



Julie Wells, R.R. 4, Stouffville, has made a complete recovery following a serious horseback riding accident one year ago. The mishap hasn't deterred her equestrian interests. She still goes riding almost every day. Julie is a registered nurse on the staff of Grace Hospital, Scarborough. —Jim Thomas

A complete recovery Can't keep this girl down from her horse

By KATE GILDERDALE WHITCHURCH — Despite a serious injury sustained in a horseback riding accident one year ago, never for an instant did Julie Wells consider giving up her favorite pastime.

Although she remembers little about the near-tragedy, events leading up to it are clear in her mind.

"I was riding at my father's place on McCowan Road, south of 19th Avenue," she recalls. "It was a cold day and the track was hard."

The horse, a gift from a friend, was a good-natured, gentle animal but prone to stumbling.

Suddenly, he went down and Julie struck her head. She wasn't wearing a helmet at the time.

Julie believes she was also hit by one of the horse's hoofs as he scrambled to regain his balance.

Doctors found two separate injuries.

"It happened at my mom and dad's. Fortunately, help arrived quickly. Dad saw the horse running back to the barn," she said.

Julie was taken first to York Central Hospital, Richmond Hill, and then to Sunnybrook Hospital, Toronto, where she underwent a CAT scan.

There was some hemorrhaging and swelling in the brain, Julie was told later. She spent a week in intensive care.

"I don't remember anything of the time I was there, but I recall being moved to the second floor," she says.

Although her memory returned after the first week, she still had trouble speaking.

"I could understand people, but I couldn't talk. It made me angry. I knew I was getting better, but it was so frustrating," she admits. She also had trouble seeing properly for about a month.

"At first, they said I might never be normal. They believed I'd have occasional serious headaches and suffer losses of memory, but I never did. I was back at work in two months."

Julie's a registered nurse on the staff of Grace Hospital, Scarborough.

When she visited a neurologist for a check-up in April, he told her everything was fine.

Julie and husband Ken, married almost one-and-a-half years, reside on a beautiful dairy farm at the south-west corner of Bloomington and McCowan Roads in Whitchurch-Stouffville. It's here, she keeps her own horse.

For Julie, riding's a recreation she's enjoyed all her life, and serious accident notwithstanding, she has no intentions of giving up now.

Editor's Mail

Growth brings benefits

Dear Editor:

I'm prompted to write this letter after attending Stouffville High School's band concert at the Markham Theatre, Dec. 1.

During the intermission, I heard many people remark on the beauty of the facility, usually concluding with "I wish Stouffville had something like this."

One of the persons who ventured this comment, is the same individual who, time and time again has said — "I don't want Stouffville to become another Markham". His reference, of course, is to population build-up. He obviously wants Stouffville to remain "small town", or at least smaller than Markham.

If this person would only stop and think for a moment, the reason Markham has a beautiful theatre, (that Stouffville High is forced to rent), is because of growth.

Stouffville can't have its cake and eat it too. Either we remain small and do without such services or we grow and acquire them.

Personally, I become a little

wary of folks who wish for the moon but have their heads buried in the sand.

Gordon P. Boothe,
Alderwood Crescent,
Stouffville

some personal sacrifice, they refuse to do so.

Here was an instance where people in authority could have shown some fiscal leadership. Instead, they only substantiated the fact that they too enjoy dipping their hot little hands in the public purse.

Sincerely,
(Mrs.) Janet McDonald,
Felcher Boulevard,
Ballantrae

Trustee praised

Dear Editor:

Through your newspaper, I wish to congratulate Harry Bowes, our local trustee, for attempting to roll back the "honorariums" of York Region Board of Education members.

It was a valiant effort.

On one hand, we have educators who continually moan and groan over escalating costs and government cut-backs. Yet, when it comes to performing

some personal sacrifice, they refuse to do so.

Here was an instance where people in authority could have shown some fiscal leadership. Instead, they only substantiated the fact that they too enjoy dipping their hot little hands in the public purse.

Sincerely,
(Mrs.) Janet McDonald,
Felcher Boulevard,
Ballantrae



Bill and Sandy Attewell hold 'open house'

On Saturday afternoon, Bill and Sandy Attewell, Blue Spruce Estates, Vandorf, held an open house for friends in the Markham Riding area. MP and his wife, (right),

warmly greeted each of their guests including Charles and Ruth Warden, Wesley Corners, R.R. 1, Gormley.

—Jim Thomas

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