

LEGION OFFERS A WARM WELCOME TO ALL

A proud tradition of hospitality and service

By Jill McWhinnie

On Oct. 17, Dennis Alsop locked the doors of his Main Street insurance business, and with his five staff members, headed over to the Legion Hall for a roast beef dinner, as they've done for the past 12 years. "We like to support the Legion and enjoy a great home-cooked meal," said Dennis.

Dennis and staff were among the 220 enthusiastic diners who happily lined up for roast beef and pork with all the trimmings, mashed potatoes, vegetables, coleslaw and home made desserts. The doors opened at 11:30 and the long tables quickly filled up with seniors, business people, local firefighters, mechanics, residents attending for the first time, and those who've never missed a dinner. For those who didn't have time to sit down for lunch, take-out was available. At \$10 a plate, it was the best deal in town.

"This was the largest dinner we've had for a while," said Norma Bradley, membership secretary of Branch 459 and convener of this fall's dinner. "I was in here at 4:30 a.m.," said an exhausted Norma, finally sitting down to her own lunch as the hall emptied about 2 p.m. She and other volunteers had been putting the roasts into the ovens in the hall at the crack of dawn so they would be cooked in time to make "pan" gravy, which gives a roast that home-cooked taste. In all, 160 pounds of meat - eight roasts of beef and five roasts of pork - were prepared.

About 20 volunteers from the Legion branch and the Ladies Auxiliary had begun working the day before, peeling 110 lbs of potatoes and shredding 10 huge cabbages for the home-made coleslaw. And it seems the kitchen is no longer the exclusive preserve of the ladies of the organization - gentlemen volunteers donned aprons to help with the food preparation and graciously poured tea and coffee for the diners.

"I just have a ball," said Legion member Bob Lewis, one of the volunteer waiters. "I have a wonderful time talking to people at the dinner - some are folks I see all the time, some are old friends I haven't seen since last year."

The beef dinner is just one of the many community events the Legion branch and its Ladies Auxiliary sponsor throughout the year to raise funds for veterans' needs and for the many community projects supported by the Legion, including donations to Markham Stouffville Hospital, a bursary program for high school students, donations to local sports clubs, a children's Christmas party, and the services on Remembrance Day, to name only a few.

"Across the nation, the Legion donates millions of dollars," said Bob Lewis, adding that the Legion's many contributions are often not well known or recognized. What motivates these remarkable folks to contribute so much to our community, year after year?

Stouffville resident Marjorie Smith joined the Ladies Auxiliary when it was formed

in 1953, and has been a member ever since, organizing the blood donor clinics held at the Legion for 31 years. Like other charter members of the Auxiliary she feels a strong connection to the historic role it has played in supporting the branch, primarily in its service to veterans.

Marjorie recalled when "two buses of veterans and their wives would come to the Stouffville Legion for a dinner put on by the Ladies Auxiliary. There would be entertainment and dancing. Now there's only one bus and many of the veterans are in wheelchairs." But though the numbers dwindle the bond of 50 years of friendship is strong as ever. The Ladies Auxiliary dinner date with their "special guys" is already planned for next April.

Charter member Adline Sinclair speaks fondly of the 54 years of "companionship, comradeship and friendship" she has experienced as a member of the Auxiliary. "I feel pride every time I put on the uniform," she said of the Auxiliary's crisp blue blazer, navy beret, grey flannel skirt and white gloves.

