

# Happy 100th to founder

Dorothy Marie Hillary married Frederick van Nostrand in 1927. He was the grandson of John van Nostrand, who was granted a mill site in Vandorf in 1855.

As one of the founding families of Vandorf, the van Nostrands participated in the naming of the village in 1887, "van" for their family name, "dorf" the German word for wood, possibly as tribute to the Sniders, another founding family. Their winning suggestion was drawn from a hat!

The original mill closed after John's death in 1895. The building was demolished and the land eventually cleared of lumber. It provided a site for the Vandorf Community Hall, after the Mechanic's Hall, located further south burned down in 1921. The former Whitchurch Township Municipal Office and two homes are located on the property.

Dorothy was born on April 7, 1898 in Aurora. She was raised in what is now known as "Hillary House" north of the Yonge and Wellington intersection in that town. She attended business school in Winnipeg and then returned to the area to work at the Bank of Montreal in Aurora. She currently resides at Aurora's Resthaven.



## A Voice from Vandorf

Elaine Stewart

Her recent birthday party was held at her childhood home and was attended by more than 50 relatives arriving from homes across Canada. British Columbia to Newfoundland. Three of her six children, who were raised on the family homestead on Vandorf Sideroad, remained in Vandorf and raised their children here.

Michael and his wife Betty live on part of the home farm. He owned a turkey farm on the property for over 30 years, most recently on the north side of Vandorf Sideroad. Operations ceased in 1980. Two of his three sons, David and Gary, live on this location.

Sheila, a nurse for many years at York County Hospital in Newmarket, married Bill Richardson and moved into the house on Woodbine across the road from his childhood home. Sadly, we lost another historical building when the George and Marjorie Richardson house caught fire a couple of years ago.

Peter and his wife Janet live in

the van Nostrand homestead. When I was a child, the van Nostrands kindly allowed the neighbouring children to swim in van Nostrand Lake, six days a week. Dozens of us would gather each afternoon, dive from the "platform" and "tower", and generally irritate the cattle which were awaiting their turn at the water's edge.

My ancestor, Shadrach Stephens, settled in Whitchurch in 1797, but my family did not move into Vandorf until 1949, so I'm still a "new-comer" to the village. I have always had great respect for the area and its long-time residents.

The orator Cicero, born 106 BC wrote, "History is more or less bunk. It's tradition. We don't want tradition. We want to live in the present and the only history that is worth a tinker's damn is the history we make today."

Let us not make this ancient statement become a reality!

I urge all new residents, not only of Vandorf, but the entire Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville, to visit the town's museum which is located in Vandorf.

We must learn our area's history, so as we prepare for our future, we do not forget our past.

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60	\$780	\$1,490	\$2,910	\$1,798	\$3,465	\$6,725
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## An invitation to the launch of the Community Health Information Centre (CHIC)

A "healthy" community partnership between the Markham Public Libraries and Markham Stouffville Hospital

Date: Monday, May 25, 1998  
Time: 7:30-9:00 p.m.  
Place: Milliken Mills Community Library, 7600 Kennedy Road, Unit 1 (Kennedy & 14th)  
RSVP: Call Marianne at (905) 513-7977 by May 20th

### Programme

- Welcome Remarks: Mayor Don Cousens, Gina La Force, CEO, Markham Public Libraries, Elizabeth Woodbury, CEO, Markham Stouffville Hospital
- Ribbon Cutting: Mayor Don Cousens, Gina La Force, Elizabeth Woodbury, Martha Murphy, Chair, Library Board, and Damian Bassett, Chair, Hospital Board
- Presentation: Dr. Jim MacLean, Chief of Staff, Markham Stouffville Hospital
- Cake and coffee

The Community Health Information Centre (CHIC), located inside the Milliken Mills Community Library, will make available to the public a collection of health-related books, scientific journals, and an extensive computer database to help promote wellness within the community.

As part of the "Milliken on the Move" initiative, the Library and the Hospital are committed to building a stronger social network in Milliken Mills. The CHIC is an ideal opportunity to provide an enhanced level of consumer health information to local residents and to support the Library's mandate in bringing people and information together.

**mpl** Markham Public Libraries

**Markham Stouffville Hospital**

**MILLIKEN on the move** A Community Partnership

CHIC is sponsored and supported by Novopharm

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