

# Branch 459 holds special place in community's heart

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It's Stouffville's community Centre.

The Royal Canadian Legion Hall at 150 Mostar St., has rapidly become the place to be.

No one knows the building's acceptance better than branch president Judy Bond.

"Once organizations have been here, they want to return," she says. The rental fee is reasonable, she explains, with no charges for gratis groups.

"It's our way of giving back to the community," she adds.

It was the late Pat MacIsaac, a Second World War navy veteran who, 17 years ago, persuaded Judy to join Legion Branch 459. She's never been sorry.

After serving on the executive for a lengthy period, she assumed the position of president in June 2011, a few days after the new building opened.

The current executive includes - Wendy Cribbett, 1st vice-president; Rick Sprague, 2nd vice-president; Marlene Heffron, secretary; Liz Tracey, treasurer; Joe Fafaro, sergeant-at-arms; Steve Pickard, membership chair and John McCracken, past-president.

It was immediate past-president

Murray Pattenden, assisted by Dave McQuaker who, according to Judy, carried the ball on the hall from its construction start to completion. The \$3.5-million price tag was covered by the sale of the old building on Ninth Line North.

As activities increase, so also does participation. Judy claims with memberships now approaching 400.

"Every month, new people join," she declares, "our membership manager is doing a wonderful job."

As an indication of just how popular the new hall has become, reservations, all under the direction of Valerie Budd, have included birthday and graduation parties; cancer society and United Way fundraisers; post-funeral receptions; square dances; air cadet banquets; knitting groups; auction sales and weddings. Recently, the hall was Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne's choice for a meeting.

In November, a 4-H club roast dinner is planned. And the same month, the Chamber of Commerce is holding its awards night. The town has reserved the hall for its annual Christmas banquet.

There's accommodation for up to 250. Pool tables are available in



## Roaming Around

with Jim Thomas

the lounge, says Judy. Shuffleboard and darts will be offered this winter.

Despite the building's choice by a cross-section of the community, "let us never forget our veterans," Judy stresses. This fact will be visible when Branch 459 holds its annual Remembrance Day ceremony Nov. 11 at 10:45 a.m. Hundreds are expected.

The Ladies Auxiliary Remembrance Bazaar is this Saturday at 10 a.m.

Another event of significance is the hosting each spring of veterans from Toronto's Sunnybrook

Hospital.

"They enjoy coming and we enjoy having them," says Judy. Transportation is provided by Sunnybrook.

With some legions closing, Judy considers the Stouffville branch very fortunate to have proceeded with a new building when it did. She feels it could be the last to be built in Ontario.

Will she consider a fourth term as president?

"It's a lot of work," she says, "but I enjoy it. I've made many friends."

In Stouffville, Branch 459 of the Royal Canadian Legion has made many friends also.

### A MERITED TRIBUTE

It was a concert perfectly presented.

It was a tribute justly deserved.

Lorne Boadway, Stouffville's 'Mr. Music', was gratefully honoured Friday evening at a performance hosted by Parkview Family Council and featuring 'The Voices of Showtime', a 13-member vocal/instrumental group who, in the words of leader Alan Ely, "come from all over the map".

The event was appropriately held in Mr. Boadway's second home,

Stouffville United Church.

The audience loved it. The performers enjoyed it. And Parkview's much anticipated Music Therapy program benefitted by it.

A \$5,000 cheque was presented to Family Council chairperson Dennis Ricketts.

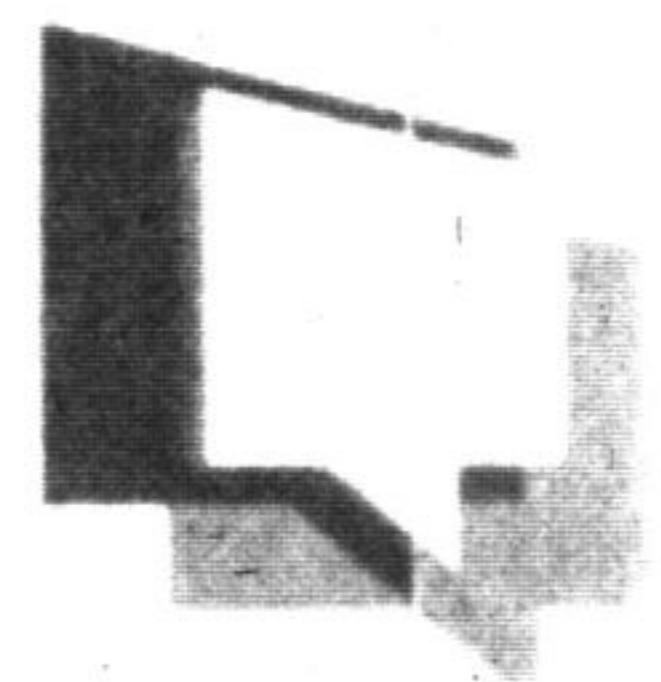
Mr. Ricketts, in describing Lorne's contributions to the Stouffville community, told how he'd spearheaded the beginning of Music Mania; had, for many years, directed the United Church choir and later successfully organized and led a mixed choir at Parkview Village.

The 13-member chorus, with a production entitled 'Juke Box Friday Night', reflected on a bygone era that included 19-cent-a-gallon gasoline; 25 cents for a loaf of bread; three songs for a quarter on the record machine; The Platters; Johnnie Ray and Glenn Miller.

Selections, both vocal and instrumental included - You Raise Me Up; Love is a Many Splendored Thing and The Great Pretender.

The audience accorded the chorus a standing ovation at the concert's conclusion.

The one thing missing? Lorne Boadway in person. But he was unquestionably present in spirit.



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