

# Glory days relived as Orchard Park closes

It was a Fun Fairwell. And fun it was. However, the fairwell Saturday was tinged with regrets as staff and students past and present said their goodbyes to an educational institution of 50 years.

Stouffville's Orchard Park School officially closes the end of June.

As visitors, some from a distance, filed through the doors and down the halls one last time, Joy Barker, a graduate from the Grade 8 class of 1964 said it for everyone: "It's the end of an era. It's very sad."

Some couldn't hold back tears as they checked graduation photos dating back to 1958, when the school opened.

Although then ready for occupancy the Tuesday after Thanksgiving, the official ceremony didn't take place until Nov. 12.

"With the moving of so many desks, it was truly a Labor Day project," remembered Keith Sutherland, the school's first principal. "Custodial staff employee George Byer was a tremendous help."

Education Minister W.J. Dunlop cut the ribbon. Greetings were brought by village reeve Elmer Daniels and Eleanor Mercer, president of the Home and School Association.

A Bible, provided by the Gideon Society, was presented by Fred Alsop. The dedication was delivered by Stouffville United Church pastor Douglas Davis.

Cost of construction, including land and furnishings totaled \$150,000.

The school board chairperson of the day was hardware store owner Keith Middlemiss. Vice-chairperson was Cec Hendricks. Other trustees were William Malloy, Ethel Mole, Lorna Button and Harry Schell

Staff teachers included Janet Baker, Terri Windsor, Marguerite Ford, Cecile Carpenter, Iona Griffith and Gary Grundy. Enrolment was 212.

The first graduation class of 1958-59 included Winnie Skinner, Linda Smith, Betty Brown, Paul Middleton, Raymond Rioux, Jane Rioux, Donald Smith, Clare Byer, Kevin McWhinnie, Bruce Stride, Keith Betz, Eldon Smith, Ruby Mallett, Darlene Watson, Gail Hallman, Donna Knox, Linda Plaskitt, Virginia Foord, Paul Stover, Rick Spang, Paul Lomas, Ronald Lomas, Karen Hamilton, Nancy Stover, Astred Osterdahl, Marilyn Corrigan, Roddy McInnis, Paul Otter, Carol Hoover, Jim Daniels, Earle Grove and Jim Ferguson.

Mr. Sutherland's career in education spanned 35 years including the position of assistant superintendent of human resources with the York County board. He retired in 1989.

Mr. Sutherland described Orchard Park as a special



## Roaming Around

with Jim Thomas

school; a community school. With one exception, the six beginning staff teachers were younger than 25

"We were a group of young people growing up together," he said.

Stories related to his 20-year tenure at Orchard Park would fill a book. One time, he recalled a Grade 2 student bringing his mother's engagement ring to school and giving it to his girlfriend. It was hastily returned, Mr. Sutherland added.

Before a gymnasium, now a library, was added, physical education classes were held in hallways or outdoors.

During his era, no student was ever suspended. However, the strap was administered when necessary.

Elaine Clendenning, a teacher from 1970 to 2002, described Mr. Sutherland as an excellent school manager with a sense of humour.

"He kept us all in line," she said.

Stephanie (Strickland) Sebben, now a teacher at Ross Doan Public School in Richmond Hill, spent nine years at Orchard Park

"Times spent here were my finest days," she said.

Susan Chewins, still a teacher at Orchard Park, joined the staff in 1972. "It was and still is a wonderful place to work," she said.

"Wonderful memories," said Gary Grundy, a teacher at Orchard Park for 12 years.

"For me, not too much has changed. I still retain my same hair style with a wide part down the center."

David Payne, now retired and living in Mt. Albert, recalled traveling by motorcycle from his parents' home on 19th Avenue in Markham to Orchard Park. He taught Grade 5.

"A teacher never forgets his first school," he said.

He recalled constructing the backdrop for a student performance of HMS Pinafore starring Jim Brodie, Susan Christie, Sharon Mercer, Nancy VanKoughnet and David Herbert.

A 50th anniversary cake was cut by Mayor Wayne Emmerson, current principal Laura Ryckman and Mr. Sutherland.

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

# WHAT'S HAPPENIN' OUTSIDE!

As you can see even from a distance, our sidewalk is full and ready to go. What will be arriving this week: some medium size palm trees to give that 'Tommy Bahama' look-if that's what you need. Ferns are here and more hibiscus are coming on Saturday. Speaking of hibiscus, we've got some really nice 'doubles' in 6" pots at \$12.95 — more coming tomorrow. My neighbour Nigar, who is a plant nut like me, went to the greenhouse and helped pick lots and lots of hanging baskets which will be arriving over the next day or two (more than 1 truck full) — some very spectacular stuff. We haven't unpacked all the urns yet but we're working on it, just ask if there's an item that you need now — we can dig it out I'm sure.

We have a shipment of the big shade baskets that come every year — plus a medium and a smaller size, as well as some shade window boxes (lots for sun as well).

Begonia hangers are available in reiger (all shade), tuberous (half sun), dragon wing (three-quarter sun) and trailing illumination (three-quarter sun) as well as pots of all of these types, including fibrous, for planting either in the ground or containers.

