



Veteran auctioneers in action

Recently, two of this area's best-known auctioneers joined forces to conduct a sale at Parkview Home, Stouffville, with all proceeds going to The Star Fresh Air Fund. Although they need no introduction, that's Alvin Farmer of Gormley (left) and Walter Atkinson of Stouffville.

Ed. Schroeter

Alive--barely

It isn't easy to stay alive in the funeral business.

There's not much that can be done to drum up business when things are slow. When a 'customer' doesn't pay the funeral bill, there's nothing to repossess.

The cost of coffins has tripled in the last five years including various government taxes, the retail cost is more than three times the wholesale price.

Undertakers are hesitant to discuss the dollars and cents costs of providing a funeral.

Coffin-makers won't divulge the wholesale price of their product to anyone other than an undertaker. Much of the hardware equipment must be imported.

Custom duties and the devalued dollar push the price up.

Many funeral home operators say their business is so competitive, prices vary by less than \$100.

A spokesman for Himegan-O'Neil Funeral Home in London, Ont., said people should stop being so squeamish about death and dying. "A funeral is a large purchase. It should be the way the customer wants it and at a price he can afford."

She suggests people should "shop around." "If the funeral director won't do it your way or if you don't feel satisfied, go to another."

A 'medium' funeral costs about \$1,850 including the cemetery plot and grave opening. The two latter expenses aren't included in the price quoted by funeral homes.

The coffin is usually the single largest expense. Prices range from expensive air-tight ornate models to simple plywood boxes. The cost in a

'medium' funeral is \$640 to \$700. The price of a cemetery plot is \$250 and up.

Although policies vary, most undertakers say buying a \$1,000 coffin for a cremation service isn't a sound investment. At the same time, they don't recommend the inexpensive cloth-covered pressboard coffin for a church service.

"Sometimes we don't know if we can make it down the steps without the bottom falling out," one said. "It's not only embarrassing, it can lead to a law suit."

Undertakers shrug off questions about why they remain in such a demanding, high capital investment and low profit business. They talk of liking people and having a need to help. The profit ratio is estimated at five to eight per cent.

Praise police

YORK REGION — Two York Regional Police officers have been commended by the Police Commission for investigative work that led to the arrest and conviction of four suspects.

Chief Bruce Crawford described the efforts of P.C. Kenneth Knapton and P.C. Paul Heaver as "outstanding."

It was back on Dec. 24 that Constable Knapton was called to investigate a break-in at a home in King Township. While on location, he found a glove and received a description of the vehicle used. Later, he matched the one glove with another. As a result, James Dupon was arrested and charged with break, entry and theft; mischief to private property and possession of stolen goods. Alfred Hollingshead was charged as an accomplice. Both were convicted in Newmarket Court, Dec. 20 and sent to prison.

Chief Crawford said Constable Knapton's determination was an excellent example of outstanding police work.

Constable Heaver's commendation came as a result of another break-in, July 13, at which time the officer spotted two hitch-hikers in the area.

He questioned the youths and later charged them with the offense. A quantity of jewellery and money was found in their possession. The pair were later convicted, given suspended sentences and placed on probation.



Honor past-presidents of Markham Horticultural Society

Recently, the Markham District Horticultural Society held a special evening at the Veterans' Hall on Washington Street at which time, past-presidents of the organization were honored. In attendance were (rear row)-Aylmer Lambert (1968-70); J.F. VanPoeche (1971-72); Pat Warriner (1976-78). Front row-Myrtle Hamill (1973-75); Russell Wideman

(1950-51) and Pam Wright, the president for 1979. The presentations were made by Ross Gomme (rear-right), Secretary of the Ontario Horticultural Association. Others who have held this office through the years include-A.H. Crosby, O.R. Stalter, Wilf Bundy, Tim Lelshman, Walter Heaton, G.S. Jourdan, W.A. Tyte, and O.R. Crosby. Ed Schroeter.

