

Weekender

Friends pay last respects

By JIM THOMAS
Editor

Friends said farewell to a friend, Wednesday.

More than 400 mourners, the majority students of Stouffville Dist. Secondary School, filled the Missionary Church to capacity for the funeral of Sharon Watters, Russell Street, Stouffville.

Sharon, 17, died Sept. 29 in Scarborough Centenary Hospital following a tragic two-car collision at the intersection of Conc. 9 and 16th Avenue, Markham. Three others, including the two drivers, were injured.

Fay Minton, director of the O'Neill Funeral Home, described it as one of the largest funerals in her memory. Originally scheduled for the chapel, the service had to be switched to the Missionary Church when hundreds indicated a desire to attend.

One of those in attendance was Chuck Roche, Sharon's Grade 12 Math teacher for whom she had great respect.

One of the six pall-bearers was Kelly Carrick, a passenger in the death car on the night of the accident. Kelly was released from hospital just two days before the funeral.

Many of the students wept uncontrollably during the service at the cemetery. A number re-

mained behind and placed flowers of remembrance on the casket.

Rev. Jim Clubine described the great hurt felt by a cross-section of the community. The tragedy of Sharon's death is heightened by her youth, he said.

"To have friends, one must be a friend. Sharon was a loyal friend. Your presence here today indicates this," the pastor continued.

Rev. Clubine spoke of Sharon's appreciation of her school and her love of children. It was her hope, he said, to assist those less fortunate than herself, particularly children with special needs.

The minister addressed the question on everyone's mind: "Why should someone, with so much potential, be taken from us? Why so senseless a death?"

"Life is a gracious gift from God. Let each of us live it as the gift that it is," he urged.

He also requested those closest to Sharon hold onto and cherish the good memories. "Be thankful we had her among us for as long as we did."

In addition to Kelly Carrick other pall-bearers were Scott Mellor, Doug McQuigge, Murray Pattenden, Bill Hughes and Jim Davis. Interment was made at Stouffville Cemetery.



A 'Golden' opportunity

Blair Seeley, 13 of Unionville wasn't able to go for a spin, but he did try on the helmet and sit on one of the motorcycles prior to Wednesday's performance of the OPP's Golden Helmets at the Markham Fair. With him is Cpl. John Arnold, ride master with the

precision motorcycle group. The Fair continues today and Sunday at its McCowan Rd. and 18th Ave. site.

— Sjoerd Witteveen

Arcade still open despite ruling

A Stouffville arcade operator will go to court rather than comply with a Town by-law limiting the number of machines and the hours of operation.

Council has rejected an application to extend the business hours to include Sundays and increase the number of machines allowed on the premises at 61 Main Street East. A request for a place of amusement licence was also turned down at a meeting, Sept. 24.

"It will hurt business, or else we would reduce the number of machines," said Norm Landry on behalf of his wife,

Lilly-Ann, operator of L & L Family Amusement Centre.

"But we won't close Sundays because it's prejudicial."

According to provisions of By-law 79-92, an arcade can accommodate a maximum of 16 machines. Mrs. Landry's establishment now has 22, but the operator argues this figure takes into account non-mechanical units such as three pool tables.

"If it has to go to court, it will because we have the financial backing to do it," Mr. Landry told The Tribune, adding that it was business as usual last Sunday and will be on future Sundays.

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