

Homecoming for Stouffville pastor

By KATE GILDERDALE
 When Rev. Glen Gibson accepted the post of pastor at Stouffville Missionary Church, it was very much a homecoming for the man who spent most of his early life here. "My parents moved to Stouff-

ville when I was about a year old," he states. "They decided this was a better place than Toronto to raise a family." He attended Summitview, Orchard Park and the High School, leaving after graduation to attend bible college in Kitchener for four years, from 1971-75.

"As a youngster, Rev. Gibson played minor hockey and softball, and was president of the student council in his last year at the High School.

"My parents lived here until they passed away, my father in 1984 and my mother in 1983," he says. During the summers when he was at college he would often come back and visit them.

After graduation, he took a post as pastor in the Kitchener-Waterloo area where he ministered for ten years. "Since 1985, I was at our denominational head office in Kitchener, in charge of starting new congregations and serving as church consultant," he recalls.

One reason he returned to Stouffville was that his job involved a good deal of travelling, which took him away from his family.

"My children are on the edge of the teenage years and I felt it was important to settle down again for a while," he notes. "We knew that this area, being in one of the fastest growing regions of the country, was a prime place to set-

tle into a pastoral ministry and help the congregation serve its growing community."

With his three years' experience of setting up congregations in similar circumstances, it seemed a natural progression. He has found himself in a healthy and enthusiastic church community.

"We have 350 worshippers on a Sunday morning in two services. In North America, less than 10% of churches would have that many worshippers on a Sunday."

Stouffville Missionary Church had been without a senior pastor for over a year. "They had an interim pastor who did the preaching," explains Rev. Gibson, adding that this will be one of his areas of responsibility. The other two pastors cover visitations, seniors and youth ministry and Christian education.

At present, Rev. Gibson is working in a part time capacity at Stouffville Missionary Church. "I am also working part time for our district office until the end of the year." He is able to work from Stouffville, visiting the office in Kitchener twice a month.

When he has time to spare, Rev. Gibson enjoys golfing, racquetball, hunting and fishing. "I haven't played hockey or softball for several years, but I hope to pick those up again," he comments.

Rev. Gibson's two children, Becky and Paul, are settling in at Orchard Park Public School, and he and his family are already starting to feel at home here. With the prospect of renewing old acquaintances and meeting new friends, "It feels good to be back in Stouffville," he says.



Rev. Glen Gibson feels right at home as the new pastor of Stouffville Missionary Church.

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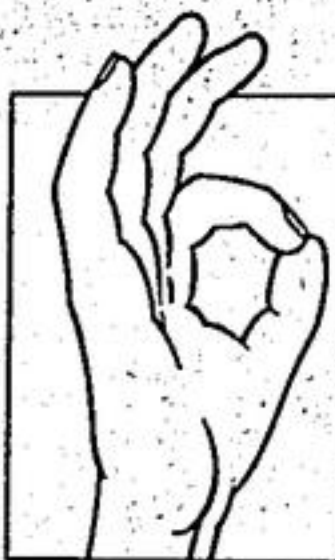
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Large crowd turns out for big auction

More than 800 people turned out to buy more than 600 items at the largest furniture auction ever held at the Wilson Sales Barn in Uxbridge on Saturday.

The sale was held for the contents of the home of Gwen and Bruce Stephens, located just off Durham Rd. 23 east of Uxbridge. Auctioneers were Neil Bacon and Keith Wilson.

Over 540 cards had been given out by 5 p.m. and since husbands and wives share a ticket, Wilson's employee Jim Huff estimates that number of potential bidders at between 800 and 1,000.

"It has gone very well," he said. He estimated that more than 600 had been sold — many of them high quality items such as art, furniture, lamps and a large grandfather clock.

Ollie Wilson, who was busy registering an endless stream of potential buyers, was delighted with the turnout. She attributed that to the high quality and excellent condition of the sale items.

The auction started at 10 a.m. and by 10:45 the parking lot was overflowing and bidding was well underway.

Two highlights of the sale: a 19th century dining room suite sold for \$8,000 and an antique oil lamp brought \$1,000.

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