Air Cadets say -

Eskimo land friendly place

STOUFFVILLE — Cambridge is a village of 800 people in the Northwest Territories, 400 miles north of the Arctic Circle. There's snow in the town during the winter, spring, and fall seasons. It's generally so cold freezers aren't necessary.

In spite of these seeming drawbacks, two Stouffville cadets, Melanie Rodgers and corporal Crystal Buchanan say they'd rather live in Cambridge than here.

"It's hard to explain why," Melanie says. "You'd have to go up and experience it yourself."

"People are really friendly there," adds Crystal. "The Eskimos come right up to you on the street and shake your

hand, even though they don't know you."

The two grade ten Stouffville Secondary students recently returned from a week's stay there, as part of a cultural exchange. Nine eskimo cadets have already enjoyed a sojourn in Stouffville.

During their visit, the girls discovered that despite the town's isolation, the inhabitants are able to secure most of life's amenities, including blue jeans, records, canned food, women's fashions, soft drinks, alcohol, and skidoos.

Melanie and Crystal pointed out transportation costs have skyrocketed prices on goods, which are slow to arrive. When they are finally brought in by plane, which provides the community's only link to the south, quantities are limited.

The Eskimo is as at home on a skidoo as a dog sled, and as happy in a home-made fur parka as in jeans, the girls learned, though rarely do they live in igloos any more.

Despite the town's obviously small size, there's never a shortage of entertainment. Nightly dances are held in the school at Cambridge. Films are shown regularly. There's also an

Amusement Hall with assorted games, including pinball.

Inventing their own games, the Eskimos make a lot of their own fun, too, Melanie explained.

While in the north-land, Crystal and Melanie tried their hand at the Innu language, though almost every Eskimo speaks English now anyway, chopped blubber, and tasted various Eskimo dishes, including "quock," a type of stew made with frozen caribou meat.

Crystal wasn't impressed with it. "It's okay, but I preferred the canned chicken stew from our army ration packs, though we had to chip it out of the containers."

Part of the exercise called for winter camping in home-made igloos. When a fuel tank ignited, the girls discovered another interesting fact. Snow burns like anything else.

Unquestionably, the highlight of the trip was a glimpse of the perfectly preserved body of a local shaman, or sorcerer, lying unburied on the tundra. When she died, the inhabitants refrained from burying the body, fearing retaliation from her departed spirit.

At lake

CLAREMONT — Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Beelby and family also Mrs. Debbie Beverley, spent the weekend at Pigeon Lake.

Marjorie Rowe of Agincourt was a weekend visitor with Mrs. Doris Norton.

Mrs. Annie Porter and Mr. and Mrs. Earl Cook, visited with Mrs. Glover at Marmora, Sunday.

Vietnamese refugees

Require sponsors

UXBRIDGE — An Uxbridge Township resident, Michael McLuhan, is organizing a group to aid the Vietnamese Boat People.

He says at least five people are needed to sponsor one Vietnamese family.

Sponsors are responsible for arranging accommodation, food, and employment. The process is relatively easy and inexpensive.

Mr. McLuhan can be reached by calling 852-6435.



Mobile grass-thinner improves bed at Town bowling green

No, it's not a power lawnmower, not the usual kind anyway. It's a Vertacutter, employed last week at the Stouffville Bowling Green to improve the grass bed. The machine removes the dead grass and allows the bed to breathe. The operator is Dennis Frewin of the Agincourt Lawn Bowling Club.

Jim Thomas.

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PROCLAMATION
 1979 CIVIC HOLIDAY

Pursuant to a resolution adopted by the Whitchurch-Stouffville Council, I hereby proclaim

MONDAY, AUGUST 6th, 1979

as the CIVIC HOLIDAY for the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville. All persons are hereby requested to take notice and govern themselves accordingly.

Edred King, Mayor
 - GOD SAVE THE QUEEN -

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