

# Senior, 84, is a driving force

In the 10 months Edwin Raymer has driven for Home Support Services, he's clocked more than 100 journeys, taking local seniors on various errands, from hospital appointments to shopping trips.

Born and raised in Markham Township, Mr. Raymer moved to Montreal with his company more than 40 years ago. When his wife died in 1986 after 59 years of marriage, he decided to come back to the area where they both grew up.

"I have a lot of relatives here and didn't see any point in staying alone in Montreal," he says.

He feels his decision was the right one. "I chose Stouffville because I knew it from years back and it's still the way the old towns used to be. I find the people so friendly and helpful."

No stranger to helping others, Mr. Raymer was a driver for the Volunteer Bureau in Montreal for 15 years.

The Bureau offered help for different groups of people, including disturbed teenagers. One of his jobs was to drive them to a bowling alley once a week.

"They once said to me, 'Are you going to wait or come back?'" recalls Mr. Raymer. "I said 'No, I want to bowl with you,' and I did so for more than 14 years."

He also became involved in Meals on Wheels and drove cancer patients to their hospital appointments.

It wasn't long after he arrived in Stouffville he read about Home

Support Services, and decided to offer his help.

"I didn't know if they needed anyone or whether they'd take a senior to look after other seniors," he comments. "But they accepted me. I went in on a Friday and Jean Anderson immediately said: 'When can you start?'"

The following Monday saw his first day with Home Support and he says there hasn't been a dull moment since.

"Yesterday I took two people out in the morning and I've just had another call for a drive."

He doesn't like to start too early, "at least not before six o'clock in the morning," he smiles.

One of the most enjoyable aspects of his work, Mr. Raymer says, is meeting old friends or their relatives from his early life. While talking to one of his passengers, he discovered she'd been at school with him.

"I said to her, you used to go to Dickson Hill School in 1917 didn't you? I remember you, you were the most popular girl in the class."

Mr. Raymer says he doesn't mind where he goes or what the weather's like.

"I don't mind driving into the city; I've been driving in Montreal since 1970," he says.

In bad weather, people are surprised he still goes out. "People are depending on me; I don't mind bad weather."

Now he spends much of his life in his car, something he plans to continue as long as possible.



Photo / JIM THOMAS

At 84, Edwin Raymer is literally a driving force behind Stouffville's Home Support Services. He happily transports older and ailing residents to hospital or shopping appointments and loves his volunteer position. A Markham native, Mr. Raymer moved back to the Stouffville area to be closer to his relatives after his wife died in 1986.

"I think more people should be involved in helping others. If I didn't do this, what would I do? I wanted to help people, but I also wanted something to do."

He urges anyone with spare time to get in touch with Home Support.

At 84, Mr. Raymer would like to see more healthy seniors become involved in the program.

He'd also like to tell newcomers who may need assistance Home Support is just a phone call away.

"I can do this work at my age because of God's goodness," concludes Mr. Raymer. "He's given me the strength and the health to carry on."

For further information on Home Support Services call Ginny Burrow at 640-6554 or 640-6563.

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## WHO IS THIS FAMOUS PERSON?

Many of you will recognize this gentleman as Antoine Darcy, who for 17 years owned Antoin's French Restaurant in Toronto.

Those of you who have been fortunate enough to dine in his restaurant will surely remember the pate which was invariably served as a complimentary appetizer. So many of his patrons asked if and where they could get this pate that he was forced to offer it for sale at one of Toronto's leading fine food shops.

The rest is history, as they say. It is now offered at over 75 shops and restaurants in and around Toronto. Indeed, it has become so

popular that Antoine decided to close his restaurant in order to concentrate solely on the production of this pate.

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