

**Active community member**

# The unstoppable Judy Brown

By STEVE HOUSTON  
Staff Reporter

Unionville's Judy Brown has the ability to clean house and read at the same time.

She swims one day a week and adores baking for her family.

She was recently elected the first president of Unionville's Lioness club.

To most, Judy Brown would

seem your average housewife with an active schedule.

Judy Brown is blind.

"I don't suppose any two days are quite the same," said Mrs. Brown, 39. "But I do the average things any wife does like cooking and cleaning and laundry."

She sits in her Village Parkway townhouse with neighbor and friend Caroline Gascoigne, 18.

The two spend afternoons together frequently, enjoying each other's company. They spar, taking verbal jabs at each other and giggle like a couple of school girls.

Mrs. Brown's newest pet name for Caroline is 'Crash' as a result of a Moped mishap earlier this month while Caroline was sun-tanning in Cuba.

"She's special," says Caroline in a conspiratorial whisper while Mrs. Brown talks on the phone. "She had to re-learn everything again, things that the rest of us take for granted."

Mrs. Brown lost her sight when she was 22, a result of complications arising from diabetes. It was a trying time but with the help of the Canadian National Institute for the Blind (CNIB) she came to terms with her condition. She even married Bill Brown, the man from the CNIB who initially visited her.

"The CNIB taught me how to do the things I knew I could do," Mrs. Brown said. "The things I used to take for granted."

The reminiscing finished, Mrs. Brown sets about to whip up a batch of Bill's favorite dessert: Rice Krispie Squares.

She putters around the kitchen using her hands for eyes, measuring quantities, greasing a pan and plopping out marshmallows. It is done with ease, a woman confident in her own surroundings.

All the while, Caroline and Mrs. Brown jabber at each other, still giggling.

Next week's schedule is a busy one for Mrs. Brown. She will attend local schools and talk to children about White Cane Week

and what it is like being without sight. This year's aim is to educate the younger crowd about how to deal with the blind.

She admits attitudes are changing among the 'peepers', those who can see. It was a term coined by husband Bill.

Her latest challenge is the presidency of the local Lioness Club. She would like to initiate more community service projects in the area "with a slightly different focus".

She rejects the notion that sighted people may admire her for her accomplishments and adjustments she has made because of her blindness.

"I don't think about the fact that people might admire me for the things I do because I can't see," she said. "They are things I have learned how to do and now take them for granted."

"I guess it's because it was so long ago that I don't think about it anymore," she added.

Aside from all her accomplishments and activities within the community, Mrs. Brown has one pressing domestic problem she must take up with Bill for the umpteenth time.

"I still have to convince him that I need a mini-maid service around here," she said.



What's for dessert? Judy Brown, a blind Unionville resident, reads over a Braille recipe book to choose a dessert dish for her husband Bill. Judy, 39, lost her sight when she was 22 as a result of diabetes.

## Councillors delay approval of Markham's region seat

Markham and Vaughan will have to wait before getting approval for one more Regional Council representative.

In response to a letter from Municipal Affairs Minister Bernard Grandmaitre asking for Council's support of Bill 22, several members voted to refer the matter back to the administrative committee.

"This hasn't been discussed for

some time," said Richmond Hill Mayor Alan Duffy. "It was felt at the time that no Town be represented by less than two (councillors)...I think it should be looked at again."

He pointed out that he wasn't opposed to Markham and Vaughan receiving the extra Regional seat but was "just concerned about the timing."

Vaughan and Markham repre-

sentatives favored implementing the extra seats and urged members to follow the ad hoc committee's recommendations.

"If we believe in representation by population then we should follow the recommendations of the ad hoc committee," said Councillor Ron Moran.

The matter will come before the administrative committee on Feb. 19.

## Building committee to review new centre

York Regional Council last week authorized its building committee to review and complete space need requirements prior to selecting an architect for a new administrative centre.

Following a study conducted by consulting firm Peat, Marwick and Partners, Council accepted in principle the construction of a 153,000 sq. ft. building in Newmarket.

The new centre would house administrative functions of all

Regional departments and the York Regional Police Force.

The building committee will also study other levels of government that may be accommodated in the new centre.

The newly-structured building committee includes Mayor Carole Bell, Richmond Hill Mayor Al Duffy, King Township Mayor Clarence Jessop, Georgina Mayor John Rogers and Newmarket Mayor Ray Twinney.

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