grandma' Fretz is gone but the memories of this truly wonderful lady linger on.

She passed away, Nov. 2 in her apartment at Parkview Home. Only a few hours before, she had attended a special choir service in the Stouffville United Church. She was 83.

May Fretz was everybody's friend. No matter where she went, people wanted to stop and talk. She was respected and loved by everyone.

Born on the 5th concession of Markham, the daughter of Levi and Susan (Meyer) Grove, she later resided on Hwy. 48 and then moved to the 9th concession of Pickering where she and her husband farmed until 1949.

On moving to town, she opened a small store on Main Street East called the Stouffville Book Nook. Mr. Fretz died in 1959.

Three years ago, she took up residence in the Parkview Apartments. There, she retained old friendships and made new ones.

Activities within the Wideman Mennonite Church

were important. She was a member of that congregation and enjoyed helping out in a women's organization called the W.M.S.C. She assisted at many quilting bees and often gave of her time in the Parkview tuck shop.

Nothing was dearer to her heart than her family that included — Norman Fretz, deceased; Orval, Claremont, RR 3; Levi of Manila; Alma (Mrs. Lewis Reesor), RR 2, Markham; Lois (Mrs. Maurice Hoover), RR 1, Stouffville; Mary-Ann (Mrs. Beland Schlabach) of Vineland; 21

grandchildren and eight great grandchildren two step grandchildren. Two sisters also survive, Maggie (Mrs. Willis Davis), Stouffville and Mary (Mrs. Frank Sellers) in California.

Rev. Paul Martin conducted the service, Saturday, from the Wideman Church with interment, the adjoining cemetery. The funeral was largely attended.

Pall bearers were six grandsons, Glen Fretz, Graham Fretz, Ronald Fretz, Harold Reesor, Vern Hoover and Albert Unrau.

Becky Wedley

Aims to hold line on municipal taxes

BALLANTRAE — "My main aim is to hold the line on taxes," Ward 2 councillor Becky Wedley told The Tribune during

a pre-election interview this week. She hopes to accomplish this, she said, without sacrificing any of the services presently enjoyed.

"If anything, I hope we can get better value for the tax dollar," she stated.

Becky Wedley looks on her Ward 2 position as "a full-time job". She feels a councillor must make herself (himself) available to the electorate on a day-to-day basis.

Councillor Wedley cites the following accomplishments—completion of an addition to the Ballantrae Community Centre; an improved road program and better street lighting.

She supports slow, controlled growth in Ward 2 and, in time, the setting up of a volunteer fire department. The latter, she said, would have to be financed through lot fees.

To provide increased tax revenue, more quality industry is needed. She promised to work to this end. She wants the existing sports and recreation programs continued.

One thing she doesn't want—continued dumping of Metro waste at a site east of Hwy. 48.

Veterans remember fallen

MARKHAM — Nov. 11 is Remembrance Day.

On this date (Saturday), the Markham Dist. Veterans Association will hold its annual service in the hall at 10 a.m., with Rev. Allan Embree of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church in charge. Later, a procession, directed by Parade Marshal Tom Clayton and led by the Highland Creek Pipe Band, will proceed to the cenotaph on Main Street. There, wreaths will be laid by the Hon. Barney Danson, Minister of National Defence and M.P. for York North; Alf Stong, M.P.P., York Centre; Town Mayor Tony Roman; Alma Walker and Ron Moran, Regional Councillors; John Harris, M.M., MDVA President; Nev. Oddie, Unionville Veterans Association President; Major James Welsh of the Cadet Corps and Mrs. Maude Mingay, representing the Silver Cross Mothers.

The Markham Dist. High School Band, under the direction of Harold Hiron, will provide the music accompaniment.

Ron Robb

Fireman calls for Ballantrae Brigade

MUSS LAKE — Ron Robb, a candidate for Whitchurch-Stouffville Council in Ward 2, has called for the setting up of a volunteer fire department at Ballantrae.

Mr. Robb, himself a fireman in Toronto, feels the ten to fifteen minutes it takes the trucks to travel from Stouffville into the far reaches of his Ward is too long. He stated too, that a second station would lower insurance rates to home-owners.

Ron Robb resides on Churchill Drive, Musselman's Lake.

He supports continuation of

Race for region

MARKHAM — There's no shortage of candidates for the Nov. 13 municipal election in Markham.

The most interesting race is for the three regional offices with five veteran campaigners vying for these positions. They are — Stan Daurio, Silver Aspen Drive, Thornhill; Carole Bell, Tussey Court, Unionville; Walter Grieve, Houghton Blvd., Markham; Ron Moran, R.R. 2, Markham and Alma Walker, Princess Street, Markham. Mr.

Moran and Mrs. Walker are the present sitting members.

