

Rural Reflections

Love, not lemons, grows in Lemonville

by
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Lemons may not grow in Lemonville, but love sure does.

Settled on the land they chose to build their dream home and raise their family, Norma and Bryan Emery have been married for 44 long and happy years. The couple met at a YMCA dance in Toronto and it was love at first sight. When Bryan asked Norma out on a date, he told her she was the girl he was going to marry. Norma's reaction was to think, what a perfect line.

Bryan wasn't kidding, and on Oct. 29, 1960, wedding bells tolled for the young bride and groom, as over 450 guests watched the marriage vows exchanged at their 'small' Ukrainian wedding. Before the big day, the young couple did some soul searching to decide what they both wanted in life: a home in the country and children.

After looking for just the right piece of property, they finally settled on 11 perfect acres in Lemonville, and while they were still living in Toronto they cleared the land and worked and saved towards building the house of their dreams. They had two daughters, Dina and Tracy, to complete their

happy family.

As the years passed, proud father Bryan, who has always been a sports nut, had the girls following in his active footsteps. Evenings and weekends were spent travelling to sports events for the girls or for dad himself, with mom along to cheer them on.

As recently as 1992, Bryan managed the Canadian trampoline team and Norma accompanied him to New Zealand and Hawaii to watch the exciting competitions. Bryan, despite being the oldest competitor, did Whitchurch-Stouffville proud by coming in 38th in the standings.

One thing that has remained constant during the couple's life together is the commitment they made to each other more than 44 years ago. As with every marriage there were difficult moments but, as Norma pointed out, they persevered and their marriage has grown stronger as a result.

Before they got married, they each knew what they expected from life. Working together towards those goals has made their union stronger than ever. Is there a secret to a

happy, long-lasting marriage?

Could it be just the special little things like Valentine's Day? Over the years, Bryan has presented his wife with lifelike copper roses that he had made himself. If he forgot to buy a card, he would give her a poem, pick wild flower or make a gift. Could happiness be that easy to achieve?

"I think commitment to supporting each other and being there is one of our secrets in still being married," he said. "Decide what the two of you really want out of life. Think that in obtaining a lasting marriage or relationship, you have to really work hard at it and not just give up."

Over the years, Norma has written a lot of Valentine's cards to Bryan and this year, she has a special, heartfelt message for her guy. "I feel like I have said I love you in every possible way over the years, but I don't know if I've put into words how grateful I am that we've come through so much together, or how sharing my life with you has meant so very much to me."

Happy Valentine's Day to everyone.



Stouffville Lions Annual Christmas Basket Project

— 2003 —

This has been a real Community Project.

The Stouffville Lions would like to thank the following supporters who DONATED or helped gather the donations, prepare the items and deliver the Christmas Baskets this past Christmas 2003.

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Please Take Note:

- 1) Stouffville Lions would like to Thank Stouffville Sobeys for their hospitality and the entire Stouffville Community for making the Lions Christmas Tree Project a success again this year.
- 2) We would like to Thank all the participants that put on a beautiful display of lights for the Christmas Season and for the very well attended Lions 'Senior's Christmas Light Tour'.

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