

# Driver doesn't remember Cause of accident likely never known

By BRUCE STAPLEY  
STOUFFVILLE — The cast's been removed, the healing's ahead of schedule and he'll soon be back at work.

However, for Stouffville's Donnie Wagg, the cause of his single-car accident on Hwy. 47, south of the Bloomington Road near Lincolnville back in March may never be known.

"I don't remember a thing," says the 23-year-old Town of Vaughan firefighter. "The crash occurred between 11:30 and 11:45 p.m. The ambulance arrived shortly after midnight."

When Donnie regained consciousness, he didn't even know what hospital he was in. "I remember asking the patient beside me where I was," he said. Donnie was transported by helicopter from Uxbridge to Sunningbrook so he could have access to the excellent orthopaedic service there.

One leg was badly broken. He also suffered a 16-inch cut on his head.

At first, Donnie thought he'd suffered even more serious injuries.

"When I awoke the next morning, I looked at my leg and said 'oh no,'" he recalled.

The leg remained in traction six days, after which time the doctors operated, inserting a pin in the tibia. Six weeks later, the cast was removed, a month earlier than expected. He'll return to hospital this week for assessment.

As for the blackout, Donnie realizes he'll probably never know what happened.

"A nurse told me that after such a blow to the head, my memory, (of the accident), may never come back."

"This bothered me at first," Donnie admits, "but now I just

figure I'll never know and that's it."

What concerned Donnie more than anything was his future with the Vaughan Fire Department. He was into his eighth month of a one-year probationary period. He feared the injuries might cost him his job.

"I've never been happier. I was afraid I might lose it," he said.

However, he's been told he can return just as soon as he's ready, which should be the end of June. "They look after their people," he praised.

In the meantime, he's been doing some 'light duty' at the head office in the Civic Centre at Maple. This, he feels, will help him better understand another aspect of the position.

Although confined to hospital three weeks, Donnie considered

himself one of the lucky ones.

"At least I was able to get around on crutches," he explained. "There were others there in a lot worse shape than I." Cards and visits helped, he said.

Additional therapy won't be required, Donnie says. "My leg will return to normal on its own."

He's back driving again but readily admits the experience has made him more cautious.

"Not that I was careless before," he states, "but I'm extra careful now."

Donnie admits life's a little boring sitting around the house. He's anxious to return to work, a little wiser for his experience.

"When I attend accidents similar to my own, I'll surely be understanding and sympathetic of the victims," he concludes.

## Student awards

STOUFFVILLE — Stouffville Christian School honored its top senior academic and athletic achievers at a ceremony, June 16.

At the same time, fund-raising efforts by the entire student body were acknowledged.

Principal Wally Robinson was presented with a 'giant' cheque for \$11,762, the amount raised by SCS participants in the Walk-a-Thon, June 2.

Pat Montgomery, originator of the seven kilometer walk, handed the proceeds over to Mr. Robinson. She also presented a Rawlings baseball glove to her own son Andy. Andy's \$413 in pledges was tops for the school.

