



**Floral tribute**

Queen of the Furrow Tina Molenaar of Sunderland presents a bouquet to Cheryl Timbers, wife of Canadian Tractor Plough Champion Barry Timbers, at a banquet in Zephyr. The banquet was held April 15 to

honor Barry, of Uxbridge, for his title win and to wish him luck at the World Match near Iowa City, Iowa, in September.

**Gayle Atkinson's wish for Stouffville singles**

**BY BRUCE STAPLEY**  
Like all adults whose marriages fail, Gayle Atkinson has had to start over again.

And the experience has left her convinced there should be a group established in Stouffville to help those finding themselves 'single again' cope with the often crushing aftermath of a broken marriage.

The Stouffville-area mother of two has just returned from a seven-month stay in Calgary, and is enthusiastic about what she saw being done for singles in that western city.

"Calgary has an extremely high divorce rate, mainly due to the unstable economic conditions," she says. "But they are taking action, and accomplishing things in terms of dealing with the issues singles must confront, things like finances, loneliness, grief, rejection, and their place in society."

Stouffville, she feels, would do well to initiate some programs like the ones in Calgary. "The best one I heard of out there was a 10-week course, complete with workbooks, and using (author) Bruce Fisher's Rebuilding as a textbook."

"There were lectures and discussions of the various stages one inevitably goes through after the break-up of a marriage relationship. Everyone had the chance to assess how well they were doing in dealing with those issues in their own lives."

Gayle explains that in Calgary, the churches took the initiative, organizing groups singles could participate in to help themselves and others.

"There was a Lutheran Church running an operation called Christian Singles Alive, which brought in Christian speakers, and ministers with training related to being single. It helped

people deal with what they were going through."

Another church was offering a more politically-oriented program, dealing with such things as child care, housing, financial concerns, getting loans, etc.

She notes that in the past, Stouffville did have a singles' group, but that it was essentially a social organization, and that doomed it to failure.

"I'd like to see a self-help group established in town," she says. "Something that helps singles come to grips with what they are going through. If it's just a social group, people aren't going to grow and learn, and they will probably make the same mistakes socially they have been making on their own."

Gayle maintains that with the right mix of expert help and group discussion, singles can move forward. The holder of a diploma in Business Administration, she has taken a serious approach to her own status, absorbing as much as possible on the subject in an effort to help both herself and others.

She has done career counselling as Seneca College's Coordinator for Continuing Education in the Stouffville area several years ago, and feels this has given her a basic insight into dealing with people on important personal issues.

Gayle would like to see the question of singles and their adjustment brought before the Ministerial in Stouffville.

"I think it should be done in conjunction with the churches. But most ministers do not have any real exposure to the problems encountered by singles, so it is important that singles themselves, along with experts, have input into establishing the group."

As marriage break-up is a relatively new concept for the church to deal with, especially in

Stouffville, Gayle feels it is essential that churches really examine what the Bible has to say about the subject.

"We're talking about relationships, about individuality, and personal freedom. There is a lot that married couples can learn from what singles have gone through."

She makes the point that many singles, lacking adequate support systems among their friends and their churches, inevitably seek the services of a professional counsellor, and that this is both expensive, and inadequate.

"New singles need people around them who understand what they are experiencing. It can be very devastating, very much like the death of a loved one. It affects everything you do."

Gayle is hopeful that a 'single parents' group can be established in Stouffville, catering to the needs of all singles, with or without children.

"Once we get the issues in hand, we could then let the 'social' aspect enter into it. But the issues have to come first. Things like children, working, organizing your life so that you are not always fatigued, in light of the fact you are putting in long hours, and, in many cases, just not able to sleep."

She is quick to point out that she doesn't pretend to have all the answers, but that she has simply taken it upon herself to express an area of great need in the community.

"I just go by what I have experienced personally, and what others I know have gone through. There are steps a single person must take before they can ever hope to be 'whole' again, and these steps are best climbed with other people who understand exactly what you are going through."

*Royal Treatment for Two*

At the Chimo Hotel perfect weekends are our specialty. Experience a great new SUPER DELUXE GETAWAY package, the Royal Treatment for Two. Your weekend includes:

- one night's accommodation (Fri. or Sat.)
- bottle of imported bubbly on check in
- dinner for two
- liquors
- breakfast in your room or, Sunday Brunch in Quincy's Restaurant.

