

New roots for post office



The Gormley post office moved to its new location, north-east of Woodbine Avenue and the Stouffville-Gormley Road, Friday, but there is still much housekeeping left to do. Here, the employees pose in front of the building. BACK ROW - left to right - Judy Steckley, Peter Koropatwa-postmaster, and Harry Copps. FRONT ROW - left to right - Freda Henderson, Irene Bacon, and Connie Ash. Jim Holt

GORMLEY — History that goes back more than 100 years is sometimes difficult to trace. However, Evelyn Milsted is, more than anyone, familiar with information as it relates to the Gormley-Post Office, now re-located on the north-east corner of Woodbine Avenue and the Stouffville - Gormley Road. Mrs. Milsted writes the following account for The Tribune.

"Since the Post Office was moved, Friday, to a new location, I felt it important to provide Tribune readers with some of its early history. Gormley was developed from a black ash swamp from which came timbers and boards for many of the original buildings. The Twp. of Markham was surveyed in 1794. It is believed the Quakers and Mennonites were the first successful settlers in our area, the majority of them arriving between 1800 and 1804 from Pennsylvania.

Between 1804 and 1851, there's very little information available except that a granddaughter of James Gormley had a metal date stamp of Gormley marked Nov. 1847, in-

dicating there was a Post Office here at that time. The first Postmaster was James Gormley, an Irishman with red hair and brown eyes. He was a teacher, an auctioneer, and a notary public. In 1853, he married 17 year old Margaret Stickley, a sister of the late Mrs. Levi Hoover's mother. Garnet Francy's grandmother was James Gormley's sister. Mr. and Mrs. Gormley had three daughters and one son. Their son was a surveyor in Western Canada, but died at an early age while on his way home.

In 1860, James Gormley built a store on the north-east corner of Lot 35 in Markham Township. This has been the site of the Gormley Post Office — until Friday. This building was destroyed by fire in 1935. Mr. and Mrs. Sam Doner had the store at that time. Clarence Steckley was the carpenter in charge of erecting the present building. In 1876, the Gormley's moved to Toronto, taking with them their belongings including one cow.

The intersection was first called Gormley's Corners but the Deputy Postmaster General,

W.H. Griffin had this changed to simply Gormley, Jan. 1, 1857.

Before 1851, Canadian post offices were controlled by the British Government. When Canada took over its own postal system in 1851, there was already one in Gormley. At this time, one Francis Dalby contracted to carry the mail on horseback from Gormley's Corners to Richmond Hill.

The following have served as postmasters: James Gormley to 1876; Richard Lewis, 1876 to 1883; Colin McKenzie, 1883 to 1904; Robert Johnson, 1904 to 1910; Cecil Kayes, 1910 to 1915; John W. Wilson, 1915 to 1918; Ellis J. Webb, 1918 to 1923; Samuel N. Doner, 1923 to 1954; Charles F. Milsted, 1954 to 1964; Evelyn Milsted, 1964 to 1973; Ruth Millen, Larry Ross and Josephine Uens filled in on a temporary basis until Peter Koropatwa was appointed in 1974.

Freda Henderson of Gormley has served as Assistant Postmaster since 1964.

Events

CLAREMONT — Bake sale, raffle and coffee party, Wed., April 30 from 10 a.m. to 12 noon in the Claremont Community Hall, sponsored by the Altona Co-op Nursery School.

STOUFFVILLE — Music Mania '80 in the auditorium of Stouffville Dist. Secondary School at 8:15 p.m., April 24 (tonight), April 25 and 26.

MARKHAM — Annual meeting of the Markham Arts Council, Thurs., April 24 (tonight) at 8 p.m., in the Penalty Box Lounge, Markham Centennial Arena. Discussion will take place on a proposed art centre and officers for the year will be elected.

STOUFFVILLE — Registrations accepted at the Town Library for calligraphy course presented by Claremont artist George Foord. Sessions will cover eight weeks, Thursday evenings, beginning May 1. Fee is \$40.

DICKSON'S HILL — Youth Night, Fri., April 25 at 8 p.m., in Dickson's Hill School, featuring "The Latinos".

MARKHAM — The Markham Clothing Centre is holding its annual nearly-new sale, Fri., April 25 from 1 to 3 p.m., in St. Andrew's United Church. For more information call 294-2116; 294-4915 or 294-4746.

YORK REGION — The York Symphony Orchestra will feature guest trumpeter James Spragg and his rendition of Haydn's Trumpet Concerto, Fri., April 25 at Thornhill Community Centre, Fri., April 25 and Sat., April 26 at Aurora High School. Time of each event is 8:30 p.m. For more information call 889-0959.

BALLANTRAE — The Ballantrae Tennis Club will hold a public meeting, Tues., April 29 at 7:30 p.m., in the Community Centre for registrations and information. Babysitting provided.

CLAREMONT — Rev. Frank Byrne, missionary to Indonesia will be the guest speaker at a meeting in the Claremont Baptist Church, Thurs., (to-night), April 24 at 8 p.m.

GOODWOOD — A spring team sponsored by the Girl Guides and Brownies, will be held Sat., April 26 from 1 to 3 p.m., in the Community Hall.

CLAREMONT — The ladies of the congregation will be in charge of a special service in the Claremont Baptist Church, Sunday, April 27 at 11 a.m.