Top academic honors went to Stephanie Lane. Stephanie received Grade 9 awards in

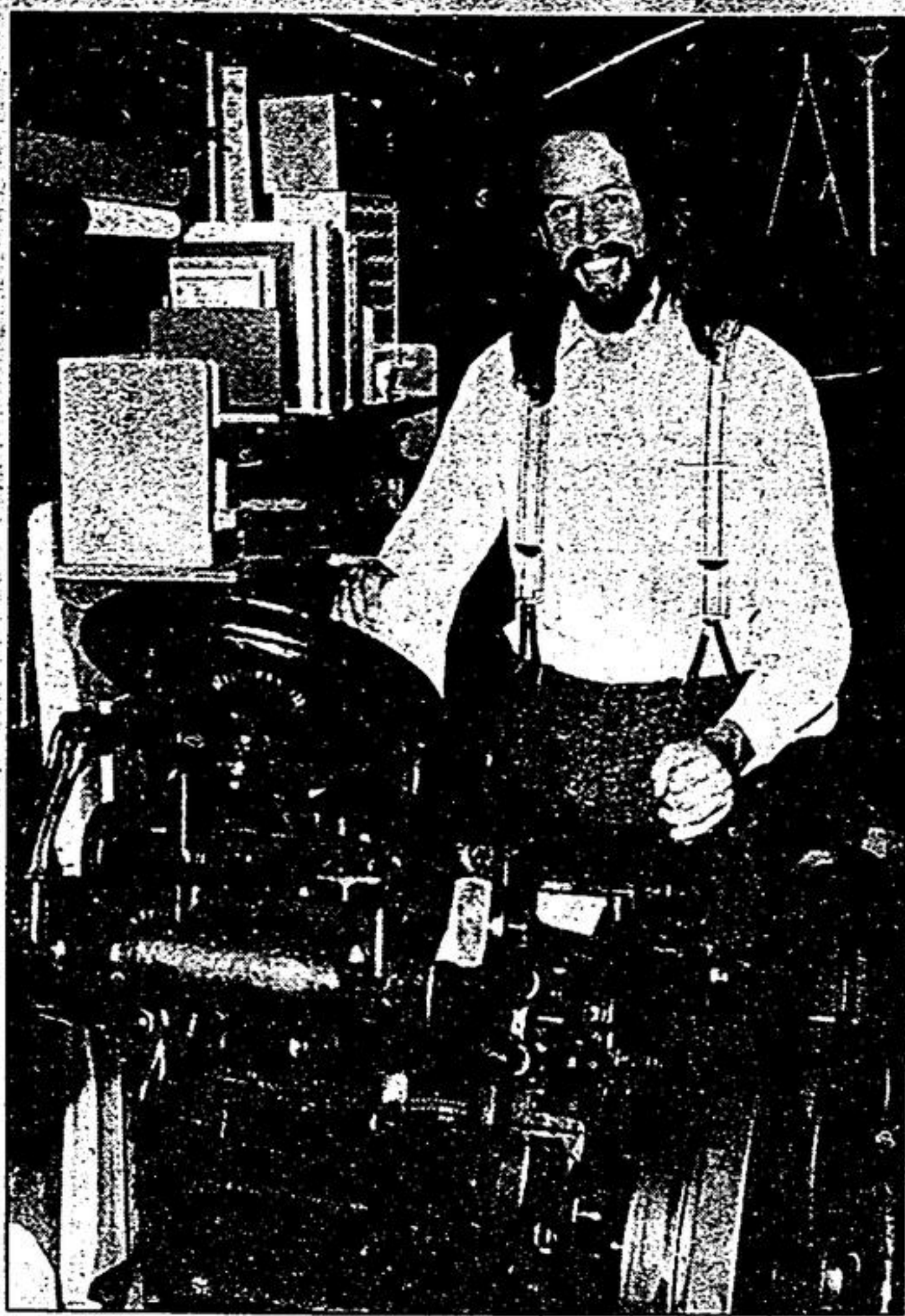
Mathematics, Science, English and History.

Meredith Robinson, (Grade 7) and Lisa Robinson, (Grade 10), each received three awards while Jeremy Wideman, (Grade 8), and Shelly Wideman, (Grade 10), were presented with two subject awards apiece.

Awards for excellence in athletics went to — Glenn Tunstall, Deborah Butcher, Jason Pascoe, Andy Kendall, Marieke deBoer and Steve Groat.

Athletic 'Victory Medallions' were won by — Shane Griffin and Marieke deBoer, (Grade 7); Steve Groat, (Grade 8); Jason Clubine, (Grade 9) and Jason Pascoe and Deborah Butcher, (Grade 10).

The school's prestigious 'Bob Stover Athletic Award' was presented to Jason Pascoe.



Hand-fed press from the past

Stephen Sword, Main Street East, Stouffville, owns a unique Westman and Baker hand-fed jobbing press. They were manufactured between 1874 and 1920. Mr. Sword comes by the interest honestly. His grandfather operated the Rivers Gazette in Rivers, Manitoba. The press, in almost new condition, was obtained from Upper Canada College, Toronto.

—Jim Thomas

## Milestone for couple

Fifty years ago, (1938), William Barkey and Hazel Bell were married. On Saturday, July 30, Mr. and Mrs. Barkey will celebrate their Golden Wedding Anniversary.

Their family is arranging an 'open house' from 2 to 4 p.m., in Cannington Baptist Church. Former neighbors and friends from the Markham-Stouffville area are invited.

Prior to her marriage, Hazel (Bell) resided on 17th Avenue between Concessions 9 and 10, Markham.

In announcing their upcoming anniversary reunion, Mrs. Barkey writes:

"Although we are not subscribers to The Tribune, a good friend passes it on to us regularly. We enjoy it very much and would like to commend you on the high calibre of articles. The write-ups about the lives and accomplishments of so many people we know are special. There are so many things that remind us of the days when we once lived in the Ninth Line — Dickson's Hill area. I'm the oldest of 'the Bell girls' who once resided on the sideroad east of the Art Hoover farm. In 1938, William Barkey and I were married. We're celebrating our 50th wedding anniversary, July 30 from 2 to 4 p.m., in Cannington Baptist Church. Would you please have the announcement published in both The Tribune and the Markham Economist and Sun. Thank you."

## Life of Collette witness to others

STOUFFVILLE — On May 10, 1986, Collette Babineau underwent surgery and received a new heart.

On July 3, 1988, Collette passed away in Toronto Western Hospital, two years and 58 days following the operation. She was 25.

It was at age 14 that Collette's heart problem was diagnosed. Kevin Leonard, a first cousin, told mourners attending the funeral service, Thursday, in Stouffville Missionary Church.

Despite physical difficulties both before and after surgery, Collette saw these problems as a challenge and accepted life with enthusiasm, Kevin said.

"Even her best days weren't easy ones," he stated.

Kevin told of his closeness to Collette, how they attended the same public school and the same church.

"She was constantly cheerful," he said, "determined to overcome all difficulties."

