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Ladies hosted blood clinics for 31 years

From page 1.

Stouffville.

In the early years, when the kitchen was in the legion's basement, the women used a dumb waiter to pull the food up. Washing hundreds of pieces of cutlery was also a challenge until someone decided to pour water and dish soap into a wash tub. All the women had to do was drop the dirty cutlery into the tub, stir vigorously with a stick and they were clean. Strong-armed men were often utilized to stir the cutlery for the ladies.

The women's reputation for creating mouth-watering roast beef dinners, complete with all the fixings remains intact today and they are still offered twice a year.

Breakfasts are served on the third Sunday of each month.

"A lot of money goes out in food," said Norma Hodgson, president of the ladies aux-

But the women's role wasn't and isn't confined to the kitchen. The ladies auxiliary members used to visit veterans in nursing homes as well as run blood donor clinics. But in 1995, after 31 years, they handed the clinics over to someone else.

"We women were getting older and decided we had done it long enough," Mrs. Smith said.

Instead of making the rounds to various nursing homes, once a year they bring a group of veterans to the Stouffville legion from Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre

veteran's wing and provide them a lunch and entertainment.

The women also send gifts and cards to local veterans at Christmas.

The ladies auxiliary initiated the Friendship Club, Stouffville's first seniors group in 1965, which ran until 1995.

"We could see that if they had a place where they could meet, they could meet a lot more often and we even encouraged them to start their own executive," Mrs. Smith said.

In 1977, the Silver Jubilee Club was formed, which remains in its original location, the former post office at Main and Market streets.

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Any activity put on by the ladies auxiliary became and still is an important fundraiser for veterans and students with a connection to a veteran who are in need of assistance with post secondary education.

This includes the annual Remembrance Day Tea, Bake Sale and Craft Show, which has taken place the weekend before Remembrance Day for more than 40 years.

See MEMBERS, page 13.

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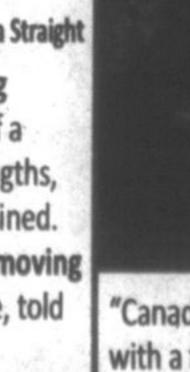
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