

# Christmas season one of thanksgiving for Don Doner

Most of us take life for granted. If we can roll out of bed in the morning and crawl under the covers at night, all is right with the world.

Sometimes, however, an unavoidable accident or an unexplained illness makes one fully appreciate accomplishments of the past and assurances for the future.

Stouffville's Don Doner fits this mode.

Mr. Doner is recovering from a rare disease called Guillain-Barre Syndrome, a disorder in which the body's immune function attacks the nervous system.

While the cause is unknown, research indicates in about half of all cases, the syndrome follows a viral or bacterial infection such as the flu or common cold.

About two in every 100,000 people are hit by the disease annually. No one is immune. It's not hereditary or contagious.

If there's a positive side, it's that only five per cent of all patients fail to recover, although some may continue to experience muscular pain and weakness.

For Mr. Doner, the initial symptom was a sore throat. It disappeared in about three days. But his condition suddenly worsened when a lump appeared, making it impossible for him to swallow.

"I began wondering if my time had come," he said.

The situation became more acute when he had trouble keeping his balance.

"My arms and legs felt like rubber," he remembers. After collapsing on the living room floor, an ambulance was summoned. Wife Marion praised the quick response.

"They arrived while I was still on the phone," she said.

Mr. Doner spent 17 days in Markham Stouffville Hospital, during which time he went through dozens of examinations and tests.

"They (the doctors and nurses) were wonderful," Mr. Doner says. "I can't praise them enough."

At one point, no less than 20 people were assigned his case. Prominent in the procedure was Dr. Monique Forse, a respirologist who took a special interest in him. Mr. Doner believes because treatment was immediate, the seriousness of the situation was lessened.

The disease, Mr. Doner explains, affects people different ways.

"I was one of the lucky ones," he says, "I had a lot going for me," including an



## Roaming Around

with Jim Thomas

abiding faith.

"The good Lord had his reasons," he affirms. "If, through my adversity, some one is helped, then there's a benefit to it all."

The response by family and friends was also reassuring, he says. Prayers said in church (East Ridge Evangelical Missionary), hospital visitations, cards and telephone calls assisted in keeping his spirits high.

"These are the advantages of living in a small town," he says.

Mr. Doner knows of only two other people to have been stricken by this illness. Mervin Harper of Stouffville and Clarence Fockler of Ringwood. Mr. Harper's battle almost proved fatal, partly because little was known about the disease 20 years ago. He was able to empathize with everything Mr. Doner was going through when the two discussed the malady during a hospital visit.

Even now, the exact cause of Mr. Doner's illness remains a mystery. And while a virus in the blood is a certainty, in his case, it had no association with the flu.

"At one point, I couldn't move," he recalls. "I couldn't even roll over."

Throughout the ordeal, he remained conscious and experienced little pain, "except for the fact they shoved needles into me right, left and centre," he notes.

His hospital diet consisted mainly of baby formula and soup. He lost 12 pounds.

He made up for this, in part, he says, by attending a sumptuous turkey supper at Goodwood.

"They sure didn't make any money on me," he jokes.

Despite the many trials and tribulations, seasonal lights will shine brighter this month at the Doner home in Stouffville. It'll be Thanksgiving and Christmas rolled into one.

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

# DULL KNIVES!

If you need a tune-up in your knife drawer come and pay us a visit this week. Our complete line of Swibo (Swiss) knives are on sale at 20% OFF our regular price.

Prices range from \$13.95 to \$39.95 - see anyone at our meat counter for the knife that best suits your use. Are the knives good? We use them to slice all our peameal bacon - and everything else, too - they get a good workout at our store! Do you need a knife sharpened? If you bought it from us, we'll sharpen it free for the lifetime of the knife. Any others you have, we charge \$3.00 each. See Eyan or Mike.

# ONION SOUP

To make this, we saute lots of onions (I mean lots) in butter and olive oil. We then cook them slowly to a very sweet, caramelized consistency, deglaze the pan (it's huge) with Guinness and brandy and add the stock and seasonings. We then continue the slow cooking until the end of the day.

It's really good!  
Serves 3-4  
Reg. \$5.49 cont.

25% OFF THIS WEEK

# GIFT BASKETS

If you are new to our store, it won't take you long to realize that we're in the basket business. Although I've never really counted them, there must be thousands to choose from. During the Festive Season we make them up with food goodies to fit any budget or taste (including wine, if you'd like). You can pick what you'd like and we'll make it up as well - or it can be boxed - as you wish! See Tom, Robert or Eyan if you have a special request. We offer good value!

# CALIFORNIA CLEMENTINES

These are the first clementines which are grown in North America - California, actually. There are a few features which make this deal attractive. The first is that shipping times are much shorter - days, instead of weeks (by ship container from Europe). Secondly, I'm not sure that Europe ships us their best stuff (just a hunch). Thirdly, these come in cardboard boxes (easier on your curbside waste) and last, they're really sweet!

# FRENCH BRIE

You may need a bit of cheese if you have folks over - and this would be a great choice. It's double cream, from France.

Reg. \$2.99/100g

25% OFF THIS WEEK

# OUR SMOKED PORK CHOPS

If you are German, you would know this as Kasseler. We make these by using frenched pork loins which we then cure and slowly smoke (with oak) until they are fully cooked. You'll find them easy to use because they only require warming or simmering - perhaps with some mild sauerkraut - or anything else.

Reg. \$5.99 lb.

25% OFF THIS WEEK

# WHAT'S HAPPENIN' OUTSIDE!

It has been a great season for the sale of our evergreen and outdoor decorating supplies. Our last shipment arrives today, so if you're still in need, see us real soon!

# MAC AND CHEESE!

This is Doreen's recipe for the comfort food of all comfort foods! The trick is to use extra-old cheddar and the traditional topping of buttered cracker crumbs.

Serves 3-4  
Reg. \$10.95

# OUR SQUARES

In a social setting, most people think of me as a shy, retiring type. Actually, it's just that I'm very patient, waiting - much as a nearly submerged crocodile waits - for the tray(s) of squares to appear. It's then that I come to life as I fall upon them with a calm but absolute 'take no prisoners' manner. If you're looking for me at a party, just find the squares. Not only are they real good - they're real easy as well. You can leave them in the meal-size portions that we sell them in - or you can cut them into bite-size chunks. I've made a study of both sizes and I've found it takes about the same time to clean off a tray - you just have to work a bit harder when they're cut smaller.

Available in all our normal year-round flavours, plus Rocky Road, Raspberry, Bailey's Nanaimos, Christmas Cherry and Mincemeat.

Reg. \$2.49 each

1/3 OFF THIS WEEK

# 'GO BANANAS' FOR THE 'Y'

Most all of you know that the Y.M.C.A. is coming to town - to be situated at the corner of 407 and Kennedy Rd. What we're doing to help out is donate all the money from the sale of bananas (from now until December 12th). How it will work is this: you pay as much as you want - (or even as little as you can afford) for the bananas at the display - which we have moved for this occasion. We'll have a banana cookbook, some celebrities selling bananas, including the top banana from City Hall - Mayor Don Cousens on this Saturday at 10:00 a.m.

Be cautious - I hear that he's a great salesman!

So grab a bunch of bananas - not only are they good for you, you'll feel good helping out!



SPECIALS IN EFFECT UNTIL CLOSING SUNDAY DECEMBER 5<sup>TH</sup>

Hours:

Mon. 11:00-7:00 - Tues. - Thurs. 9:00-7:00 - Fri. 9:00-8:00

Sat. 9:00-6:00 - Sun. 10:00-5:00

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