

SUN-TRIBUNE PEOPLE

Lloyd wows them in national finals

Whitchurch-Stouffville was propelled onto the world stage of athletics last month through the brilliant trampoline endeavours of Olympic silver medalist Karen Cockburn.

This month, our town was again immersed in the spotlight of publicity thanks to the magnificent tenor voice of Lloyd Knight.

Mr. Knight, 73, a Stouffville-area resident since 1993, was voted No. 1 out of 800 vocal and instrumental entrants from across Canada in the second annual Chartwell Senior Star competition.

The grand finale, featuring the contest's top 10, was held Sept. 15 in the Imperial Room of Toronto's Royal York Hotel.

John Storms of Kingston placed second. Phyllis Sykes of Etobicoke was third. All 10 finalists received engraved, cut-glass trophies. The top three won, respectively, \$5,000, \$4,000 and \$3,000 travel vouchers.

"When my name was announced as the winner, I was shocked," Mr. Knight said. "It was a magic moment, a highlight in my life."

By coincidence, it was during a haircut appointment in Pickering that his barber suggested Knight seriously consider entering the Chartwell contest, reserved for men and women 65 and over.

After giving the suggestion considerable thought, Mr. Knight visited a Chartwell residence in Markham and an audition was arranged. He sang one of his favourite gospel songs, You Raise Me Up, and was immediately selected to advance to the next round.

The numbers were reduced to 73 and then 10. Out of the finalists, Mr. Knight was the last to perform.

"I was totally amazed at the magnitude of the production," Mr. Knight said.

The supporting cast included a seven-piece orchestra directed by Laura Lynn and a ballroom filled with 450 people. The show's host was famed Canadian singer Dinah Christie.

The panel of judges included entertainment icon Gordie Tapp, Dan Clancy of Canadian jazz rockers Lighthouse and singer-songwriter Tim Louis.

Mr. Clancy called the quality of talent "spectacular".

"It was difficult to select the best from the amazing 10 finalists," he said, "but, in the end, it was the power and grace of Lloyd's voice



Roaming Around

with Jim Thomas

that won us over."

Mike Harris, former premier of Ontario and Chartwell board chairperson, was in attendance.

Mr. Knight likened the finals to a concert rather than a competition.

"Never have I cherished such a moment," he said, after his name was announced.

"It was a surprise; a shock, because all finalists were equally good." His wife, Miriam, was seated in the audience.

Editor's note

Jim Thomas's column did not appear in Thursday's Sun-Tribune, as scheduled. We apologize for any inconvenience.

Mr. Knight plans to attend next year's performance, but as a spectator rather than a participant.

The next day, both the winner and runner-up were guests on Breakfast Television on CITY-TV. In December, CIV will feature an hour-long review.

Born at Penetang, one of four in the family of Robert Francis and Dorothy Knight, Lloyd moved with his parents to Toronto after his father obtained work at Victory Aircraft in Malton.

It was while attending Etobicoke Collegiate Institute that he was introduced to his first real singing role, that of a soloist in an all-girl choir.

"That's a story in itself," he admits.

As a teen, he attended Islington Avenue Baptist Church and later the People's Church. Following the congregation's move to Willowdale, the quality of Lloyd's voice was recognized by the minister of music, Dr. David Williams.

Lloyd became a regular Sunday soloist on national television. In



HUGH WESLEY PHOTO

Stouffville's Lloyd Knight was voted No. 1 out of 800 vocal and instrumental entrants from across Canada in the Chartwell Senior Star competition.

addition, he's traveled with Dr. John Wesley White, associate evangelist with the Billy Graham Crusade.

Locally, he's been a guest soloist at Stouffville's Christmas Day program, at Stouffville's Parkview Village and the Sacred Music Night in Stouffville's St. James Presbyterian Church. In November, he's participating in a memorial service at Markhaven, Markham.

As a youth, Mr. Knight had no voice training. He calls it "a gift from God".

Following their move to Stouffville, Lloyd and Miriam

attended Markham Missionary Church. They now worship at Unionville Alliance.

Lloyd and sons Peter and Stephen operate a video production company out of their home called Roundtable Association. They also have a son-in-law and daughter, Robert and Terri-Lea Morse of Stouffville and three grandchildren.

Lloyd Knight, another jewel in Stouffville's symbolic music crown.

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

Whitchurch-Stouffville News Digest

Visit yorkregion.com for more on these and other stories

Arrests in Giant Tiger heists in Stouffville, Markham

Two men have been charged in connection with two store robberies in Stouffville and Markham this year.

The most recent heist took place April 15 at the Markham Giant Tiger store. Two employees were leaving for the night when they were forced back inside by two men, one of whom was armed with a gun.

Another Giant Tiger was robbed Jan. 12 in Stouffville. At about 7:30 p.m., the manager was closing the Main Street store when two men inside an SUV pulled up beside him.

One man got out of the vehicle and forced the manager at gunpoint to re-open the store before tying him up, police said.

The robbers grabbed cash and cigarettes and drove off. The manager was not hurt.

Two people were brought to York Region from Penetanguishene Wednesday, where they were being held on similar charges.

Andre Nicholas Samuels, 25, of Brampton and Oliver Nicholas Evans, 28, of Toronto have been charged with several robbery-related offences.

Both men were held in custody and are scheduled in a Newmarket court Oct. 15.

Walk, run for conservation

The trails of Bruce's Mill Conservation Area should be lined with runners and walkers of varying ages next weekend.

The inaugural Mill 5 Run and Walk is slated to take place at the Stouffville Road park Oct. 5.

Proceeds go to the Conservation Foundation of Greater Toronto.

Participants can register at www.run4conservation.com or the Running Room in Markham, or at Bruce's Mill on race day.

Entry fees before Oct. 4 are \$35. On race day, they are \$40.

The 5K race and walk begins at 10 a.m. with the children's fun run at 10:10 a.m.

For more information on the run, go to www.run4conservation.com



We clear acne!

As seen on national television, Isolaz is a breakthrough aesthetic platform using painless, light-based treatment. No pain, no drugs, and results are immediately noticeable. Proven to significantly decrease "breakouts".

Call today for a no-obligation consultation.

Laser Hair Removal Specials

Bikini or Underarm just \$79

Upper Lip and Chin just \$99

Offer expires October 31

Call today for a no-obligation consultation.

