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Hit-and-run tragedy of 1973 to be re-enacted on location

By JIM THOMAS
STOUFFVILLE — There's a marble headstone in the Claremont Union Cemetery that shimmers in the pre-spring sunlight like the memory of a young and vibrant life.
 The engraving reads simply: Cheryl L. Blundell, Oct. 5, 1962 — Feb. 6, 1973, darling daughter of Russ and Bev.
 For little Sheryl, only 10 at the time, death came suddenly. She was struck down and killed by a hit-and-run driver on Main Street West, Stouffville, only two blocks from home.
 The date was, as the grave marker reads, Feb. 6, 1973.
 Fifteen years ago.
 No suspect was ever arrested. The case has never been closed.
 On Tuesday, March 22, the scene will be re-enacted; the

same time, the same place. It's all part of the York Regional Police Department's Crime-Stoppers program.
 "It's a long-shot," admits Constable Gary McBrien, organizer of the tragic chain of events, "but who knows, if we shake a few bushes maybe something will fall out."
 The staged death scene will be broadcast on CITY-TV March 24.
 The role of little Sheryl will be played by Tanya McBrien, Constable McBrien's daughter. A friend of Tanya will take the part of Lynn Sprague, Sheryl's companion on the night of the tragedy.
 Chief Don Hillock, then a detective sergeant and the case's investigating officer, will attend the scene. That portion of Stouffville's Main Street will be blocked off while the re-enactment is taking place.
 Everything will be followed as close to reality as possible, Constable McBrien said. The two girls, walking along the sidewalk, will respond to a motorist's request for directions. As they talk, on the driver's side of the vehicle, the death car appears from the east.
 Cheryl was thrown 30 feet by the impact. She died a short time later in Scarborough Centenary Hospital, despite emergency treatment by Dr. Douglas Brodie and physicians on hospital staff. Dr. Brodie accompanied the victim in the ambulance.
 Lynn was less seriously hurt and has since recovered.
 Time of the tragedy has been

placed at 7:23 p.m.
 The vehicle has been described as an early 1960's full-size Ford, (possibly a 1962), either red or grey in color or a combination of

both. It sustained damage to the hood and passenger side.
 Despite the fact a \$2,500 reward was posted for information leading to the arrest and conviction of

the driver, the crime was never solved.
 Crime Stoppers will pay up to \$1,000. The informant will never be identified. Neither will he/she

have to testify in court.
 The number to call is (toll free) 1-800-387-8477 or 222-TIPS.
 The co-operation of the public is requested.



SHERYL BLUNDELL

Westfield Estates Home-owners flex muscles

STOUFFVILLE — Residents in Phase I of Westfield Estates are keeping pressure on Council in an effort to have their properties brought up to standard.
 In a letter dated March 14 and addressed to Councillor Wilf Morley, the Westfield Estates Ratepayers Association poses 22 questions all related to alleged discre-

pancies in the subdivision agreement.
 Copies of the questionnaire have been sent to MP Sinclair Stevens, MPP Bill Ballinger, York Regional Chairman Eldred King, Town Clerk Co-ordinator Pat Oakes and all members of Whitchurch-Stouffville Council.
 The letter concludes by saying: "We will be requesting space on the agenda of the next Town Council meeting, March 23, 1988, and would appreciate your written response to these questions in time for discussion at this meeting."

On trail

As if Town Council hasn't had headaches enough, The Tribune has learned that Joek Ferguson, The Globe and Mail's super-journalism sleuth is taking a long, hard look at the Westfield Estates situation.
 He's very interested in what's happening here, a Westfield home-owner said Monday.
 A copy of the questionnaire, signed by the Westfield Estates Ratepayers Association and addressed to Ward 5 Councillor Wilf Morley, has been turned over to the writer.
 It's Ferguson who's currently doing a series of articles in The Globe related to ratepayer unrest over residential and industrial land development in the Town of Richmond Hill, York Regional Police and the O.P.P. are conducting a joint investigation into the matter. At the same time, Town Mayor Al Duffy has announced his intention to seek legal action against that newspaper as a result of the story.

Flora McDonald of Cam Fella Boulevard told The Tribune several residents had spent long hours studying the Westfield Estates subdivision agreement. She said the contract contains definite parameters for the builder to have worked within but the Town in many instances had failed to follow these through.
 "There appears to have been negligence in policing this contract," Mrs. McDonald says. "Why was this allowed to happen?" she asks.
 The agreement, she suggests, has all the necessary checks and balances, but many of these were never enforced.
 "Many things seem to have been mishandled," she contends.
 Mrs. McDonald suggests all residential developments would experience similar problems if the same careless practices were employed.
 The Ratepayers preamble to the questionnaire concludes by saying: "We sincerely hope that our investigation into these matters will prove helpful in ensuring that this situation cannot be repeated."

