

Late Stella Claughton

A community pays tribute

By JEAN NAUTA
I wish to pay tribute to one of our Lemonville United Church Women's supporters and a former neighbor in the Lemonville community.

What a wonderful neighbor she was!

Stella Claughton was living the first farm north of Lemonville Church when I first came to know her. She was a hard-working farmer's wife who enjoyed looking after the calves and baby goats as well as performing other duties that go with the profession.

I always enjoyed my visits with Stella when I went to pick up eggs. She took delight in showing our children around the barn.

Dale, Phyllis's son, loved his grandparents very much and they were equally proud of him.

One occasion I vividly recall, was a party hosted by Stella for the neighbors. She was familiar with oyster suppers and often recalled those good times. Stella brought several pails of fresh oysters and heated the milk in large containers on the cook stove. Of course, we all tried the soup, but only the bravest ones dared bolt down the fresh oysters from the half-shells.

Stella made the fluffiest Parker House rolls I ever tasted.

She was always a willing worker. If the U.C.W. was raising money by holding a Strawberry

Festival, Stella would bake pan after pan of fresh rolls. Her pies were equally delicious. She was tireless and extremely generous.

Perhaps the greatest gift Wilbur and Stella Claughton made to the Lemonville community was the donation of land from a corner of their farm, that later became the site of the present Lemonville Ballantrae manse.

A farm of 100 acres, that had never been divided, could qualify for a one-time severance where an additional dwelling could be built.

The community was overwhelmed when Wilbur and Stella made public their offer.

Today, the manse stands south

of the Bloomington Road, a lasting tribute to this wonderful couple.

When her eyesight began to fail and her walking became more difficult, Stella moved to Stouffville. Almost daily, she could be seen making her way along Main Street, always stopping to chat with friends.

Her sense of humor was a recognizable characteristic. Undoubtedly, the ability to smile made her physical difficulties tolerable.

Stouffville reached out and made Stella welcome. However, the family farm at the 7th Concession and the Bloomington Road never seemed quite the same.



For safe-keeping at Town Library

The Stouffville Liberal Women's Association was active in town from 1920 to 1973. The last president was Mrs. Elva Boyd. The last secretary was the late Mrs. Viola McCreight. On Friday, the records were turned over to the Town. They'll be maintained at the Library and the Museum. Holding the last record book is Mrs. Boyd along with Councillor Jim Rae. Members in the Association's final year (1973) were — Vi McCreight, Elva Boyd, Myrtle Watson, Millie Hynes, Lillian Byer, Peggy Lynde, Lena Stanbury, Elizabeth Kamps, Janet McBride, Helen DeWitt, Lucy Sanderson, Agnes Wallace and Anne Lehman.

— Jim Thomas

Spring snow storm

Town roadmen were prepared

By DENISE McDONALD
STOUFFVILLE — Last month's unseasonably mild weather saw many people shed their winter apparel, but away their snow tires and haul out their lawn furniture. However, the Whitchurch-Stouffville Road Department was not so easily fooled. In fact, the staff wasn't at all surprised when Old Man Winter blew back into town with Tuesday's storm.

"We weren't caught off guard when the snow began falling on the Monday night," said Road Supt. Ron Gibson. "We usually get one last blast before the season winds down. Our equipment was still ready. We never once considered putting it away."

According to Mr. Gibson, the road crew received advance warning of the pending storm be-

cause of their hook-up with a radio station in the Region of York.

"We're notified within minutes of any incoming storm and kept up-to-date on all weather forecasts," he explained.

Although the men were out in full force both plowing and sanding, Mr. Gibson claims Old Man Winter's early-spring visit should have little effect on the current road budget.

"This has been a pretty easy winter," he says. "Actually, because we had such nice weather for almost the whole month of March, we're under budget."

Mr. Gibson is letting Mother Nature mop up the remaining slush. By paper day, this week, all the snow should be gone, he says.

At last glance, it looks like he's right, unless...

Oh no, it wouldn't dare!



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