

COLUMN

Married 70 years, couple met at air raid post

A marriage milestone spanning 70 years is a remarkable achievement. This accomplishment was celebrated Sunday by Harold and Joan Tillyer of Musselman's Lake.

The joyous gathering of family and friends was held at Stouffville's Royal Canadian Legion Branch 459.

Mr. Tillyer is 95. Mrs. Tillyer is 92.

Born in Toronto, the son of William and Isobel Tillyer, Harold's early years were spent at home helping his parents in their grocery business. At age 22, he signed up with the Canadian army artillery and headed overseas. Holding the rank of private first class, he was honourably discharged after three years' service.

Joan, one of three in the family of John Luke and Mabel Annie Kain-Kennedy, is a native of Walthamstow, London, England. She and Harold met at an air raid watch post.

Prior to the war's conclusion, Harold and Joan were blessed with the arrival of a beautiful baby girl. Ann (Robinson), appropriately



Roaming Around

with Jim Thomas

described as their "war baby", now resides in Newmarket. Samantha, a second daughter, lives in Victoria, B.C. Harold and Joan have one granddaughter, Kara Joanne (Yamamoto) and two great-grandchildren, Aidan, 6, and Anara, 3.

Harold returned to Canada in 1945 and with accumulated army pay purchased a home in Toronto. Joan and Ann, then 13 months, followed aboard the ocean liner Queen Mary, landing at Halifax.

"The ship was full of war brides and war babies," Ann was later told. "It was obviously a noisy trip."

Following a period of employment with the Castor Motor Oil Co., Harold opened his own butcher business. He later obtained a position with the then City of York's board of education, where he remained until his retirement.

Joan spent 32 years with the Robt. Simpson Co., working her way up to manager of the benefits department.

After many weekends spent at the family's Musselman's Lake cottage, which had been purchased by Harold's parents, Harold and Joan moved there in 1972. It's still home.

They've travelled extensively, including trips to British Columbia, Mexico, the Dominican Republic, Hawaii and several times back to England.

Both have been active members of Stouffville Legion and the Balantrae Lions Club.

More than 80 family members and friends attended the 70th anniversary milestone. Messages of congratulations were received from Queen Elizabeth, the prime minister, Governor General, lieutenant-governor and premier.

The Sun-Tribune adds its best wishes on this happy occasion.

Fair drew 58,549 visitors

The 850 volunteers, described by Markham Fair president Kelly Winnitoy as "the strength and backbone of the organization," came in for repeated praise when the Markham and East York Agricultural Society hosted its annual banquet Saturday night.

"Without your immense commitment," she said, "the fair would not be the pride of our community and the envy of others."

Her words were echoed by immediate past-president Lesley English, former president (1981) Dennis Seeley, homecraft president Cathy Holden and fair ambassador Cassie Ferguson.

Despite a showery four days, 58,549 visitors filed through the turnstiles, the president said.

In addition to a host of helpers, Winnitoy applauded assistance received from "a good set of parents."

"My position with Hydro 1 is extremely demanding," she said. "This, plus a commitment to Markham Fair, left me little time for myself." She described the past year as "one of the most outstand-

ing experiences in my life."

In conclusion, the president urged her audience not to rest on their laurels. "The community is growing and changing," she said. "We must find ways of attracting new visitors in order to remain relevant." She was accorded two standing ovations.

A moment of silence ensued as English spoke of the untimely passing of fair past-president Karen Murphy and a scholarship established in her name.

The initial beneficiary was announced as Mackenzie Harrington, 18, of Stouffville, a first-year science student at Queen's University in Kingston.

Long-service awards were presented to: 45 years - Pete Kortis, Dennis Seeley and Kay Thompson; 40 years - Bill Brown, June Ford and Marion Norton; 35 years - Terry Boag, Bryan Gibson, Betty Hoover, Linda Kruuk, Joyce Lapp, Cathy Lee, Bob Little, Bob Ramer, Ashmore Reesor, Isabel Risebrough, Diane Ward and Jack Warriner.

Jim Thomas is a Stouffville resident who has written for area newspapers for more than 60 years.

CORRECTION

Election numbers incorrect

Jim Thomas' column last week continued some incorrect numbers from the Oct. 27 municipal election.

Ken Ferdinands defeated Elizabeth Johnston 495 votes to 293 in Ward 1. Maurice Smith won over Adam Schickedanz 1,884 to 661 in Ward 2.

The Sun-Tribune regrets the error.

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

Sleepy Hollow Country Club is hosting a public meeting to present its Annual Report on Class 9 pesticide use as required by Ontario Regulation 63/09 under the Pesticides Act. The Annual Report summarizes the use of Class 9 pesticides used at Sleepy Hollow Country Club in 2013.

The meeting will take place in the Clubhouse at Sleepy Hollow Country Club at 10 AM on November 17, 2014.

Presenting the Annual Report will be owner representative Shane Timms

****Confirmation of attendance is required to allow for planning room and seating arrangements.****

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