MARKHAM — The Markham-Unionville Newcomers' Club will meet Wed., April 30 at 8 p.m., in the Eaton Centre (Sixth Floor), Toronto. The program will take the form of a fashion talk. For tickets call 294-4851.

MARKHAM — How to build a garden pool, the growing of aquatic plants and other related subjects will be discussed at a meeting of the Markham and Dist. Horticultural Society, Mon., April 28 at 7:45 p.m. A spring flower show, a plant and bake sale are also planned. The location - Veterans' Hall, 7 Washington Street.

STOUFFVILLE — Red Cross Blood Donor Clinic, Mon., April 28 from 5 to 8:30 p.m., in the Legion Hall, Ninth Line North.

GREENWOOD — The Shuttlebug Weavers Guild is holding a show and sale, Thurs., May 1 at the Greenwood Recreation Centre from 2 to 5 and 7 to 9 p.m. Admission free.

STOUFFVILLE — Sacred Music Night, Fri., May 2 at 8 p.m., in St. James' Presbyterian Church, Main Street East.

STOUFFVILLE — Paul Simpson will construct and demonstrate pioneer toys at the Town Library, Sat., May 3 at 1:30 p.m. Children may bring a toy for auctioning at an exchange to follow the demonstration.

STOUFFVILLE — Babysitting course in the Town Library, every Tuesday from 7 to 8 p.m., from May 6 to June 24. Registrations for 20 people, 12 years and over. The fee is one dollar.

MOUNT ALBERT — The U.C.W. of Zephyr and Mount Albert will host "The County Town Singers", Fri., May 2 at 8:15 p.m., in the auditorium of Mount Albert United Church.

CLAREMONT — Spring luncheon and fashion show, Wed., May 7 at 1 p.m., in the Claremont United Church. For tickets (\$5) call Isobel Evans at 649-2347.

CLAREMONT — A buy and sell flea market will be held in the Claremont Park, Sat., May 24 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., sponsored by the North Pickering Branch of the Canadian Cancer Society. For booth rentals call Marion Peddie at 649-3012.

STOUFFVILLE — A Drug Awareness Program will be held at Stouffville Dist. Secondary School, Thurs., May 1 at 7:30 p.m. Concerned members of the community are urged to attend.

STOUFFVILLE — The Kinnetta Club of Stouffville will be pumping gas at Post's Sunoco, Main Street West, Sat., April 26 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

STOUFFVILLE — A 70-member band from Parry Sound High School, will present a concert, Thurs., May 8 at 7:30 p.m., in the auditorium at Stouffville Dist. Secondary School. The public are invited.

MARKHAM — Markham Dist. High School will hold its Spring Prom, Fri., May 16 at the Ramada Inn, Consumer's Road, North York. Tickets (including roast beef dinner) are \$37.50 per couple or \$20 per person.

MARKHAM — Markham Dist. High School will present the musical "How To Succeed In Business Without Even Trying", Wed., May 7 through Sat., May 10. Admission - \$3.50 adults; \$3 for students.

STOUFFVILLE — Blossom tour to Niagara-on-the-Lake, sponsored by the Silver Jubilee Club, Thurs., May 8. Departure time - 9 a.m. Cost - \$13 each, dinner included.

STOUFFVILLE — The Wednesday Afternoon Ladies Bowling League will hold their annual banquet, Wed., May 7 at 12:30 p.m., in the Deer Park Inn.

STOUFFVILLE — Stouffville Figure Skating Club will hold their election of officers, Thurs., May 22 at 8 p.m. in Latcham Hall.

MARKHAM — The second annual Spring Festival will be held on Sat., May 24 at the Markham Fairgrounds, 18th Avenue and McCowan Road.

STOUFFVILLE — Anniversary services, Sunday, May 4 at 10 a.m. and 7 p.m., in St. James' Presbyterian Church. Guest speaker - Rev. Don Donaghey with special music.

BROWN'S CORNERS — Anniversary services, Sunday, May 4 at 11 a.m. and 7:30 p.m., at Brown's Corners United Church. Music provided by the church choir and the Murphy family in the morning, and the Cachet Choral Group at night.

BOX GROVE — A dessert luncheon will be held on Wed., May 7 at 1 p.m., in Box Grove United Church, 9th Conc. and 14th Avenue. Guest speaker will be Comore Cleland from the Institute of Astrological Studies.

MARKHAM — The Torchmen Male Quartet from St. Catharines, will attend the evening service at 7:30 p.m., Sunday, May 4 in Wideman Mennonite Church. On Tues., May 6 the choir from Swift Current Bible College will present a special program at 8 p.m.

STOUFFVILLE — Christ Anglican Church, Sunset Boulevard, Stouffville, is the location for a giant flea market, Sat., May 3 from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

MARKHAM — The Markham Guild of Village Crafts is holding an 'open house', Sat., May 3 from 11 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., at 140 Main Street North. Sixteen crafts will be exhibited by members enrolled in the morning, afternoon and evening classes.

MARKHAM — The Alumni Association of the Royal Conservatory of Music (Markham Chapter), will meet, Tues., May 6 at 10 a.m., in the home of Evelyn Whittamore, 11th Concession, north of Steeles Ave.

MARKHAM — The annual meeting of the Markham Skating Club will be held on Wed., May 7 at 8 p.m., in the board room of the Markham Arena, Hwys. 7 and 48.

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