

1997 - Year in Review

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teachers said they left disappointed.

• Frank Ronco, a Toronto resident whose family resides in Stouffville, died of Leukemia. A suitable match was not found for a bone marrow transplant. Ronco needed. However, those who were tested for bone marrow may help

Prime Minister Jean Chretien honoured North Stouffville resident and Markham High teacher, Carl Twiddy, with the Teaching Excellence In Science, Technology and Mathematics Award. Stouffville resident, Mary Ann Holman, was sent a local version of the award for her work at St. Patrick Catholic School.

stand on its own.

• Mayor Wayne Emmerson announced that a plan to restructure the Spirit of Stouffville Junior A hockey team involved no town funding, although the Spirit decided to remain in town. At the time, the team was assembling a board of directors, which would make all the day-to-day decisions regarding the team's operations.

• A request to establish a code of ethics to deal with volunteers was presented by Ward 11 Councillor Ivanka Bradley after local council's decision to discontinue the Latham Hall Board was deemed unfair by chairman Guy Castonguay. The code was expected to include a procedure to deal with disputes, thereby avoiding the dismissal of volunteers.

• Marilyn Bruner steps down as president and CEO of Markham Stouffville Hospital after being appointed the title on June 1, 1989, nine months before its opening. Bruner left to accept the same position at St. Joseph's Health Care Centre in Toronto as of May 12.

• Whitchurch-Stouffville council, including Mayor Wayne Emmerson, all stated they wanted no part of joining a city made up of York's nine municipalities.

• Kathy Beckett and her two sons, Kevin and Bryan, were driving eastbound on ice-covered Mt. Albert Rd. 2 Km east of Woodbine when she lost control of her 1994 Pontiac Grand Am and entered oncoming traffic, being struck by a 1985 Toyota Camry. Beckett's son Bryan died as a result of the accident.

• Kay McNelly, an employee of Erie Canada of Ballantrac, retired after being with the company for 36 years.

• Local public school trustees formally rejected their twin elementary unions' final offer, which was proposed in hopes of avoiding a strike. The strike was narrowly averted after a tentative last-minute agreement was reached.

• A \$13.6-million budget, reflecting a zero percent tax increase for Whitchurch-Stouffville ratepayers, was ratified on March 26.

MARCH

• The Supreme Court of Canada found it was "patently unreasonable" for an arbitration board to order Markham-Whitchurch-Stouffville MP Jag Bhaduria reinstated as a teacher after the Toronto Board of Education fired him in 1990.

• Wayne Feasby, who helped turn Whitchurch-Stouffville Mobility Transit into an established transportation service for the handicapped, decided to move on and stepped down from the Mobility Transit Board.

• Elementary teachers in York Region public school announced their plans to strike on March 24.

• Goodwood Public School principal, Mr. Todd, retires.

• Thanks to tips from the public, Blackstock resident Carolyn Redican, who suffers from paranoid schizophrenia, was found after being missing since Feb. 8.

• York Region's public school board approved the name "Glad Park Public School" for the new Stouffville school scheduled to open this fall.

• Elizabeth Carr, who was born with spina bifida and defied doctors' predictions by walk and participate in indoor snow-shoeing, ice skating and roller skating, won the "Yes! I Can!" award. The award recognizes outstanding achievements of children and young people with disabilities. Carr was one of three Canadians to receive the award.

• The Latham Gallery, and the local library board came one step closer to getting a divorce. A committee has been struck to look into having the 17-year-old art gallery, located in the library complex,



A number of dignitaries were on hand in June for the opening of the Claremont Community Centre.

save another life because they are now listed on the Canadian Unrelated Bone Marrow Donor Registry.

• An informal poll revealed that 52 per cent of residents did not want an amalgamation of York Region.

• Latham Hall Board was disbanded and Guy Castonguay, local hero and chairman of the defunct group, called for the resignation of Cliff Dunkeld and Mark Kostandoff, accusing them of attending few board meetings. Castonguay also charged that they orchestrated an unfair move to get rid of the board.

