

# Back to their childhoods

BY KATE GILDERDALE  
CORRESPONDENT

Colin and Zella Pattenden moved to Vandorf in the early 1900s and raised eight children, three of whom still live in the close-knit community.

"My grandmother came from Durham and Grandpa came from Gormley and they were married in 1912 by Lucy Maud Montgomery's husband, Rev. Ewan Macdonald," said Nancy Pattenden-Furzecott, whose father, Walter Pattenden is the couple's oldest son.

The Pattendens moved into their Vandorf home immediately after their wedding.

"They moved out a couple of times," she noted. "They lived in Leaskdale for about five years and also in Aurora, but they started off in Vandorf and moved back there."

This year, on July 25, all the Pattenden offspring — who now range in age from 70 to 85 — gathered at their childhood home for a special picnic at Nancy's suggestion. "The house, where my uncle Richard still lives, is where Ruth, Laura, Minnie, Wim and Richard were born," she said.

Zella upheld the principle of ladies first when it came to having her family, with all four daughters preceding their four brothers.

The lineup, from oldest to youngest, is as follows: Ruth, Laura, Minnie, Mabel, Walter, Ivan, Wilmot (Wim) and Richard.

"They are all still living in this area except Ivan, who moved from Bradford to Peterborough," said Nancy. "My dad's always saying there aren't many

families like his, who are all still alive and on the old age pension."

Longevity, however, is a family trait. Zella was born in 1886 and died in 1982, while Colin was born in 1889 and died in 1973.

Their descendants include 19

grandchildren and 42 great-grandchildren.

The eight siblings attended Vandorf School, which is now part of the Whitchurch-Stouffville Museum, and Wim, Richard and Walter, still live in the community.



STAFF PHOTO/SJOERD WITTEVEEN

The Pattenden siblings gather in front of the family homestead on Woodbine Avenue in Vandorf on July 25. From left are Ruth Fines, 85; Laura Jones, 84; Minnie Pattenden, 83; Mabel Ineson, 81; Walter Pattenden, 78; Ivan Pattenden, 75; Wilmot Pattenden, 72; and Richard Pattenden, 70.

## Focklers mark 70 years

On Aug. 4, Joseph and Lulu Fockler celebrated 70 wonderful years of married life at a special gathering of family and friends.

"Our family has been right here in Ringwood for 200 years," said their son, Clarence. "Mom and dad still have some of the original property owned by the family."

While Lulu Fockler lives in her own apartment in Stouffville, her husband moved to Parkview Home in January when his health made it difficult for him to live independently, said Clarence. "He's not able to walk at all — he's in a wheelchair, but mom is still active," he noted.

George Fockler and his family were the original settlers in Ringwood at the end of the 18th Century. "Our first family members came here from Pennsylvania in the 1790s and settled on lot 1, Concession 7." By 1809, they had built a home on the northwest corner of the crossroads.

Their property comprised 200 acres from Hwy. 48 to McCowan Road. "Mother was born in 1910 — she was a Preston from Pine Orchard — and dad was born at Ballantrae in 1908. They got married in Newmarket in 1928."

The couple had four children: Helen, Hazel, Bruce and Clarence, and now have 14 grandchildren and 20 great-grandchildren. "Dad was a farmer and ended up working for the County of York for about 25 years, until he retired. Mother worked at housework and at the store in Ringwood over the years for owners dating back to Sinclair, around the late thirties."

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## Don't miss vintage car show

Whitchurch-Stouffville Museum's Antique and Classic Car Show, celebrates its 25th anniversary this Sunday.

More than 225 vintage vehicles will be exhibited on the museum grounds in Vandorf from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Refreshments include a barbecue,

sandwiches, and home-baked goodies.

Admission to the Antique and Classic Car Show is \$5 for adults and \$12 for a family of four, with children under 7 admitted free.

In the event of bad weather, the event will take place Aug. 16.

### DID YOU KNOW?

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## PUBLIC RECALL NOTICE

### CCM TRAILER/STROLLER (71-5000-0)

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As a public safety measure and to avoid any potential safety risk, Canadian Tire Corporation, Limited has announced the voluntary public recall of a CCM trailer/stroller following a safety advisory issued by Health Canada. In two separate incidents children suffered severed and/or bruised fingers after their hands became entangled in the spokes of the wheel assembly.

The trailer/stroller can be identified by its unique characteristics:

- Rounded 'chuck wagon' arches at both ends
- Side walls that do not extend more than half-way up each side
- Yellow and green design with CCM branding

Canadian Tire sold the product across Canada starting in 1995. It was manufactured by a company called Greenwave Vehicle International, which is no longer in business. This recall does not affect the two full-sided models, CCM trailer/stroller (71-5001-8) and Bell Kid Karavan trailer (71-5007-6) sold by Canadian Tire beginning in 1996.

Consumers who have purchased this trailer/stroller are requested to immediately discontinue use of this product and return it to their nearest Canadian Tire store for a refund or product exchange.

