

Tears, memories flow as church shuts down

Congregations die, but memories live on. Ask Lillian Carr.

For Lillian, the closing of Melville United Church, on Kennedy Road in north Markham, concluded an unforgettable chapter in her life. She was married there, attended there and served there.

At the final service, June 26, she cried there.

Time and tide had all but erased her heart and soul.

Lillian Carr began attending Melville Church in 1952, following her marriage to Bruce Carr. The home farm was located at Cody Corners, Kennedy Road and Major Mackenzie Drive.

Despite several moves, including to Clarendon and Mt. Albert, the Melville bond remained strong, pulling them back to the church they loved so much.

Even after taking up residence in Stouffville, Bruce and Lillian could always be numbered among regulars at Sunday worship.

Not even her husband's death in 1984, severed that tie. Melville was her place to be. For good reason.

Bruce was the church treasurer 25 years, also the clerk of session, a position Lillian later inherited. They donated the carpet and fluorescent fixtures in the basement along with a piano; an organ and sound system in the sanctuary, the latter dedicated to Bruce's memory.

The Melville women were tireless workers, Lillian remembers. Chicken barbecues, that often attracted up to 500 people, "kept us going", she said. During more than 25 years, she not only served as event convenor, but often provided dozens of pies.

Members Murray Brown, Don Miller and Harry Lewis comprised the barbecue brigade.

BARBECUES, DINNERS

Over this same period, Melville also hosted dinner meetings for the Markham Lions Club.

However, for Bruce and Lillian, it was their many close friends that kept them coming back, people like Ev Sale, Harry and Audrey Forrester, John and Isobel Nigh, Don and Joyce Miller; Mildred Sherwood, Betty Brown, Edna Houck, Grace Smith, Harry and Esther Lewis; Karen Wield, Ed and Vivian Mazur, George McCleverty, Don and Evelyn Ferguson, Olive Hutchinson and more.

Pastors' names fresh in Lillian's mind include Gordon Burgess, John Miller, Bruce Aitken, Gordon Hunter, Douglas McPhee, George Davison and Roscoe Chapin.



Roaming Around

with Jim Thomas

Nor will Lillian ever forget the beautiful harmony provided by members of the Melville male quartet of John Nigh, Don Ferguson, Ed Mazur and Jim Slater.

Sunday services had their lighter moments too. Like the morning a mouse scampered across the organ keyboard.

"Ev (Sale) couldn't stand mice," Lillian said, "Fortunately, she didn't see it."

Others did, and held their collective breaths.

These and other occurrences undoubtedly flashed through Lillian's mind June 26. Even as we spoke, her eyes filled with tears.

"I get choked up," she admitted, "My heart's still there."

A beautiful framed painting of Melville Church, completed by artist Murray Pipher, was presented to Rev. Burgess by former board chairperson Ed Mazur. He also presented Laura Burgess with a treasured Royal Doulton figurine. Steeple chimes, a gift initiated by the late Stan Patterson, tolled a sad farewell.

So where will the congregation's remnants go?

Lillian and some others are already attending at Lemonville. Both Victoria Square United and Central United in Unionville have also rolled out welcome mats. A number are considering Markham Missionary, with a few still undecided.

So what happened? How is it that Melville has closed, yet Springvale Baptist, also a country church a short distance up the road, is bursting at the seams?

"Our young people, once married, moved away and never came back," replied Lillian. "Without young people, you can't keep going."

As a prophetic conclusion to the church's closing, guest pastor Vincent Alfano entitled his message The Power of an Uncertain Future.

Again, the tears flowed.

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

WHAT'S FOR DINNER!

Our frozen entre feature of the week is our delicious lamb curry. We use cubes of Ontario lamb and slow-simmer them in a mild curry until they're tender and flavourful.

Great over rice. Reg. \$14.95 Serves 3-4

25% OFF THIS WEEK

VERNOR'S GINGER ALE!

From what I understand, we're one of the few stores which sell this Ginger Ale — it's almost like it has a cult following. We've got lots for this week!

