

Father's quarantine puts wedding on hold



Roaming Around

with Jim Thomas

Love conquers all. Newlyweds Alton Ruff Jr. of Stouffville and Janis Freeman of Scarborough are living proof.

For more than a year, Alton and Janis had planned the perfect wedding. The date and location had been set, Saturday, May 31 at Glenview Presbyterian Church.

But fate intervened. Dr. Michael Freeman, chief cardiologist at Toronto's St. Michael's Hospital and father of the bride, placed himself on 12-day quarantine due to Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome. What was the couple to do?

All had been arranged: the church, minister, invitations, flowers, photographer, reception, the DJ, honeymoon, everything.

Regardless, Alton and Janis agreed the ceremony, as planned, could not proceed without her father being present.

So they did the next best thing: exchanged vows at their rehearsal, May 30, embarked on a pre-arranged honeymoon, May 31 and rescheduled the public ceremony at the same time, same place, June 14.

"Janis just couldn't be married without her father being there," Alton's mother said proudly. "They're a close-knit family."

Through a phone chain, guests were contacted, even a family from Missouri who were about to leave when the call was received, Mrs. Ruff Sr. said.

"Plans were going so smoothly," the groom's mother noted, "but in the face of adversity, they were able to adjust. We're very proud."

Alton and Janis met at Tyndale College and Seminary in North York, where Alton will graduate later this year.

SDSS SIGN: Several weeks ago, I asked the question: "Why are no events ever inscribed on the new signboard, north of the high school on Bramble Crescent? Now I know. The sign was erected on private property, making its use illegal. It has now been moved. My thanks to principal Tony Lewis for setting the record straight.

SACRED SIGN: Someone within the congregation of the Stouffville Pentecostal Church has a unique way with words. A recent inscription on their entrance sign read: "We're not a Dairy Queen, but we sure have great Sundays."

FUND AIDED: The choirs of three Stouffville churches joined forces, May 25, to present one of the most beautiful concerts ever held. It was hosted by Stouffville United Church and included choirs from Stouffville United, Christ Church Anglican and St. James Presbyterian. Proceeds from a free-will offering exceeded \$1,800. In addition, a cheque in the amount of \$1,850 was presented by this year's Music Mania, all going to the Parkview Home Building Fund.

MRS. CLAUS RETURNS: For 13 years, Diane Peak, the Mrs. Claus of Whitechurch-Stouffville, distributed gifts to residents of Parkview Home and elsewhere around town. Diane's now living at Parkview and loving it. She enthusiastically expresses thanks to Stouffville's Tom Winters for arranging the move.

A CLASS ACT: The Grade 8 grads of Glad Park School have earned the right to a memorable graduation ceremony, June 25. Thanks to the co-operation of Bill Houston of Houston Ford, a car wash was held Saturday, raising almost \$2,000. Leftover funds will be donated to a charity of the students' choice, parent organizer Anne Hallas said.

FLAG MONTH: Get those flags a-flying. June is Canada Flag Month in Whitechurch-Stouffville. The request, submitted by yours truly, was approved recently by council. Stouffville's Canadian Tire has a large supply on hand, I'm told.

FLAG FLAP: Is flying a flag, any flag, permitted at Stouffville's Eastern Gate? Rumours abound. I've learned, on good authority, flags are allowed, but only for a 30-day period before and after an event. In other words, to celebrate Canada Day, flags may fly from June 1 through Aug. 1. Now you know.

PRESERVED: Does anyone know the birthdate of the Stouffville Memorial Park grandstand? If so, give me a call. Regardless, this landmark will be preserved, Councillor Cliff Dunkeld vows, with financial assistance for repairs, provided by Mobility Transit and the Rotary Club. Good news.

Jim Thomas is a Stouffville resident who has written for local newspapers for more than 50 years.

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