

GORD NESS: HUMOURIST, FAMILY MAN, ARTIST AND LAWYER 1941-2006

By Bruce Stapley

Gord Ness was determined to get the last laugh, and that's exactly what he did. The 64 year old partner in the Stouffville law firm Button, Armstrong and Ness died September 28 of Non Hodgkin's Lymphoma. But the multi-talented man with the inimitable sense of humour, who was known to his family and many friends as "Gordie", "Papa Ness", "Grunkle" and "Grampa Gordie", clung to life just long enough to deliver a hilarious stand up comic routine at his step-daughter's wedding five days

before his death.

"Gord had a wonderful sense of humour, he was a delightful person to know," said Stouffville's Bob Lewis, a 30 year friend of Gord's. "He was also a man of integrity. He gave lawyers a good name." Mr. Lewis marveled at the will that enabled his friend to achieve his final goal. "He showed such stamina, such determination in his last two months so he could be at Debra's wedding. And he made it." Gord was born in Sudbury, Ont. in 1941. He graduated from the University of Toronto Law School in 1967. He was hired by Reg Button, father of current Button,

Armstrong and Ness partner Eric, in 1968 after traveling to Stouffville to close his first real estate deal on a Claremont farm purchased by his parents.

Gord, who took up residence in Stouffville with his first wife Lorna that same year, was named a partner in the firm in 1972. Gord became a fixture in Stouffville, involving himself in a variety of town activities. Along with Mr. Lewis, he did a local weekly television interview show for Classicom Cable 10 called "Man on the Street" for two years in the late 1970's. He was a regular in Music Mania, and was active in the local sports scene. He was an accomplished artist, banjo player, sailor and skier.

Gord moved to a rural property in Nestleton with his second wife Terri in 1989. It was there he developed a love of the outdoors. "Everyone said it was me

who took him away from Stouffville, Music Mania, his friends and sports," said Terri. "But it was really his chain saw and the trees."

Gord's determination to use timber from his property to enhance his environment was evident even as recently as this past spring when he purchased a portable sawmill. He proudly displayed pictures of the device to anyone visiting his office.

A dedicated family man, Gord leaves behind his wife Terri, daughters, Rebecca (Taylor) and Amy, step-daughters Debra (House) and Tammy (Bruce), four grand children, a sister Nancy

(Cameron) and a brother Roy. He also leaves an endless array of friends. "Gord was a buddy to everybody," said Mr. Lewis.



Long time resident joins mayoral race

By Kate Gilderdale
Stouffville Free Press

Randy Mole has joined incumbent Sue Sherban, former mayor Wayne Emmerson, Don Barker and Pam Courtot in a five way race for the mayor's chair.

Mr. Mole, who ran for the position in 2003, grew up in the community and frequently attends council meetings. He is concerned about the loss of green space and the effect of unchecked growth on the town's water supply. "This town is run by developers and consultants and a bureaucracy whose decisions are made to benefit the developers rather than meeting the needs of our community."

He supports a theatre at 19 Civic Ave. as a focal point of downtown revitalization. "I was pleased to see that council adopted the recommendation of a multipurpose facility to be ready for the town's 130th anniversary," he said. "I hope to eventually see it evolve into a 230 seat theatre."

He plans to fight hard for residents' rights. "I have gone to the OMB, alone, to fight for compatible infill housing. I filed for an environmental assessment of the proposed lake-based water supply, because it will ensure rapid, uncontrollable development."

Mr. Mole noted that the town's



Secondary Plan calls for the preservation of older neighbourhoods, wooded areas, ponds and streams, agricultural land and heritage homes and farmhouses. "With the destruction of the treed farm lane bordering Millard Street we missed a wonderful opportunity to have a shaded bicycle and walking trail entrance to our town, reflecting our small town values," he said. "The burning of the Harper/Hooper farmhouse was a tremendous loss to this town, and symptomatic of our municipal government's attitude towards heritage buildings."

He will not accept donations from corporations who do business with the town, he stressed. "Since this is a grass-roots campaign, I am considering penny jars and donations from anyone who wants to contribute on a personal level," he said.

"We cannot continue cutting down trees, paving farmland and destroying our water supply without drastic consequences. We need to investigate ways of generating income for this town other than selling permission to develop it."



BIRKETT-HASSARD

Insurance Brokers Limited

*Offering Home, Auto,
Commercial and Farm
Insurance to the Community
Since 1898*

*6262 Main St., Stouffville
905-640-2000*



building
our future
honouring
our past

RE-ELECT

**sue
sherban
FOR MAYOR**

A Mayor with Passion, a Plan
and a Proven Track Record



Mayor Sue Sherban is passionate about her community. A long-time resident of Stouffville and experienced municipal politician, Sue has been working for positive change in our community for nearly 12 years – first as an activist, then a two-term Town Councillor for Ward 6 and, most recently, as Mayor. Known for her hands-on approach, Sue gets to the heart of the issues residents care about and she makes things happen. A proven leader, Sue Sherban has a plan to build our future, while honouring our past. A vote for Sue is a vote for a growing, vibrant community that keeps the "country life" in Stouffville.

sue's agenda: smart growth, community life and the environment