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THURSDAY FOCUS

Remembrance Day 2005 tomorrow at legion

Wedded in wartime

Honeymoon interrupted by return to duty

BY HANNELORE VOLPE
 Staff Writer

Stouffville's Bill and Irene Mowat have no trouble remembering their wedding anniversary.

They were married 60 years ago in Brighton, England, on April 28, 1945, during the last days of the Second World War.

Bill, a Canadian Air Force navigator, and Irene, a Royal Air Force aero-engine mechanic, honeymooned in Scotland.

A few days later, Germany surrendered and the next day, May 8, was declared VE Day for the victory in Europe. Their honeymoon was cut short when Mr. Mowat was recalled to France to the 107th Squadron of the RCAF.

Irene Mowat joined the RAF in 1941 when she was 17; Bill Mowat enlisted in 1942 when he was 19. They met when both were transferred to the operational training station in Harwell near Oxford.

As a navigator, Mr. Mowat took part in more than 30 bombing runs with his pilot, Chuck Balfour. The fighter bombers they flew had four machine guns fixed in the wings, four 20 mm cannons in the nose and four 500 lb bombs.

The flyers would get back to their base in the early morning, Mr. Mowat recalled.

"They would get tea and maybe a little rum into us and then we went to bed," he said.

Many mornings "there would be a bunch of empty beds" in the barracks — of those who would never return. The losses were hard for fellow soldiers and for those left behind at home, Mr. Mowat said.



STAFF PHOTO/STEVE SOMERVILLE

Bill and Irene Mowat stand at the cenotaph at the Royal Canadian Legion in Stouffville. Both were in the air force in the Second World War, Mrs. Mowat as an engineer and Mr. Mowat as a navigator. Remembrance Day ceremonies will be held at the legion cenotaph tomorrow morning.

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'We took our lumps' for scandal, Martin says

York Region vital for government looking toward future: PM

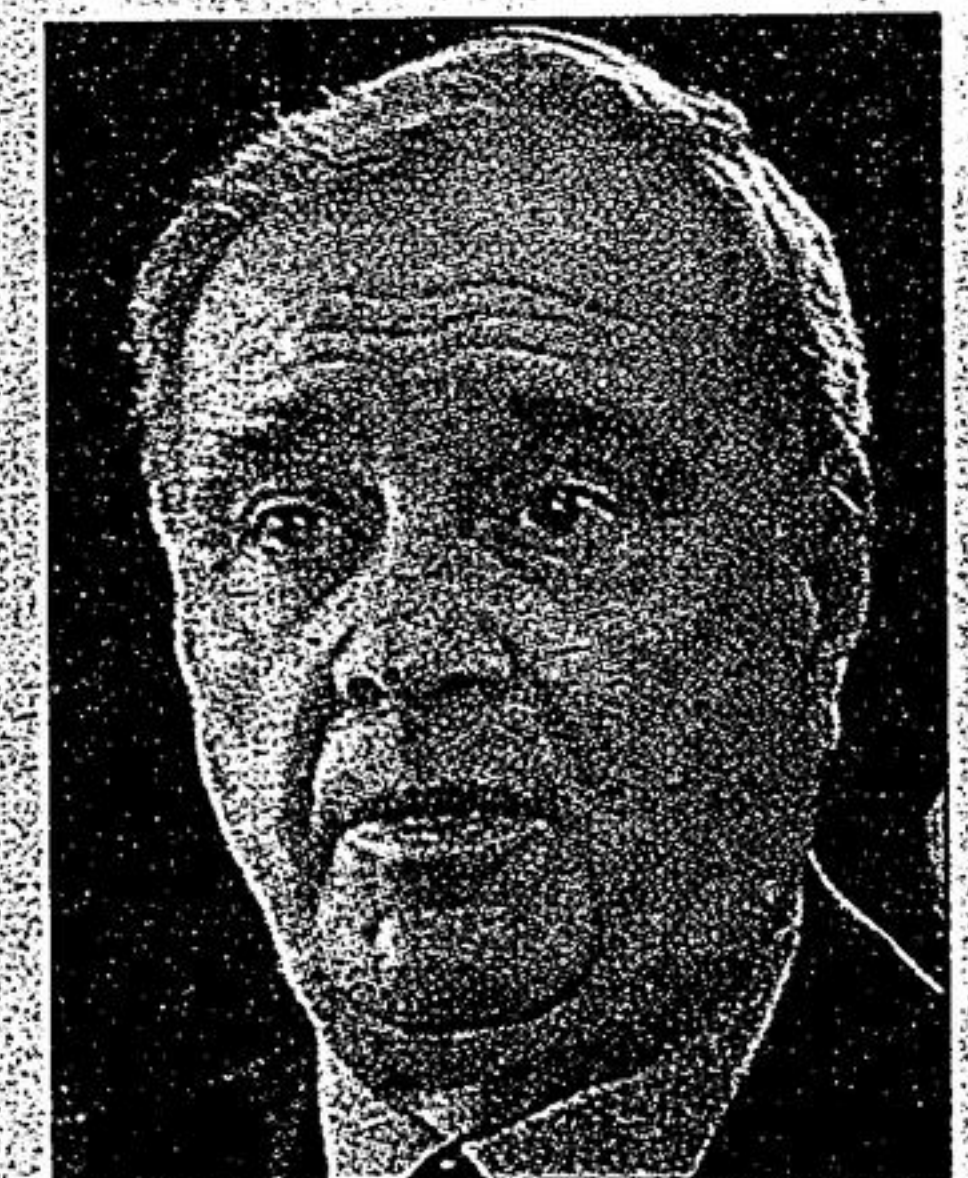
BY CAROLINE GRECH
 Staff Writer

York Region constituents should trust the Liberal government because it chose not to hide the sponsorship scandal, Prime Minister Paul Martin said in a one-on-one interview in Newmarket yesterday.

"They can trust us because we didn't shove it under the rug. We didn't. We said we'll take our lumps because we want to know what happened," Mr. Martin said. "The reason I believe that people can trust us is because we were as horrified as anybody. Think about it; not one person in my government is named in the report."

While the recently released Gomery report exonerated the prime minister from wrongdoing, many constituents remain skeptical.

"How in the heaven's name can the minister of finance know in a \$180-billion operation what's going on?" he asked. "When people embezzle money from a bank and you have a chief banker and someone embezzles from a bank branch, there is no way he can



PAUL MARTIN: Prime Minister made stops in York Region Wednesday.

know about it."

Promising there are extensive controls in place, where financial controllers will be in every government department, the prime minister said preventative measures have been taken.

In addition, the government has also put audits in place that would have picked up the sponsorship spending within three months, Mr. Martin explained.

The prime minister toured the Newmarket-Aurora riding Wednesday in what closely resembled pre-election stops.

See MARTIN, page 20.

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