We'll be getting a few more 6" pots of roses tomorrow and some of those beauty 6" dahlia pots which look splendid. We've got a fresh lot of 4" million bells in, nice verbena for accent, some tall red fountain grass, some wispy fescue, beautiful green and black potato vine, a new lot of 4" bacopa (white trailer), some golden globe in lime, regular and 6" size, a fresh lot of dracena, new cape daisies (osteo) and some nice bright new guinea impatiens.

Hens and chick planters abound, which should appeal to most of you because (a) they don't want lots of water and (b) they will winter over. Arriving today will be a refill of 'succulents' which give a neat show. Just now the tomato plants arrived — the only vegetable that we sell. We're offering a fabulous special price on them this weekend — just \$5.99 for a large healthy patio-size tomato plant!

If your planter requires 'height', we've got some nice gardenia standards, flowering maples, hibiscus and solanum. A new lot of elf hydrangea will be in on Friday and we've got a nice re-fill on many varieties of 4" ivy, including the sun tolerant and perennial 'balkan' variety. Lastly, we've got some flowering potato vine in hanging baskets, in 4" (not too many) and on trellis. And very lastly, I've got 4 giant palms at \$100 each. They take full sun of course, but need a good amount of water. Come look at what we're up to!

## FRESH SALMON SALAD

This week in our Deli we'll be whomping up great quantities of our doted-upon fresh salmon salad. It's made with gently-poached Atlantic Salmon, fresh lemon juice, celery and onions, and pure mayonnaise .. Heaven on a fork!

25% OFF THIS WEEK



## WHAT'S COOKIN' AT THE DELI!

I'm sure you can tell that a whole lot will be cookin' at the deli. One little look through the passage window will confirm the presence of many kitchen folk busily preparing all the stuff that we do daily! One thing they are making this week are semi-boneless stuffed chicken legs with a combo of rice, brewoise (finely chopped vegetables) and California dried apricots ... Really delicious!

## RHUBARB PIES

What we've made this week is a whole lot of these old-time Rhubarb Pies. We do these a couple times each year to get the Rhubarb lovers of the area excited — and they know that you can't get these just anywhere, especially scratch-made. They will be available with either a crumble top or pastry top, either baked ready-to-go or frozen, so that your home will be filled with that amazing aroma.

9" size  
Reg. — \$12.95

9.95 EACH THIS WEEK

## PILE O' BONES

Since we take the bones out of many, many prime ribs to make Rib Eye Steaks and roasts, we've got lots and lots of amazing prime rib bones — in fact, a pile of them. These are best slow-cooked — like you do prime rib — and enjoyed Neanderthal style, meaning, pick them up with your hands and gnaw. Although they are available plain, the vast majority are sold marinated in our Teriyaki and Sherry seasoning, which makes them candy-like.

Reg. \$3.99 lb.

1/2 PRICE THIS WEEK

## TALBACORE TUNA BERRIES

I am assured by Charlie (one of the fish guys) that this is sushmi grade tuna — that's good — and at the same time I was warned that we have only a limited amount.

16.99 LB. THIS WEEK

We've got a fresh arrival from California of raspberries and blackberries. The mix or match price this week will be ...

Product of California 1.99 CONTAINER

## WHAT'S FOR DINNER!

There are a few choices this week, all beginning with our great chicken. We use soft-scalded air-chilled chicken, and boneless breasts in this case. We poach them, slice them and serve them up in one of three amazing made-from-the-beginning sauces, much like you'd do at home if you had the time. The flavours available are ... lemon, orange and an amazing porcini mushroom sauce. The portion size allows a regular serving for three or an abundant serving for two.

Reg \$18.95

25% OFF THIS WEEK

## 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 before digging in because I find that the cheddar retains more heat than you might think. Delicious!

Reg. \$4.50 lb.

25% OFF THIS WEEK

## WHAT'S BAKING? THIS WEEK ...

As well as the rhubarb pies this week, we'll have ...

**SCHNITZ PIES** — these are the very delicious old-fashioned open-faced pies of Mennonite origin. It's a sour-cream custard pie with fruit baked in; the flavours being spiced apple, raspberry, wild blueberry and sour cherry.

9" size ..... Reg. \$12.95

**MIXED BERRY CUSTARD CAKE** — these are the moist cakes with baked-in custard. Not only do they have fruit in them, they are topped with simmered fruit and an apricot glaze. This is something that travels well because it's even better the next day.

Two sizes ..... \$24.95 and \$15.95

**CHOCOLATE CHUNK COOKIES** — It's a large buttery and chewy cookie filled with chunks of dark chocolate. According to Loretta, for extra 'wowness', eat them at least at room temp and preferably at body temp.

Reg. .... \$1.99 ea.

All these items will be priced at ... While supplies last.

25% OFF THIS WEEK

SPECIALS IN EFFECT UNTIL CLOSING SUNDAY JUNE 1<sup>ST</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

548 Carlton Road, Unionville

940-1770

www.thevillagegrocer.com