Mailbox tax rebate ridiculous-Mayor

STOUFFVILLE — An Ontario Municipal Board decision that would give property owners "immediately adjacent" to super mailboxes a five per cent tax break, has been described as "ridiculous" by Town Mayor Fran Sainsbury.
 Mayor Sainsbury claims municipalities shouldn't be forced to make tax concessions on installa-

tions that are solely a federal responsibility.
 "York Region will be inundated," she says.
 Mrs. Sainsbury estimates there are 80 such units in Stouffville. "But there are hundreds in Markham and Richmond Hill," she observes.
 Initially, complaints were received from some areas, Mayor Sainsbury recalls, but most of



Ray and Nelle Atkinson and family, Conc. 5, Whitchurch-Stouffville, will soon say farewell to their pioneer farm owned and operated through several generations. Mr. and Mrs. Atkinson, sons Terry and Kevin, and daughters Kerry and Samantha are moving to R.R. 1, Atwood, Ont., near Listowel. Yes, Mandy, the family collie is going along too. — Jim Thomas

Pioneer Bethesda family Their roots go deep

By JIM THOMAS
BETHESDA — After some years and several family generations, the Atkinson family is packing up and moving to a new home. However, Ray and Nelle Atkinson, Conc. 5, Whitchurch-Stouffville are doing it hard.
 They are moving to a new farm at R.R. 1, Atwood, about ten miles from here. The new home is a 100-acre farm.
 Ray and Nelle along with daughters Kerry, 18, Samantha, 11, and son Kevin, 20, will move the end of May. Kevin will stay to complete his Grade 11.
 It appears to be a little sad as the look around the house and garden. The house is a little bit old, but the parents and grandparents are proud of it.
 "I wish I could live here," says one of the grandchildren.
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 "I wish I could live here," says one of the grandchildren.

as a child growing up in the country.
 "It's difficult pulling up roots," says Nelle.
 Both smile, however, when they look to the years ahead.
 "Everything there is geared to farming, much like it was here 20 years ago," explains Ray, who has lived on the farm with a small pond and stream. However, Ray won't be into the maple syrup business that much.
 Several family friends already live in the Atwood area, including three former Bethesda schoolmates, Alan Emphraim, Jim Allison and Don Hoshel. Only one family, a daughter, a son-in-law, Paul Kilham, Ray,INGER and Bruce McDonald.
 Son Terry, with roots from his dad, will operate the farm. He hopes to buy some more land to work on. He'll pass down the farm to his grandkids. They will be associated with the farm for a long time.
 While it's the sad part, the community here is very supportive. It admits its own mistakes. Similarly, it will be understood that the family will be here for a long time.

Industrial Park Overflow of sales

STOUFFVILLE — Stouffville's west end industrial park, developed by A&S Construction, is completely sold out, Ken Sandiford informed The Tribune this week.
 One of several new firms is Cook Canada Inc., currently located on Esna Park Drive, Markham. The company is a distributor of specialty medical supplies.
 Mr. Sandiford says he's not surprised at the demand, noting that, compared to land prices in Markham, this location represents "good value."
 "There's been a lot of action," Sandiford said.
 A&S Construction is proposing a \$4,000,000 four-storey professional office building on the southeast corner of Sandiford Drive and Main. The site contains 3 1/2 acres with parking for 185 cars.
 Mr. Sandiford confirmed his company's purchase of the former Eugene Paisley farm near Lincolnville in Uxbridge Township. He said several firms unable to locate at the Stouffville site had expressed interest in the Lincolnville area.
 This latest acquisition involves both A&S and Don Anderson Haulage Ltd. The Anderson operation has outgrown its ten-acre site in Stouffville, Mr. Sandiford said, and is seriously considering a move. Proximity to the Bloomington Road and Hwy. 404 makes the property very attractive, he concluded.

Road to be widened

STOUFFVILLE — Motorists and pedestrians alike will breathe a sigh of relief when the "bottleneck" on Main Street between Church Street and Park Drive, is eliminated.
 The Ministry of Transportation and Communication has allotted \$23,000 to move back the curb on the north side of Main.
 This will provide additional street space in front of the Post Office where a hazard has existed for years.
 Council was informed of subsidy at a meeting March 8.

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