• Town staff and the business community met to discuss the pros and cons of being part of the Greater Toronto Area Service Board, designed to take over regional responsibilities such as water, sewer, transportation, garbage, major roads and economic development.

• Mayor Wayne Emmerson began fighting to keep Ed Hakonson from moving the Spirit of Stouffville Provincial Jr. A Hockey League team elsewhere. Hakonson was upset that the Spirit had little time available to practise on home ice at the Rec Centre.

• Jane Reader, a Port Perry resident, was killed instantly in a two vehicle accident at the intersection of Bethesda Rd. and Kennedy Rd.

• Arnold Attenborough, a Stouffville man who was charged in connection with Canada's largest gun bust, received a one-year conditional sentence. Attenborough did not go to jail, but was able to serve the sentence in the community.

• At a ceremony held in Ottawa,

York Regional Police Chief Bryan Cousineau chose to voluntarily take a three-month paid leave of absence after allegations of criminal misconduct prompted an investigation by the Ontario Provincial Police. Former Metro deputy chief Peter Scott was named as the interim chief by York Regional Police.

APRIL

• Jail-N-Bail was held on April 1, raising more than \$25,000 for the Canadian Cancer Society.

• A Downsview man, Tonino Jafate, charged in connection with the death of Stouffville teenager Darlene O'Blenes, was scheduled to return to court on April 2.

• Full details of a proposed \$150-million adult lifestyle community were scheduled to be outlined at two public information sessions, both planned for April 1.

• Construction of Stouffville's train station was approved at a council meeting held on April 1. The project was a joint venture involving the town, GO Transit, the York-Durham Heritage Railway Association, the Whitchurch-Stouffville Chamber of Commerce and the BIA, with a great deal of financial support from the amount remaining from the YDHRA Job's Ontario grant. Financial support was also

obtained from GO Transit, Stouffville BIA and YDHRA.

• It was announced that the average homeowner in Whitchurch-Stouffville would pay \$19.22

more in regional taxes this year than the previous year. A zero percent increase for municipal taxes was also announced.

• The Whitchurch-Stouffville Chamber of Commerce called for an end to York Region and gave the green light to the Greater Toronto Services Board.

• Carole Bell, Markham's longest-serving municipal politician, announced her decision to



More than 1,000 ducks perished in a spring fire at the King Cole Ducks plant.

retire and move to Whitchurch-Stouffville.

• Markham Stouffville Hospital announces their decision to cut a few jobs and alter the way they deliver some services in order to balance its budget this year.

• Harold Van Dyke, arborist, horse lover, avid golfer, active community member and owner of Van Dyke Trees and Landscaping, died at the age of 63 after suffering from a massive heart attack.

• April 14 was the date set for initial bookings for the Whitchurch-Stouffville's second ice pad, which was fast becoming a reality at the time.

• Ward 2 councillor Mike Watson failed in his bid to have development in the Ballantrac and Musselman's Lake area frozen.

• The fifth annual Challenge Cup hockey game was held on April 12 with Uxbridge Bruins alumni facing off against members of former All Ontario championship Stouffville Clippers teams. The event was held in memory of the late Dan McNeil, who played for the Bruins and the Clippers.

• The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 459 in Stouffville celebrated their 50th anniversary.

• Charges were laid against Nearly New Golf Balls officials Michael McCauley, Lawrence B. McCauley and company supervisor Gerard Voghel. The men were accused of failing to provide a diver with a lifeline, failing to provide a tender and a stand-by diver, along with several other charges.

• Councillor Ivanka Bradley announced she would not seek reelection in the fall for Ward 11.

• Steven Andrew Tribbling was sentenced to 15 months in jail after being charged in connection with a four-hour police stand-off involving a toddler in Ballantrac.

• Plans to bring an indoor swimming pool to Stouffville were approved.

• Earth Day was celebrated on April 22 with the first community wide tree planting project.



Helene Johnson was re-elected as Chamber president.



The Legion celebrated 50 years in Stouffville in 1997.

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