Nominees for councillor seats follow: Ward 1 (one to be elected) — Maurice Sanders, Proctor Avenue, Thornhill; Ron Fenson, Bayview Avenue, Thornhill; Antonia Azzoli, Woodward Avenue, Thornhill. Ward 2 (One to be elected) — Alan Debora, Ironshield Cresc., Thornhill; Bob Sherwood, Silver Aspen Drive, Thornhill; Andrew Meles, Jondan Cresc., Thornhill. Ward 3 (one to be elected) — Dave

The Second Section

Sports — District News

Felray Subdivision

Group to study fireplace hazard

By ED SCHROETER
BALLANTRAE — Following a meeting of about 60 Felray Subdivision residents, notified that their fireplaces could be hazardous, a committee of four home-owners has been established to assess the problem and negotiate a settlement with the developer.

Members are — Ron Graham, Andy May and Ron Rogers, all experienced in the building trade, and an advisor, Stan Coldwell, a retired City of Toronto building inspector.

The citizens crowded into the Ballantrae Community Centre, Thursday, to plan group strategy after all 61 residents owning homes in the project's second phase, were advised by the Town not to use their fireplaces until all are inspected.

Some said they now fear they will be unable to collect insurance claims should a fire break out.

The municipality issued the warning after a blaze occurred at the home of Ken and Judy Wood. It was the third such fire in six months.

Bob Prince produced a letter from builder Peter Milligan on behalf of Felray Investments in which he offered to inspect each resident's fireplace and complete necessary repairs. The developer would bear the expense but couldn't guarantee the units wouldn't show signs of reconstruction.

Helen Hartai, the meeting's organizer, called the proposal an "eleventh hour offer". She urged each owner to have his

contract checked by a solicitor.

Mr. Prince added that any litigation could drag on for several years, and the bad publicity would probably prevent people from purchasing unsold homes in the subdivision. "The carrying charges on these houses alone could exceed the court costs," he said.

Andy May, an experienced contractor, said his examinations revealed several areas where work didn't conform to building code specifications. He said the committee should co-operate with building inspectors in an effort to uncover all problems before working out a deal with the builders.

It was agreed that the four men should meet again to study the situation in detail and finalize plans.

Public meeting

Residents call Town negligent

BALLANTRAE — "This situation wouldn't have occurred if you had followed your instructions," Ron Rogers told Whitchurch-Stouffville Mayor Gordon Ratcliff at a meeting of close to 60 residents, now living in the second phase of the Felray Subdivision.

The gathering was organized by home-owners, faced with the possibility of having defective fireplaces that could pose a fire hazard.

The mayor and Planning Board chairman Eldred King was present to answer questions on the problem.

Mayor Ratcliff admitted that 100 per cent of all fireplaces checked had proved faulty. This was later confirmed by Building Inspector Fred Fudge. He noted, however, that less than 20 had been examined.

Visibly angry, Mr. Rogers accused both the Town's elected representatives and its inspectors of failing in their jobs. He repeatedly demanded the mayor to explain why the fireplaces hadn't been properly checked. Mr. Ratcliff replied that under the 1975 building

code, when their homes were built, such checks weren't mandatory. Mr. Rogers and Stan Coldwell, a former building inspector in Toronto vehemently denied this.

Town Building Inspector Fred Fudge (not a staff employee when Felray was constructed), said the Act was subject to interpretation. The Ontario '76 Code, now in use, does not specifically state that fireplaces must be inspected. It does detail how they are to be constructed though, he said.

Mr. Fudge, however, said that because most inspectors feel the fireplace is "most critical from a hazard standpoint", as he does, they check them during framing. Unfortunately, he noted, when they return, they're already bricked in, "so you don't really know what the builder has done".

The inspector said no municipal employee can stand and watch the construction of an entire house because he doesn't have time. "One must have

some confidence in the integrity of the builder and his trade," he said.

He revealed the problems at Ballantrae were not common only to Whitchurch-Stouffville. He said the Town is now preparing a bylaw in an effort to remedy the situation. However, he has no assurance it will be approved by the Province.

One loser

MARKHAM — Six candidates are trying for five positions on the York Regional Separate School Board, 1979-80.

Nominees are — June Mallon, Limcombe Drive, Thornhill; Daniel Di Rocco, Senator Reesor's Drive, Markham; Ernest Nyitrai, Chant Cresc., Unionville; Leo Wigglesworth, Cypress Point Court, Thornhill; Lawrence Pelliccione, Thorny Brae Drive, Thornhill and Michael Yarett, Alcaine Court, Thornhill.

Election day is Nov. 13.



Curious Town employee receives surprise

Some sinister force deposited Dracula's coffin in the Council Chambers at the Markham Town Offices late Halloween night. Debbie Watson, 18th Avenue, of the Town's legal department, gets quite a shock as she opens the casket, containing a life-size dummy.

Ed Schroeter.

Celebrates ninetieth birthday

Reub Meyer, one of Markham's best known and most highly respected residents, celebrated his 90th birthday, Sunday, with an "open house" at the home of his eldest daughter, Helen Hott, Main Street North. Here, Reuben blows out the candles on his cake with a single puff.

—Ed Schroeter.