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Kennedy Fund over \$26,000 and climbing

By KATE GILDERDALE
STOUFFVILLE — The Ernie Kennedy Fund exceeds \$26,000 and climbing.
At last report, the figure totalled \$26,100.62. Donations are still being received at the Imperial

Bank of Commerce and Scotia Bank, Main Street, Stouffville. Fund organizers, Frank Busato, Paul Ramer and Ed MacAloney have also been going door-to-door.
"Incredible" is the way Dianne

Kennedy, Ernie's wife describes support.

"The neighbors have been really helpful. Friends have taken Heather and Karen out different days and keeping them busy. Barb Hie has been fantastic. She and Merv have been driving me back and forth (to hospital) every day."

Mr. Kennedy, 42, Tenth Line South, lost both arms in a tragic accident, Dec. 13, at Lee Sand and Gravel Co. pit, Ninth Line North. He's a patient in Toronto General Hospital.

"We're taking it a day at a time," Dianne stated. She described her husband as "improving daily and in good spirits."

Formal therapy hasn't yet begun, Mrs. Kennedy said, but it's been discussed.

Because veins were removed from his legs during unsuccessful reattachment surgery, therapy is also required to get him walking again, she explained.

Dianne praised the kindness of Century Limousine Service of Ballantrae. They transported the Kennedy family to and from hospital Christmas Day.

"The girls were really tickled," she said. Five additional round trips have been offered, all free of charge.

"We're still getting used to being on the receiving end of such generosity," Dianne continued. "We've always enjoyed helping others, now everyone's helping us. We're overwhelmed."

Dianne hasn't missed a day at hospital. She arrives around ten in the morning and stays until six at night.

"I give him his lunch and do whatever I can," she says. She's also learning how best to cope once Ernie comes home.

Meanwhile, the outpouring of community concern continues with various fund-raising events planned. Mark Forrester, a full-time firefighter at Markham and a volunteer with Stouffville, is hosting a benefit dance, Jan. 27 at the Ballantrae Community Centre. The majority of tickets were sold days after the announcement, but a few are being held in reserve for close family friends.



A pair of firsts

Ernie Kennedy, 42, Tenth Line South, lost both arms in a tragic accident, Dec. 13, at Lee Sand and Gravel Co. pit, Ninth Line North. He's a patient in Toronto General Hospital. The photo shows his wife Dianne and their children, Heather and Karen, with their newborn baby.



Stouffville's first

John Lord of John Lord's Books, the best Christmas I've ever had. Beav Arnold of The Snowbird reported a definite upswing in sales over the same period last year when the store was new to town.

Most merchants report good Christmas sales

By KATE GILDERDALE
STOUFFVILLE — Stouffville merchants were generally pleased with Christmas business, a Tribune survey revealed.
"Absolutely fantastic," said John Lord of John Lord's Books, "the best Christmas I've ever had."

Bev Arnold of The Snowbird reported a definite upswing in sales over the same period last year when the store was new to town.

"We welcomed many from out-of-town as well as from in town," Sandra Stronach of Freckles said. A number, she said, are returning on a regular basis. "We had a good year," she concluded.

Irene Kubica of Graylanc Boutique said "we're quite happy."

Tom Thomson reported sales at The Villager up over last year, but Josephine's "softer" than usual. Thomas', a specialty tea, coffee and gourmet foods store, has been a decided success, he claims.

"Things were really jumping over Christmas," he said. "We're happy," replied Sam

Orlovski of Jardine Jewellery. Electronics and More, at Stouffville Place Mall, "enjoyed excellent Christmas sales, Zainab Ahmed told The Tribune. Watches and remote control cars were especially popular, and not just with children, he stated.

"Christmas week was fantastic," replied Carol Thirgood at House of Linen, also in Stouffville Place Mall.

Luigi Gatti, owner of Dapper Man said business "wasn't too bad." He expects an improvement in 1989.

"We've only been here two months," he explained. Colleen Steward of Wheels Entertainment described business as "booming." "We did very well," she smiled.

Mr. Roberts' gifts, treasured by members of staff, is his way of showing appreciation for inclusion in the Stouffville Magazine, published by The Tribune-Economist & Sun last spring.

Plan for Festival

STOUFFVILLE — Nothing would seem more remote than July activities in January. However, Strawberry Festival chairman Gary Fisher is already thinking six months ahead towards Whitchurch-Stouffville's biggest annual event.

"We're going with all the successful activities of last year," Gary explains, plus additional attractions for seniors.

For the kids, skateboard and BMX competitions are likely.

As treasurer of the York-Durham Railway Club, Gary hopes to offer children's rides on the same steam engine featured in December's Santa Claus Parade. The site of the old arena would be ideal, he says.

Gary's anxious for new ideas. He'll welcome these when the Festival Committee holds its first monthly meeting at 7:30 p.m., Wed., Jan. 11 at the Rec. Centre.

