

Kitchen duty and beyond for Gladys Clarkson

Highest national honour bestowed tomorrow at Stouffville Legion

BY HANNELORE VOLPE
Staff Writer

Gladys Clarkson is about to receive the Palm Leaf Award, the highest honour that can be bestowed on a member of the Ladies Auxiliary of the Royal Canadian Legion.

The 84-year-old Stouffville resident will be recognized tomorrow for decades of work with the Ladies Auxiliary as well as numerous community organizations.

She was president of the auxiliary for many years and volunteered with the First Stouffville Boy Scouts, Strawberry Festival and other community organizations.

Although she stepped down as the ladies auxiliary president about two years ago, she continues as the catering convenor.

She helped to prepare and serve the legion's famous luncheons for many years and will be at the Legion hall next Wednesday helping with the roast beef luncheon.

When asked about the award, Mrs. Clarkson noted that it could have gone to other members as well.

"Without these members, we can't succeed," she said. "Over the years, I have never had a harsh word with any of them. We have always been friends."

The auxiliary was started at the Legion in 1953, with Mrs. Clarkson as one of the original members.

"She is very good to work with, very willing and co-operative," said ladies auxiliary president Joan Marshman.

Mrs. Clarkson was a founding member of the Silver Jubilee Seniors Club, which celebrates its 30th anniversary Oct. 20.

The other founding members are the late Marion Murphy, Aurelia Smith and Marjorie Smith. All four were present at the club's 25th anniversary celebrations.

Mrs. Clarkson was a founding member of the Silver Jubilee Seniors Club, which celebrates its 30th anniversary Oct. 20.

The club took up residence in its current building at Market and Main streets after the local post office moved to its new spot east along Main Street.

Mrs. Clarkson prepared refreshments for events such as the annual St. Patrick's Day bazaar.

During those early days, the club boasted a good band, Mrs. Clarkson said.

During her years of volunteering with the First Stouffville Boy Scouts, she went along on their camping trips, assisting with the cooking and helping in other ways.

"I always tried to give them a home-cooked meal," she said.

Raising funds for the Scouts through paper drives was another responsibility.

Until recycling began in town, the paper drives sometimes netted four truckloads of paper which her husband, Bert, would drive to Toronto to be sold.

She continues her decades-long tradition of volunteering for the Strawberry Festival by helping at the strawberry social.

The Whitchurch-Stouffville Museum, where she is a board member, also holds a place close to her heart.

"My duties are usually in the kitchen," she said of her volunteering at fundraising events such as the annual antique and classic car show and the Victorian tea in November.

Her children, including Blair, Beth, Jane and Carol, along with son-in-law Rolly Scott, are reaping the benefits of Mrs. Clarkson's culinary skills.

Nine-day pickles, pickled beets and bread and butter pickles are some of the homemade creations Mrs. Clarkson continues to make.

She said she makes sure to enter a pie in the Strawberry Festival's pie contest every year.

For more on the legion and its awards, go to legion.ca

WhiStle setting launch date

You can find out when Stouffville's community radio station, WhiStleRadio, will finally be on the air.

The date is to be announced at WhiStleRadio's Breaking News Breakfast Nov. 2 from 8 to 9 a.m.

The event is at the Sleepy Hollow Golf Club, on 10th Line, south of Bloomington Road.

"We're calling it a fundraising breakfast," Jim Priebe, the station's founder and CEO, said, "but it is complementary and without obligation on the part of those attending."

WhiStleRadio received its license

from the CRTC to broadcast at 102.7 FM. Its call letters are GIWS. The low-power station will initially broadcast only to Stouffville.

WhiStleRadio is a not-for-profit organization, run by volunteers, with an emphasis on local people, places and news.

Programs will include airplay for local musicians, local concerts and emergency information such as road closings and school bus cancellations. You can also find out about local arts, culture, sports, hobbies and more.

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