

Winnie Layland bows out after 24 years at town offices

By Kate Gilderdale
Stouffville This Month

In a career spanning almost 24 years, Winnie Layland has served as secretary to four local mayors and her easygoing personality and gentle sense of humour have won her many friends in Whitchurch-

Stouffville.

"I got a part time job at the town in 1980 when the kids started school and I worked for four hours a day. I always remember (town staff) said to me their only worry when they hired me was whether they would be able to understand me okay," said Winnie, whose

delightful Scottish lilt is still much in evidence after more than 40 years in Canada.

When she joined the town, Eldred King was mayor and she earned a princely \$5 an hour. "I was quite glad just to get back into the work force and I did whatever needed doing." After about a year, she was offered a full-time position as secretary to Ken Aida in the planning department.

She then became committee secretary, responsible for typing up council minutes, "and that's how I ended up working for Eldred." When he left to become regional chairman, Tom Wood was appointed interim mayor and Winnie worked for him until the next election, when Fran Sainsbury was elected to the office.

"We had a lot of laughs, and one day at the office she turned up and we were wearing the same outfit, so she went home at lunch time and changed." When Wayne Emmerson took over the mayor's chair in 1994, Winnie had no trouble adjusting to his management style. "I loved working with Wayne and I think it was good that he went out (when he was) on top."

He had a special ability to put people at their ease, she noted. "We had quite a few Chinese delegations and they loved Wayne, even though they couldn't really speak English. All he could say (in Chinese) was 'Happy New Year'."

Since Winnie retired on Jan. 23, she hasn't had time to miss work. "(Granddaughter) Jordan was born on Jan. 26, my first Monday at home, and I had Auston (her 2-year-old grandson) and the dogs to look after. And this is retirement," she said, with a cheerful grin.

On March 1, the Stouffville Lions Club is hosting a Roast and Toast social and dinner in Winnie's honour. The event will be held at Latcham Hall beginning at 6:30 p.m.

and tickets are \$30 each Marilyn Ferguson at from the town offices, Whitchurch-Stouffville Barthau Jewellers and Library.



Winnie Layland is seen here with granddaughter Jordan and grandson Auston, 2.


INCOME TAX RETURNS

Personal / Business
Corporate

E File

Allan W. Eagar C.M.A.
247 Debborah Place
Stouffville, Ontario
905-640-1499
Seniors Discount

FREE PORTFOLIO REVIEW



John Paulino
Investment Representative
34 Civic Ave., Unit 101
Stouffville
Bus 905-640-9559
1-888-631-3348
Fax 905-640-9916
www.edwardjones.com
Member CIPF

Edward Jones®
Serving Individual Investors



The Pet STOP
For all your pet needs.

Announcing Our...

FREQUENT GROOMING

Every 6th Groom is free



Brrrr...
it's cold outside
Keep your furry friend warm!

DOG COATS & BOOTS
25% OFF



Flora
Is it worth it?



Duke
When I grow up



Mike

Everyday is SENIORS DAY
Seniors receive **10% OFF**
Including grooming

Business Hours
Mon., Tues. & Wed. • 9am - 6:30pm
Thurs. & Fri. • 9am - 8pm
Sat. • 9am - 6pm
Sun. • 12 noon - 5pm

We accept Cash



www.thepetstop.ca
6356 Main St. E.
(downtown Stouffville near the Post Office)