Native resident

STOUFFVILLE — Service was held Tuesday from the O'Neill Funeral Home, Stouffville, for Gertrude Lillian Byer, following her passing, Dec. 29 at Parkview Home. She was 93.

Mrs. Byer, the former Gertrude Kendrick, was born at Lot 31, Conc. 6, (19th Avenue), Markham, a member of a well-known pioneer family.

Mrs. Byer and her husband, the late Nelson Byer, lived at 188 Main Street East, Stouffville, near Summitview School. She was extremely alert despite her advanced years and possessed a keen sense of humor.

Surviving is one son, Harry Brown of Wolfville; one daughter, Margaret Holder of London; four grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. Spring interment will be made at Stouffville Cemetery.

Teach values

STOUFFVILLE — A program, unique to Stouffville, will be introduced to the Grade 6 students of St. Mark's Catholic School and Summitview Public School, Jan. 11.

It's called V.I.P. This stands for Values, Influence and Peers. The hosts are York Region Board of Education and the York Region Police Department.

So far, 70 elementary and separate schools are involved across York Region with participation by up to 12 police officers.

P.C. Wayne Snooks is the liaison constable here. The program is province-wide in scope.

So that mothers and fathers are aware of what's involved, a parents-only meeting is planned for Wednesday, (to-night), at St. Mark's at 8 p.m.

It's for Grade 6 classes only. Constable Snooks stressed, with only pupils from St. Mark's and Summitview involved.

Traffic lights at no town cost

STOUFFVILLE — Automatic traffic lights are being installed at the intersection of Main Street West and Palmwood Gate. They're not costing the Town a cent.

The expense, estimated at \$75,000, will be covered in full by Cable Tech Co. Ltd., and McNeil Pharmaceutical (Canada) Ltd.

The management of both firms see the lights as a necessity to improve access to and exit from their plants.

Suggestions of an off-duty police constable or staggered working hours were rejected.

It was originally hoped to have the lights in place by Christmas, Town engineer Paul Whitehouse told The Tribune. The time schedule has since been postponed to mid-January, he said.

The Town, he explained, still plans to proceed with the erection of traffic lights at the intersection

of Winona Drive and Main West and the re-location of lights from mid-downtown to the intersection of Main, Market and Mill Streets. These projects will be completed this year, Mr. Whitehouse promised.

Injured
A Cedar Valley area man suffered a badly injured left hand Thursday when he was caught up in a conveyor at the Newtonbrook Block & Supply Co. Ltd. plant, R.R. 1, Gormley.
Kenzie Lloyd, 50, is a patient in Toronto General Hospital.
Two fingers were crushed, one finger was broken and part of a thumb had to be amputated.

Town businessman making good recovery

STOUFFVILLE — It was indeed a happy New Year for Don and Gina Jackson and family, Stuart Street, Stouffville.

Don spent the weekend at home, obtaining a temporary release from Sunnybrook Hospital following amputation of his lower left leg.

Don, co-owner of Stouffville Travel, Main Street West, suffered the injury when he fell six storeys from a hotel balcony in Porte of Spain, Trinidad.

When Don answered the phone

from his hospital bed at Sunnybrook, he announced himself as "Cactus Jack".

"That's what my friends have been calling me lately," he chuckled, explaining how a cactus tree broke his fall.

Instead of feeling sorry for himself, Don's just happy to be alive.

Losing my leg is small potatoes compared to losing my life," he states.

Last Thursday, Don was transferred to St. John's Convalescent Hospital where he'll be fitted with an artificial limb. Therapy will then begin.

Physicians attribute his quick recovery to a positive attitude.

"I have a wonderful wife and

family — a lot to be thankful for," Don claims.

The experience, he says, has brought him closer to God.

"I've been through a lot," he admits. At one point, he was certain all was over.

Don hopes to complete his treatments at St. John's as an out-patient. He plans to drive back and forth.

Both Don and Gina have been overwhelmed by an outpouring of support from the community.

"We want to say thanks to our many friends. I hope to be home by mid-January. I'm in good spirits," Don claims.

Gina says her husband's anxious to again get back behind the desk and resume regular duties as before.

House saved

VANDORF — When Sandra Cahill heard loud pounding on the front door of the family's West Park Boulevard home Wednesday, she was 60, frightened to respond.

Only the warning of "fire-fire!" prompted her to react. She then learned the attached garage was ablaze.

Painters Manuel Oliveira and son Rick, working on a new house across the road, saw the smoke and flames. They warned the owner.

"My wife was too afraid to let them in," husband Chris Cahill

told The Tribune. He said Sandra and son Matthew, 5, were unaware of the fire.

The Aurora and Whitchurch-Stouffville Fire Departments dispatched seven units to the scene. Their quick response plus a fire wall between the garage and house, prevented the flames from spreading.

The garage was destroyed and the adjoining laundry room suffered smoke and water damage.

The Cahill family moved to Blue Spruce Estates, Vandorf, in June, 1987.

Skate out old year
Page A-3

Christmas visitors
Page A-5