

Foursome founded Silver Jubilee Club

By Kate Gilderdale
Stouffville Free Press

When Gladys Clarkson, Marion Murphy, Aurelia Smith and Marjorie Smith established the Silver Jubilee Club for seniors in 1977, they were too young to join themselves.

The four were members of the Ladies Auxiliary of the Canadian Legion branch 459. "We began by running the Friendship Club for seniors out of the Legion Hall," recalled Marjorie. "Mabel Burkholder started the club and it

ran for 27 or 28 years," said Marion.

When the post office moved to new premises, the foursome decided to see if they could get permission to use the empty building to house a seniors' club. "The four of us approached the council about obtaining the building," said Marjorie.

At that time, the federal government offered a program called New Horizons, which supplied grants for eligible organizations. "The program was coming to an end, but we got in under the wire," said Marion. With the help of the grant they

were able to buy everything they needed including tables, chairs and a fridge. They also purchased a piano for \$500 with assistance from the Latcham Foundation.

Activities included cards, which remains a very popular pastime to this day, as well as live entertainment including choirs, singers and dancers, and bus trips to various locations in the States and Canada. In the 1980s, club members Sara and George Pegg formed the Kitchen Band, a nattily-attired ensemble which included kazoos, washboards, a saxophone and some highly individual homemade instruments.

"We had an art club here and a foot clinic," said Aurelia. "We still have our potluck suppers three times a year." In recognition of their community service, the four friends were among nine Stouffville residents awarded Queen's Golden Jubilee medals at Queen's Park in 2003.

Today the Silver Jubilee hosts a wellness program through CHATS (Community Home Assistance to Seniors) which includes fun activities, exercises and nutritious meals. The program is held the first and third Monday of each month and the cost is \$7, which includes lunch. Theatre trips are also offered and the club has recently been redecorated.

"We've had a lot of good times here," said Marjorie.



An impressive chopper enjoys the spotlight on the grounds of Lemonville Community Centre during re-opening celebrations Sept 23.



The Kitchen Band tunes up for a performance at the Silver Jubilee Club in Feb. 1983

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It's time to start making your home beautiful for the holidays

FAMILY, COMMUNITY AND YOUR LIBRARY

By Carolyn Nordheimer

"The Whitchurch-Stouffville Public Library serves the members of the public in their leisure, informational, and cultural quests and provides a community place for the sharing of their creativity, their joy of reading, and their life-long learning interests."

The above is the mission statement of the Whitchurch-Stouffville Public Library adopted by the Library Board last spring. To provide a community place in which to promote these leisure needs, the Library, in partnership with the Lebovic Leisure Centre, is holding a series of Family Free for All evenings throughout the winter.

Events include a family movie and games with Multiverse sponsored by the Library, and a family swim and fitness events sponsored by the Town's Leisure Services Department.

The fun starts at 6 p.m. and the Library and Lebovic Centre will remain open until 9 p.m. All activities are free and designed to encourage families to participate together in leisure activities. Dates are Oct. 27, Nov. 17, Jan. 26, Feb. 23, April 28 and May 25.

October is Canadian Library Month and Oct. 16 to 23 is Ontario Public Library Week, and residents are encouraged to discover the treasures on offer. The Library is now a ServiceOntario location, and staff can help users navigate a wide range of general information

about government programs and services, including:

- Answers to frequently asked questions about government services;
- Referrals to government staff who can provide specialized help;
- Access to government Internet sites to search programs, services or staff;
- Free government publications.

Residents are invited to participate in our ServiceOntario Scavenger Hunt to win valuable prizes. Beginning Monday, Oct. 16, a puzzle contest will be displayed in the Library for Public Library Week. A draw from all correct answers will determine the winners.

As well, patrons returning overdue materials between Oct. 16 and Oct. 22 may "pay" for their fines with a food bank donation. This special offer is for all materials excluding DVDs and videos, and applies only to items being returned, not to past outstanding fines.

On Oct. 17 from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m., Canadian author John Brady will read from his recent work, Poacher's Road. On Oct. 19 at 3:30 p.m., a Seniors' Safety Movie will be shown, hosted by the Seniors' subcommittee. On Oct. 19 from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m., an All Candidates meeting for the municipal election will be held at Stouffville District Secondary School. All events are free.

Carolyn Nordheimer is CEO of Whitchurch-Stouffville Library