Cases of 12. **2.99** Case



OUR CHEDDAR SAUSAGES!

These are a thrill from the grill. They are made with nicely-seasoned coarse ground pork and lots of grated old cheddar. You may want to let them cool just a touch because I find that the cheddar retains more heat than you might think.

Delicious! Reg. \$4.50/lb.

25% OFF THIS WEEK

BLADE DELMONICO'S

These are actually rib eye steaks cut from the adjacent portion of the shoulder, hence 'Blade'. They are the very next cut to rib eyes — and the most tender end at that. We cut them thick and marinate them — one could be suitable for two — or one if you've got a more neanderthal appetite. Why are they so cheap? Because we pay a whole lot less for the blade portion. What do we do with the rest of the blade? We make our amazing burgers.

Reg. \$9.95/lb.

25% OFF THIS WEEK

LOCAL BROCCOLI

We've got lots and lots of great broccoli this week — just in time for the first wave of kids returning from camp. If they are anything like mine, they think to balance a diet you need something nutritious in order to qualify you for a treat.

Large bunches

79¢ EA.

ANY ARTISTS OUT THERE?

You may have noticed that from time to time my little girl draws a picture for my ad — but she's at camp now. If you're her age (say, under twelve) and you'd like to make the drawing for our ad — bring it in with you. If we use it, I'll give you a \$25.00 voucher to shop for treats in the store. It should be on white paper, done in pencil or black pen and the subject could be anything related to our store and its products — and like all good artists, be sure to sign your name!

MUSKOKA - LETTUCE -

If you've been a reader of our ads, you'll know that I talk every week about these — and that they're grown in (outside of) Severn Bridge — and that they're totally organic — and that they've got lots of flavour, unlike most lettuce. Farmer Diane allowed that this week they've got lots of red butterhead — more than they can handle (basically the opposite of a crop failure). So buy some and help out this week, she'll really appreciate it!

OUR BROCCO-CAULI SALAD

This is an old time staple from our Deli Salad Counter. We make it with local broccoli and cauliflower which is now available — and we dress it just right!

Reg. \$1.59 / 100 g

1/3 OFF THIS WEEK

CARAMEL WEEK ACT III

This is usually a monstrous undertaking, as making caramel is not the same as opening a tin (or squeeze-bottle) of caramel sauce — it's as much art as science!

Our offerings for this week are

CARAMEL PECAN MUFFINS - with a 'puddle' of caramel inside, not too healthy but delicious. **\$1.25**

CARAMEL-APPLE CHEESECAKES - this is an old favourite of ours and anyone I serve it to. Two sizes. **\$12.95** and **\$20.95**

CARAMEL-APPLE SCONES - **\$1.49** ea.

CARAMEL-CHOCOLATE-RASPBERRY CHEESECAKE - with layers of chocolate cheesecake, caramel and slightly lemony cheesecake with fresh raspberries. also two sizes. **\$12.95** and **\$20.95**

CARAMEL-BANANA CREAM PIES - old-fashioned banana cream pies with layers of sliced bananas, custard and whipped cream, but this time with the addition of caramel in the custard & drizzled between the layers and on top. A bit decadent. **\$5.99** and **\$12.95**

CARAMEL-APPLE TARTS - these are an amazing creation. **\$1.29** and **\$5.29/6**

CARAMEL-APPLE FLANS - with sliced apples and pears in a shortbread crust, layered with caramel, pecans and custard which has been spiced up a bit. **\$17.95** ea.

CARAMEL-APPLE COFFEE CAKES - this is a spice cake baked with pecans, caramel and chunks of apple, pecan and brown-sugar filling — and drizzled with, you guessed it, caramel.

CARAMEL-TOASTED PECAN COOKIES - **\$6.95** cont.

AND LASTLY,

CARAMEL-PEAR CREME BRULEE - **\$3.99** ea.

All of these items will be **1/3 OFF THIS WEEK**

While quantities and bakery staff lasts!

SPECIALS IN EFFECT UNTIL CLOSING SUNDAY JULY 17TH

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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