Kevin described Collette's love for husband Jeff; parents Albert and Meryl; sister and brother-in-law, Marla and Kevin Fraser and brother Darryl. He recalled how she enjoyed getting together for family reunions and other special occasions.

In 1975, Collette and her family moved to Cardif, Ont., where she continued her education. Following graduation, she returned to Stouffville where she met and later married "a very special young man".

While living here, Jeff and Collette were members in the congregation of Markham Missionary Church. They later moved to Minden where Collette received much joy and satisfaction from their new home, Kevin said.

Kevin described Collette's new heart as "a miracle of life". In addition, he said, she received a new spiritual heart.

Kevin described the impact Collette had on nursing staff and doctors. She continually provided encouragement to those with similar problems. She always made it a practice to deliver flowers to other patients, he said.

"She was a beautiful person, a committed Christian, a witness to many."

"She'll live on in our memories," he stated, "she's now in the arms of Jesus Christ."

Rev. Grant Sloss described the heartbreak felt by all who'd come to know and love Collette. He said although her home church pastor only a short time, he'd always cherish those times spent with Collette in hospital.

At the beginning of the service, a solo was played, taped by Collette's mother, entitled "Over the Sunset Mountains". The funeral concluded with the singing of Collette's favorite hymn, "Amazing Grace".

Pall-bearers were — Neil Wideman, Eldon Wideman, Calvin Knights, Jim Brodie, Paul Wilson and Ken Leonard. Interment was made at Stouffville Cemetery.



Super blood donor praises Legion Ladies

Sheila McLeod of the Whitchurch-Stouffville Public Library staff reached a milestone, Friday. She attended the Red Cross Blood Donor Clinic for the 36th time and was honored for her support. Sheila received a lapel badge and certificate. "It's

kind of nice lying down in the middle of the afternoon," she joked. She praised the Legion Ladies Auxiliary for their Clinic sponsorship describing them as "marvellous folk." The presentations were made by Aurelia Smith, Rose Avenue.

—Jim Thomas

## The Stouffville Tribune

Wishes to thank the following participants for their support of the 1988 'Citizen of the Year' recognition ceremony

- M.P.P. Bill Ballinger
- York Regional Chairman
- Eldred King
- The Town of Whitchurch/Stouffville
- The Chamber of Commerce
- The Legion and Legion Ladies' Auxiliary
- The Stouffville Lions Club
- The Stouffville Lioness Club
- Ballantrae & District Lions Club
- Silver Jubilee Club
- Canadian Progress Club

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### NOTICE

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### REMEMBRANCE DAY

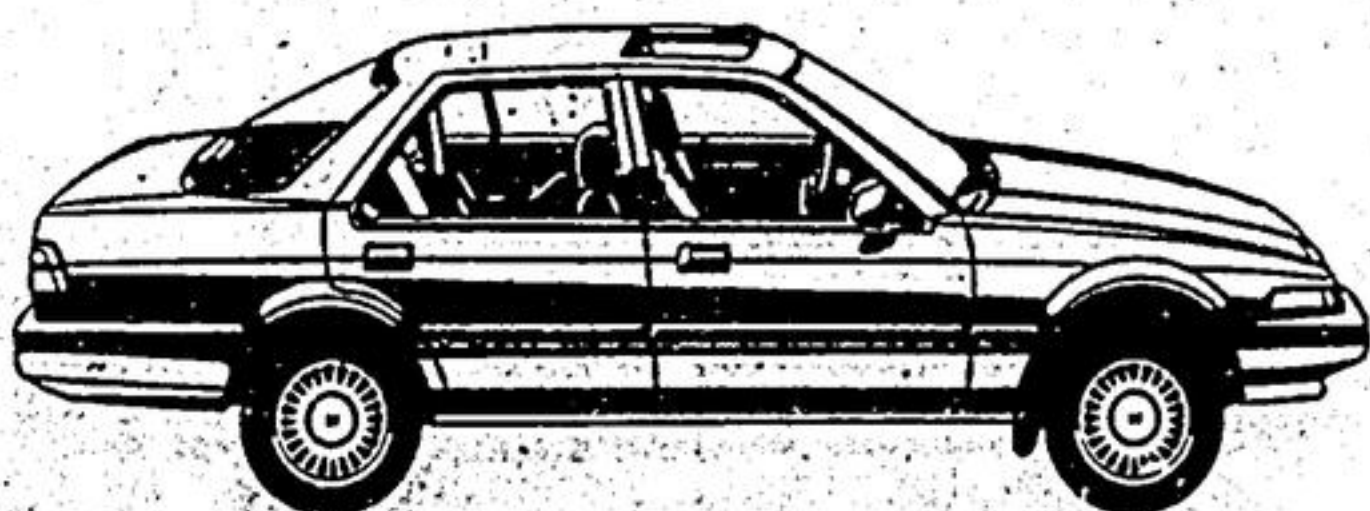
In keeping with our commitment to extend the best possible service to our members, the board of directors has decided to provide regular hours of business on Remembrance Day.



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