The only thing that isn't Royal about the Royal Treatment for Two is the price. Affordably yours in Markham for \$159. Two night stay for \$229.

For reservations in Toronto call 474-0444. U.S. or Canada call Toll Free 1-800-387-9779.

**Chimo Hotels**  
A FOUR-STAR EXPERIENCE  
Toronto (Markham) Woodbine & Steeles  
Ottawa Queensway (417) at St. Laurent

**FABRICLAND**  
CANADA'S LARGEST FASHION FABRIC DISTRIBUTOR

**LAST 4 DAYS**

**GRAND OPENING Celebration**  
THIS GRAND OPENING CELEBRATION IS TOO BIG TO BE HELD IN JUST ONE STORE, SO WE'VE SPREAD IT OUT OVER OUR 21 STORES IN THE GREATER METRO TORONTO AREA!!!

**800 STEELES Ave. W.**  
(N.W. Corner at Bathurst)  
**738-6959**

**CHAMBRAY Collection**  
Stripes & Solids, 115 cm wide, 100% cotton. Our Reg. 9.98 m  
Grand Opening Special!  
**1/2 PRICE**

**PRINTED CHALLIS**  
90 cm wide, Our Reg. 5.98 m  
Grand Opening Special! **1.99 m**

**TERRY CLOTH**  
90 cm wide, 100% cotton solids. Our Reg. 6.98 m  
Grand Opening Special! **3.99 m**

Special Purchase!  
**ACTIVE KNITWEAR**  
Grand Opening Special! **1.99 m**

**SERGING THREAD**  
4000 m cones. Our Reg. \$4.00  
Grand Opening Special! **2.99 cone**

**PANTYHOSE**  
Imported from U.S. Values of \$6-7  
Grand Opening Special! **99¢ pr.**

Special Selection!  
**COTTON PRINTS**  
115cm wide, 100% cotton & poly/cotton blends.  
Grand Opening Special! **1.99 m**

**PROMOTIONAL BROADCLOTH**  
115 cm wide, 65% polyester, 35% cotton. White available!  
Grand Opening Special! **2.49 m**

**BOTTOMWEIGHT SPORTSWEAR SOLIDS**  
115-150 cm wide, asst. contents. Values to 5.98 m  
Grand Opening Special! **2.99 m**

Special Selection!  
**PRINTED COTTON**  
150 cm wide, 100% cotton.  
Grand Opening Special! **2.99 m**

**PROMOTIONAL EYELET**  
115 cm wide, 65% polyester, 35% cotton. Value of 7.98 m  
Grand Opening Special! **3.99 m**

Special Selection!  
**V.I.P. PRINTS & CUT-OUTS**  
Our Reg. 9.98 m  
Grand Opening Special!  
**1/2 PRICE**

Look for the red tags!

**FABRICLAND**  
CANADA'S LARGEST FASHION FABRIC DISTRIBUTOR

Most items available in all stores.

**8573 McCowan Rd.** North East corner of Hwy. 7 **471-1610**

**SO MUCH FOR SO LITTLE**

**25% off**

**Beat the Heat with Seersucker PJ's**

The coolest kids on the block are wearing fresh, comfortable 1-piece cotton pyjamas from Snugabye.\* Take advantage of Super Savings on colourful all-over prints and stripes. With prices like these, you'd better stock up now!

Sizes 12-18-24 months  
Regularly \$8  
Everyday low price **\$5.50**

Sizes 2-3X  
Regularly \$11  
Everyday low price **\$8**

**YOUNG CANADA**  
greatest selection • lowest prices • no sale is ever final

YORKDALE SHOPPING CENTRE, Toronto  
MARKHAM CITY CENTRE, Markham  
DUFFERIN SQUARE SHOPPING CENTRE, Etobicoke  
THE GOOWVILLE TOWN CENTRE, Mississauga  
SODAS ONE SHOPPING CENTRE, Mississauga  
UPPER CANADA MALL, Newmarket  
DANVILLE SHOPPING CENTRE, Oakville  
WILCEST MALL, Richmond Hill  
OAKVILLE SHOPPING CENTRE, Oakville  
MARKHAM SUPER MALL, Markham  
PICKERING TOWN CENTRE, Pickering

Cash your family allowance cheque and save 15% on any purchase.\*