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A Metroland Community Newspaper

Wednesday, May 11, 1988

New steps ahead for talented dancer

By JIM THOMAS
CLAREMONT — Fourteen-year-old Carrie Limkilde, Victoria Street, Claremont, can't wait for September.

With the arrival of fall, Carrie will enter a whole new world of learning.

She's been accepted into the Claude Watson Program for the Arts at Earl Haig Secondary School, Princess Street, North York.

Carrie's ecstatic.
The Grade 8 student at

Claremont Public School will enrol in a dance major plus art. In addition, she'll take a full range of academic subjects.

Carrie credits staff teacher Lee Harvey with providing the assistance required. "My mother's also been very supportive," she says.

Watercolor landscapes are Carrie's favorite. In dance, ballet and modern are her specialties. She took lessons at the Dance and Drama Workshop, Bullock Drive, Markham.

In Grade 7, she spent two weeks at an art camp in Haliburton.

Recently, her entry was one of two selected as best depicting the upcoming Claremont Sesquicentennial. She received an engraved medallion courtesy the

Claremont Women's Institute.

Carrie admits the course won't be easy. She must maintain a required level of excellence to carry on. But she's determined.

Originally from Fairport Beach, Carrie moved to Claremont at age seven. Although she regrets being separated from her friends this fall, she's hopeful that, by commuting, these associations can be maintained.

In addition to art and dancing, Carrie enjoys camping, swimming and track and field.

Grade 8 graduation is always special. For Carrie Limkilde, it will be extra special. Her diploma will serve as a key to open doors to a whole new world.

"I can hardly wait," she says.



Dancing dreams

Talented young arts enthusiast Carrie Limkilde is on her way to high school to learn more about dance disciplines and art techniques in the fall. She was recently accepted into the Claude Watson Program

for the Arts and Earl Haig Secondary School in Toronto and plans to major in dance. She's seen here with a fitting portrait she painted — ballet slippers. — Jim Thomas

Award
Art Briggs-Jude, formerly of Gormley and now residing at R.R. #1 Westport, Ont., has been named winner of the 1988 Peter McGillen Award.
The prize, in memory of one of Canada's outstanding outdoor writers, is presented annually to an individual who, in the opinion of judges, meets the following criteria: (1) Stimulates interest and appreciation of the outdoors; (2) Stimulates high standards of craftsmanship among professionals concerned with the portrayal of outdoor life.
A cheque in the amount of \$300 will be presented to Mr. Briggs-Jude at the Outdoor Writers of Canada Conference in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia.
Art Briggs-Jude is the author of the column 'Window on Wildlife' that appears weekly in The Tribune's Community Focus section.

Historical Group

Three speakers at Museum

VANDORF — Not one, but three guest speakers will address the May 25 meeting of the Whitchurch-Stouffville Historical Group.

Town historian Jean Barkey; Museum curator Mary Hopkins and Museum curator-designate Karen Edwards have chosen specific subjects that are sure to interest everyone.

The meeting's location is the Town Museum, Woodbine Avenue, Vandorf. The time is 8 p.m.

Jean Barkey will recall the Museum's early history; how it came to be and the present choice of sites.

Mary Hopkins will explain the development of the Museum at Vandorf.

Karen Edwards will describe the Museum's current collection and how the Historical Group can be of help in the future.

The public is invited.

Accidental auctioneer a sales success story



Frank Bennett stumbled into auctioneering several years ago, but he hasn't looked back since. A local auction favorite, he was asked one day to fill in at an auction in Elmvale. With no experience, he took

over and his auctioneering career took off. Today, Bennett is active in his church and offers his services to the needy.

— Jim Thomas

By KATE GILDERDALE
Frank Bennett — the accidental auctioneer — is one busy man.

A well-known local auctioneer, he also buys and sells livestock, breeds animals and puts in many hours donating his services to help others in need.

Frank was born on a farm located on the land now occupied by Cedarbrae Mall in Scarborough. His family moved to Victoria Square when he was 2½, and he has lived in the area ever since.

Twenty-two years ago, he moved to his spacious property on Kennedy Rd. where he raises livestock including rabbits, lambs, cattle and goats.

Frank had been buying and selling livestock for years when he had his first taste of auctioneering, and that was more by accident than design.

He was attending an auction in Elmvale, when he was asked to take over and sell by one of the other auctioneers, who thought he was experienced.

Met the challenge

Unable to resist the challenge, he took over for an hour and was rewarded with compliments all round.

"How long have you been an auctioneer?" inquired the man running the auction. "About an hour," replied Frank.

Despite the fact that he hadn't been to auction school, he landed one of three jobs at the Toronto Stockyards.

"There were 113 applicants and Norm Faulkner and I got two of the jobs," he says.

At that time, Walter Atkinson owned the Stouffville Stockyards and he approached Frank and asked him if he would be interested in working for him there.

