

Kin of fallen officers found

Relatives come forward after reading account of memorial service

BY KATHLEEN GRIFFIN
Staff Writer

Jean Kerr's fiancé died when she was just 20 — killed in the line of duty for York Regional Police in 1966.

Bill Aikenhead great-grandfather ran the William Boyd general store and post office

on Markham's Main Street before joining the police force.

Killed in 1901 while transporting prisoners in Toronto, Boyd's story of heroism has been passed down in his family for generations.



LEWIS DURANT

Kerr and Aikenhead are just two of the many friends and relatives who contacted York Regional Police Const. Danny Lanegraff after he appealed for information about family members on our front page last month.

The Ontario Police Memorial Foundation will hold the first provincewide memorial service tomorrow at noon at Queen's Park.

The names of the 198 men who gave their lives serving the citizens of Ontario will be unveiled on a memorial wall and police services from across the province will march from Nathan Phillip's Square as part of a joint forces honour guard.

Of York's eight fallen heroes, dating back to 1804, relatives had been found for only five, until the story ran.

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"We had a very good response," Lanegraff said. "For example, one of William Boyd's great-grandsons saw the article in Markham."

"I heard his story many, many times from my mother," said Aikenhead, 69, who lives at Swan Lake. "He was transporting three prisoners and an accomplice threw a hat in the wagon."

The hat contained three revolvers and Boyd was shot dead.

"We were very excited to catch the story. There's quite a group of us intending to go Sunday," including brother Thomas, sister Nancy Bell and cousin Beverly Darlington, 78, he added.

Const. Edward Holdsworth died tragically at 21, responding to a motor vehicle accident north of Vandorf May 15, 1966.

The driver had struck a hydro pole and as he approached the car, Holdsworth stepped on a downed hydro wire hidden in the



EDWARD HOLDSWORTH



GERALD MILLS

Richmond Hill for more than 25 years.

"We were engaged in November and were to be married in August. I can remember it like it was yesterday."

She said Holdsworth loved his job, though he was often teased by other officers because he was so young.

"He had just been promoted from cadet. He was kind and gentle and loved what he did. He wanted to make a difference," Kerr said, adding she plans to be at Queen's Park tomorrow, as well.

Sgt. Thomas Kirk, whose Newmarket gravestone still stands, was killed after being sideswiped by another vehicle on Yonge Street in April 1930.

His granddaughter Susan saw the story and not only will she attend the memorial, but so

grass. He was killed instantly.

"We met in high school in Newmarket, in Grade 13," said Kerr, who married two years after her fiancée's death and had two daughters. She taught public school in Markham and

Richmond Hill for more than 25 years.

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will her mother, Margaret Jefferies, 81, of Milton, Kirk's last surviving child.

Const. John Fisk died almost 200 years ago in 1804. Information on him was practically nil — until Jacqueline Stuart, curator of the

Aurora Museum, saw the appeal.

"We have some information on him but not much," she said.

Stuart said it's likely John Fisk was the same man granted 210 acres in King Township in 1801 and a John Fisk was made high constable of the Home District, encompassing the counties of Durham, Peel, Simcoe and York.

In April 1804, the high constable presided over the pillorying of a woman who kept a disorderly house, according to historical documents.

A pillory was a wooden frame with hand and head holes used to hold an offender for public ridicule.

On Oct. 7, 1804, the schooner Speedy went down while sailing from York to Newcastle. Among the passengers was High Const. Fisk.

"Every York officer will have relatives there, except for Fisk and, perhaps, Gerald Mills, whose family is now in England," Lanegraff said.

Mills died in 1968 when he was hit by a car after pulling over an impaired driver.

Other fallen officers are Const. Lewis Durant, who died in 1956, also struck by a car; Const. William Grant, who was intentionally hit head-on by a Thornhill teen who later shot himself in 1984; and Const. Douglas Tribbling, who was shot while waiting for back-up at the scene of a break and enter on Steelcase Road in 1984.

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THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF YORK ROAD IMPROVEMENTS

THE COUNCIL OF THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF YORK PROPOSES TO PASS A BY-LAW AUTHORIZING:

1. WIDENING AND RECONSTRUCTION OF ELGIN MILLS ROAD EAST TOWNS OF MARKHAM AND RICHMOND HILL

(a) the widening and reconstruction of Elgin Mills Road East (Y.R. 49) from Bayview Avenue (Y.R. 34) to Markland Road, in the Towns of Richmond Hill and Markham, to a basic width of 36.0 metres with additional widenings at cuts, fills, water course crossings and intersections, to provide:

- a basic four lane road with a continuous centre left-turn lane from Bayview Avenue (Y.R. 34) to the proposed Highway 404 west ramp intersection;
- a basic four lane road from the proposed Highway 404 west ramp intersection to Markland Road;
- a new interchange with Highway 404; and
- left-turn and right-turn lanes at intersections.

(b) the reconstruction of Elgin Mills Road East (Y.R. 49) from Markland Road to Woodbine Avenue (Y.R. 8) to improve the existing two lane road, and construction of minor improvements to the intersection of Elgin Mills Road East (Y.R. 49) and Woodbine Avenue (Y.R. 8);

(c) the adjustments to existing traffic control signals and associated illumination to accommodate the proposed revisions to the road layout at the intersection of Elgin Mills Road East (Y.R. 49) with Leslie Street (Y.R. 12) and Woodbine Avenue (Y.R. 8);

(d) the provision of an underground conduit system and illumination at the intersections of Elgin Mills Road East (Y.R. 49) with the proposed Highway 404 ramps and Markland Road;

(e) the carrying out of all related works and undertakings in connection with the above; and

(f) the acquisition of the necessary lands and interest in lands for the works described above.

Pursuant to section 300 of the Municipal Act, the Transportation and Works Committee of the Regional Council will, at its meeting to be held at 9:00 a.m. on the 14th day of June, 2000 in Committee Room "A" at the Regional Administrative Building located at 17250 Yonge Street, Newmarket, hear any person who claims that his/her lands will be prejudicially affected by the by-law and who applies to be heard. Anyone wishing to be heard is requested to advise the Office of the Regional Clerk, attention Elma Stevenson (telephone 895-1231 or 731-0201, ext. 1303). If any party entitled to be heard does not attend at the hearing, the Committee may proceed in his/her absence and he/she will not be entitled to any further notice in the proceedings.

The proposed by-law and plans showing the proposed works may be inspected at the office of Paul Jankowski, Director, Design and Construction Branch, at the Transportation and Works Department located at the Regional Administrative Building at 17250 Yonge Street, Newmarket (telephone 895-1200 or 764-6345, ext. 5088).

DATED at Newmarket this 7th day of May, 2000.

DENIS KELLY
Regional Clerk
17250 Yonge Street
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