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## Accident takes life of amputee Ernie Kennedy

By BRUCE STAPLEY  
Correspondent

Ernie Kennedy, who lost both his arms in a gravel pit accident in December 1988, died after a fall at his home in Teeswater, near Hanover, Saturday. He was 49.

Kennedy, a former Stouffville resident, had his arms severed while working on a pit site conveyor for Lee Sand and Gravel in Stouffville Dec. 13, 1988. The arms were reattached, but had to be amputated several days later.

Kennedy was a 15-year employee of the local gravel company.

A trust fund started by Kennedy's friends and Stouffville residents Frank Busato, Paul Raymer and Ed MacAloney had rallied support of the Stouffville community for Kennedy and his family in the months following the accident.

Kennedy, regarded as a good friend and father by those who knew him, moved to Teeswater in 1991 to be near

his mother and four brothers. He had been fitted with artificial limbs and was employed as a parts truck driver at the time of his death.

According to Murray Couperthwaite, Kennedy's long time friend and former neighbor on Ninth Line Stouffville, Kennedy had shown admirable character in fighting back after the loss of his arms.

"I was amazed at how well he handled it," said Couperthwaite.

"He accepted it better than most people would have. He had a terrific attitude."

Couperthwaite said Kennedy had been fitted with a device which allowed him to drive a tractor on a Teeswater area farm.

He drove the parts truck on runs as far as Toronto. "It's amazing how he was able to do things. He was a wonderful guy."

Kennedy leaves his wife Diane, daughters Heather, 16, and Karen, 14, of Stouffville, along with his mother Kay and brothers Don, Ken, Kevin and Bob of the Teeswater area.

The funeral was held in Teeswater Tuesday. He was to be buried in that town as well.



### Great garden

Arthur Gray's winning garden was the scene for this photo featuring, clockwise from left, Ballantrae and District Lioness, Joan Tillyer, Lion

Gerry Stone, Lion President Harold Tillyer, Patricia Gray, Arthur Gray and their grandson Dylan Lippert, 3.

Photo: SJOERD WITTEVEEN

## Ballantrae gardeners honored

The search for the green thumb with the special touch in Ballantrae and surrounding district is over.

A four-member judging committee has chosen Arthur Gray's as the top winner of the Beautiful Garden Contest, sponsored by the Ballantrae Lions' Club.

Second place winner is Stephen Cluss. Picking up a third place win is Wendy Monteibh. Honorable mention goes to Kathy Spielsbury.

Ruth LeBlanc, vice president of the Ballantrae Lions' Club, said that in the quest to find the very best display, the judges "prowled the gardens" of Ballantrae and area for two weeks. "Picking the winners was a difficult task," said LeBlanc. "Many gardens were wor-

thy of winning."

In the search, the judges came across unusual sights. "One gardener had 100 varieties of wildflowers, while another has a garden of irises," said LeBlanc.

The local Lions Club is especially pleased with its first garden contest. "We had great response," said LeBlanc. "There is, indeed, enthusiasm within our community."

Another community proud event is in the planning stage. LeBlanc and her colleagues will return in the winter to find the area's finest Christmas display.

The judges are Lions president Harold Tillyer and club members LeBlanc, Gerry Stone and Joan Tillyer.

## Stouffville players signed to town's provincial Junior A team

Two Stouffville residents have signed up with the town's new Provincial Junior A Hockey League team.

Brad Hackert, 18 and Graham Crowder, will suit up with the Stouffville Spirit for the team's inaugural season

beginning Sept. 23 at the Rec Centre.

Hackert, a former Stouffville Clippers rep level goalkeeper, was rookie of the year with the Bradford Bulls of the Georgian Bay Junior C Hockey League last season.

Crowder, a defenceman played with the Richmond Hill Stars major midgets of the Eastern AAA Hockey League for the 1994-95 season. He played rep hockey with the Clippers from novice through minor midget.

Both were members of the Clippers team which won the Ontario Minor Hockey Association and Ontario Hockey Federation bantam championships in the 1991-92 season.

The team also announced the signing of six other play-

ers. The Spirit began practices this week, with an exhibition game scheduled for Thursday night in Lindsay.

Their first home exhibition match is to take place Sept. 16 versus Orillia at 7 p.m.

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