"I worked for him the day the auctions started," Frank recalls.

He continued to buy and sell at the Toronto Stockyards, and still spends three-and-a-half days a week in Toronto. He speaks of Walter with great affection. "He's a grand old man," Frank says.

When Walter Atkinson was in his late '50s, Frank and Norm Faulkner approached him and offered to buy the sales barn from him.

Struck a deal

A deal was struck, and when Walter retired at 60 they became joint owners in a partnership that was to last 21 years.

"We didn't have one fight," Frank says proudly. "We always got along very well."

Frank sold his half of the partnership four years ago when Norm Clements took over. He felt it was a good time to get out of the business and the price was right. "I didn't want to wait and have to sell quickly for some reason and end up making a big financial sacrifice," he explains.

A devoted member of Heise Hill

Brethren in Christ Church, and a board member of the church for 16 years, Frank gets involved in charity events on a regular basis.

Every year, on the last Saturday in May, he travels to Kitchen for the huge Mennonite market and quilt auction, where he gives his services free of charge.

"The money raised at the market goes to world relief," he notes. "They have nine auctioneers and I have helped out there for 10 years."

Charity auctions

He is also involved with the Black Creek Pioneer Village quilt auctions, which he has attended for the last seven or eight years. The Christian College in Fort Erie benefits from Frank's help at the fundraising quilt auction they hold on Heritage Day.

"I never charge for a charity auction," he says. "I don't mind doing it at all. Although you do it without expecting anything back, it's amazing how many people approach me and ask if I'll do an auction for them when I'm there."

Frank has auctioned a tremendous variety of livestock goods, including quilts, house contents and, just recently, a house on Elm St.

He had been asked to auction the contents, and he suggested they put the house up as well. The house sold for an excellent price and the owner was delighted with the outcome.

Family man

Despite a hectic schedule and long hours, Frank is very much a family man and he and Grace, his wife of 48 years, speak with pride and love of their two sons and daughters, their grandchildren and one great-grandson.

"Another is on the way," says Grace.

She is an accomplished crafts-woman and makes quilts and pillows, some of which sell through the Care and Share Shoppe and charity auctions.

Frank feels he has been fortunate with his health, although he had to have surgery just over a year ago.

"The surgeon told me I would have to take seven or eight weeks off work," he said. "I got home after six days and a week later I was down in Toronto buying cattle."

When he went for a check-up six weeks later, the specialist told him he could return to work as he was in "excellent shape."

His younger son is following in his father's footsteps and has been attending auction school since January.

"He helps his dad out now," says Grace. "At the house auction he sold for over two hours," Frank notes. "He is doing very well."

Just in case Frank ever finds himself at a loose end, he has kept

up his real estate licence, which he has had for some years, though he admits he doesn't feel at home in office surroundings and "having to get all dressed up."

Barn surprise

His bigger customers rely on him to find what they need when he drives down to the stockyards.

"They never know what they're getting until it's in the barn," he laughs.

Although he talks jokingly about retirement, Frank is a man who will never be happy without something to keep him busy. Auctioneering is more of a passion than a job.

Recalling two occasions when he worked non-stop for almost 10 hours, he says: "It's the kind of job you really have to love, or you just couldn't do it."

With the kind of enthusiasm Frank displays, he'll likely be doing it for many years to come.

Store gains facelift

By KATE GILDERDALE
Most of us enjoy close proximity with friends and neighbors, but Saturday afternoons at Stouffville's old Canadian Tire store often seemed too much of a good thing.

Customer loyalty and good service kept people coming in despite the cramped conditions. Now that loyalty has been rewarded with the grand opening May 3 of a totally renovated store.

Square footage has increased from 5,000 to 12,500, and everything from signs and cash registers to garage equipment has been replaced.

The result is an airy, spacious store with room to browse and a large selection of merchandise to choose from.

On that Tuesday morning at 8:30 a.m., the store was officially opened by Canadian Tire Senior Financial Director Ron Roberts and Stouffville Mayor Fran Sainsbury.

Owner Grant Larmer estimates there were about 100 eager customers waiting outside.

"We had a special on bikes and by 10:30 that morning, all 50 were gone," he said.

"I probably made the first overture (to expand) to Canadian Tire Corporation in 1982," Grant recalls, obviously delighted to have the frustrations of the renovation behind him. "We have spent a long time planning this."

He points out that the last six months have been hard on every-



Stouffville Canadian Tire store owner Grant Larmer is proud as punch with his spacious new facility. After years of close quarters in the store renovations were started. The result, seen here, is a 12,500 square foot outlet with a permanent garden centre — the first in a Canadian Tire store in Canada. — Jim Thomas

Art Briggs-Jude
.../C-6

Tiny dancer
.../C-12

Walter's Top
.../C-12