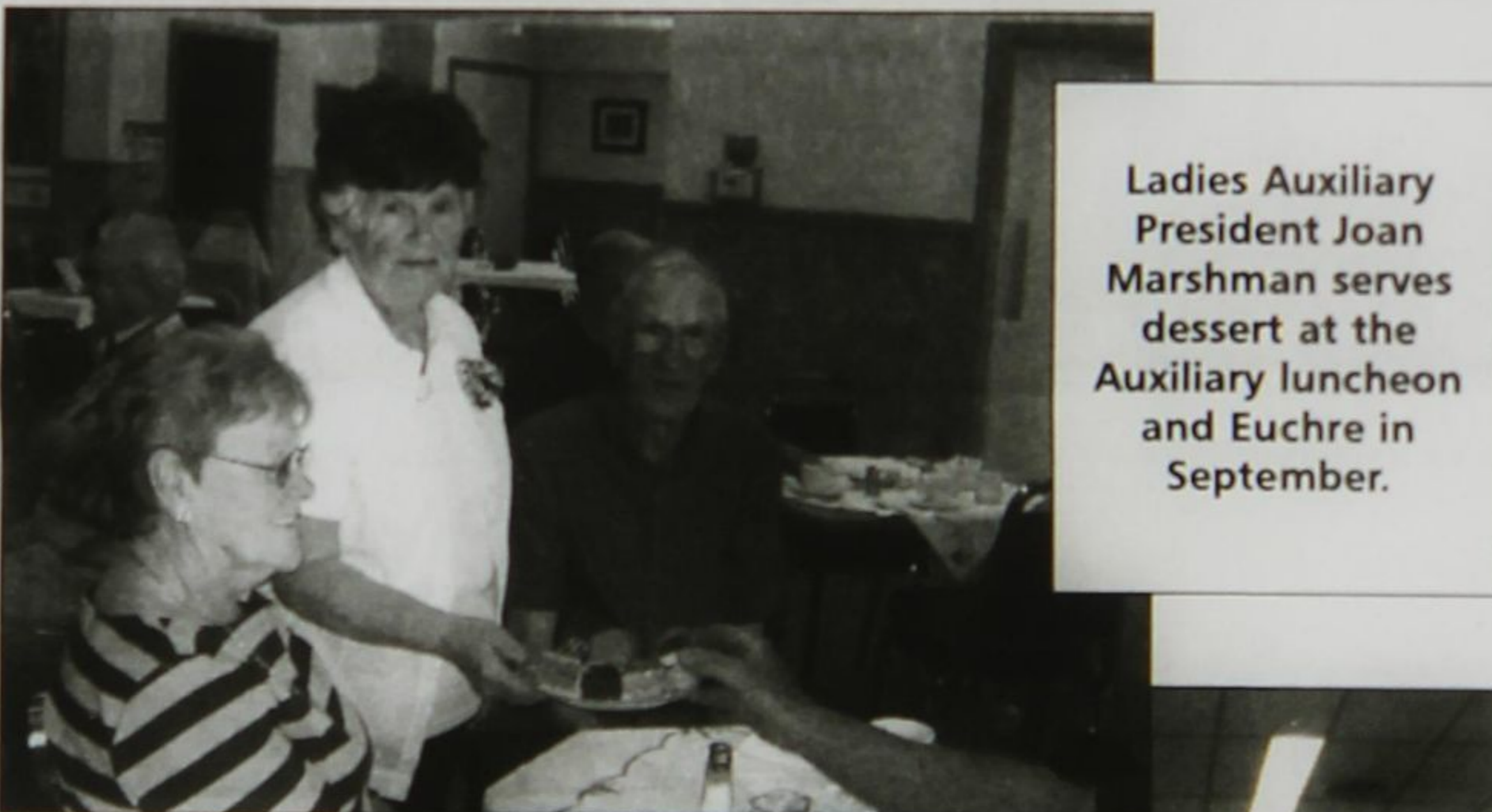
For Norma Bradley, whose dad was a veteran, her involvement with the Legion is "all about giving to the community, about

volunteering, and caring about other people." She encourages residents, especially those new to Stouffville, to drop into the Legion, which is usually open daily from 3 p.m., and find out more about the many programs and activities available. "It's a friendly, family-oriented organization."

Recruitment of new members is a nationwide priority for the Legion. A television advertisement promoting membership has been aired recently on a number of cable channels.

"We are particularly appealing to younger people," said Maureen Thompson, membership section head of the Royal Canadian Legion, "as younger people are needed to ensure continuation of the organization." Bob Lewis agreed. "We need people, especially younger people, ready, willing and able to help when the need arises."

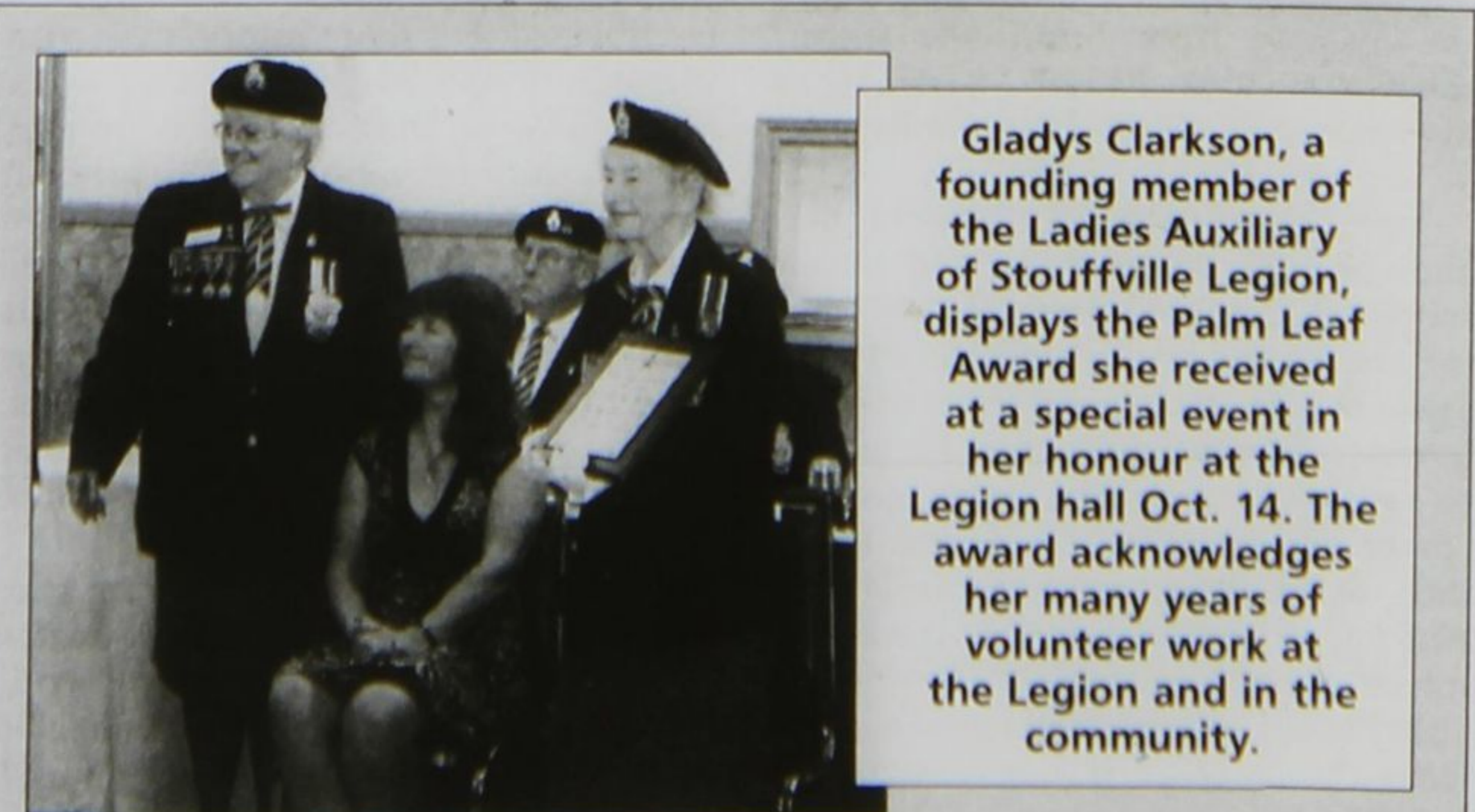
So this year as we pin on our Remembrance Day poppies, thanking those who served our nation in time of war, let's also say thanks to the Legion for its continuing dedication to those who served, and its dedication to the service of our community.



Ladies Auxiliary President Joan Marshman serves dessert at the Auxiliary luncheon and Euchre in September.



Bob Lewis pours coffee for Dennis Alsop and staff at the beef dinner on Oct 17.



Gladys Clarkson, a founding member of the Ladies Auxiliary of Stouffville Legion, displays the Palm Leaf Award she received at a special event in her honour at the Legion hall Oct. 14. The award acknowledges her many years of volunteer work at the Legion and in the community.

Managing Your Money

Contributed by Jim Priebe, MA, CFA

THE UNLUCKY THIRTEEN - FINANCIAL FRIGHTS YOU DON'T NEED

It's the 'scariest' time of the year when we c goblins and ghosties haunt the streets in search of sweet treats. In the spirit of this 'scariest' season, here are thirteen financial frights that can really get your knees knocking at any time of the year.

1) Chatting with guests at your retirement party and realizing that you have no idea if your retirement pension is going to cover all those things you want to do.

2) In your hospital bed getting the good news that you will only be off work for 6 months and realizing that you have no disability insurance and no emergency funds.

3) Realizing that your mother, who needs to move into a long-term care facility, cannot afford the cost of the facility she has chosen.

4) Opening your credit card statement and realizing your interest charges are higher than the current month's charges for purchases.

5) Celebrating the move of your youngest child from home to an apartment and getting a phone call from your eldest, who is unemployed and wants to move back home.

6) Basking in the glow of your daughter's high school graduation ceremony and realizing that it's too late to set up a Registered Education Savings Plan (RESP) and get Canada Education Savings Grants (CESG - provided by Human Resources and Social Development Canada) to help finance her university education.

7) Realizing when you file your tax return that you cannot offset the income earned on the fixed income investments which you bought with the proceeds of your stock portfolio, against the capital loss you realized when you sold your stock portfolio.

8) Realizing that stock market indices are up anywhere from 10% to 30% compared to when

you sold your equity investments at a capital loss to buy fixed income investments.

9) Getting a call from Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) telling you that they are going to deny the deduction on that tax shelter scheme you bought.

10) Finding out your furnace needs replacement just after you depleted your bank account for your mid life crisis sports car.

11) Getting your notice of assessment and finding that you have unused Registered Retirement Savings Plan (RRSP) contribution room of \$60,000 and no extra funds.

12) Realizing that your children, who you added as joint owners to your mutual fund accounts, are not going to consent to a withdrawal from the accounts to finance your European holiday with your new sweet young love interest.

13) Opening your credit card statement in January. You need not fear these thirteen financial frights - or many others that can set your teeth chattering - when you put in place a comprehensive financial plan that fits your life.

Don't trick yourself, be sure you and your family get all the treats they deserve: talk to a professional planner today.

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For more information call Jim Priebe.

IG Investors Group™



Jim Priebe, MA, CFA
Investors Group
(905) 640-6429

jim.priebe@investorsgroup.com

Decima eVox poll for Investors Group October 20-30, 2006
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