

Tollendale Tales



Publication of the tenants of Tollendale Village

A Christian Retirement Community

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Do you know who these young travellers are? They were seen driving around Tollendale Village in their sporty Mazda Maita on a sunny afternoon in January.

New beginnings

By Peter Meyer (G14)

When we begin a new year we always think of it as a new beginning. We talk of making New Year's resolutions. It implies a change for the better. Most of my new beginnings did not happen on the first day of the year. In my youth the most important new beginnings had to do with school. We moved frequently and therefore I had to get used to new schools, new teachers, new books and new friends. When I graduated from high school at the age of fifteen I had to look for a job. There were no manpower services available at that time. I did not look in the newspapers either because I did not know what I wanted to do. My mother got a few addresses from the school principal. They were all from insurance companies. Armed with these addresses I ventured out in to the heart of the city of Amsterdam to see if anybody wanted me. In those days my hair was fiery red and my face heavily freckled. I was not a picture of an angelic choirboy but looked rather like a mischievous street urchin. Red hair spelled trouble. It took the better part of the day before I dared to knock on a door. I hoped that no one would answer. I felt worse than a beggar. Wonder of wonders the door opened, I was allowed inside – and I could stay.

In school I had been surrounded by children my own age but now I was the only young person in a room full of adults. It was not a very exciting beginning into the world of work. As a junior clerk I was assigned to file life insurance policies in a musty underground dungeon. I thought those policies were nothing but death warrants. There really is no life insurance because life cannot be replaced.

I can tell you that I was happy to hear talk of emigration to Canada. That too was a new beginning, but an exciting one. Wild West stories were my favourite books and I read many. I often dreamed of riding horses on the wide-open prairies and swapping hunting stories around a campfire. That would be a welcome change that would be from shuffling life insurance policies.

In February 1950 emigration became a reality and my parents and four children boarded the Beaver Brae with many other emigrants who were looking for a new beginning in a rather unknown country.

When we landed in Halifax at Pier 21 I became an immigrant. My passport was stamped with the words "landed immigrant." The landed was significant because we often despaired of seeing land again. Seasickness had made us long for land that would not sway all the time. We were glad that we were landed and not just washed ashore.

Halifax was covered with snow. Obviously, we had

arrived too early to “plough the fields and scatter the seeds.” We were allowed to enter Canada provided we work on the land for at least a year. I had to undergo basic training and that meant spreading a lot of manure on the fields. But in due time the “milk and honey” started to flow and Canada became our homeland.

Ever since that beginning I have loved to work with the soil of the earth. Every spring is an exciting new beginning that sees nature come to colourful life. It is also a time for young people to make a decision about a new beginning as husband and wife. To make such a vow is much stronger than a New Year’s resolution. My wife and I made this new beginning and it flourished into a family with five children.

I am skipping several new beginnings to September 1975 when I became a minister of the gospel in Medicine Hat, Alberta. Now my dream had come true about the prairies. Here the deer and the antelope play. I was overwhelmed with the vastness of the land and the glorious expanse of the sky. It was surely humbling, yet at the same time exhilarating because I felt the presence of God. At the beginning of every week I could tell the people of my congregation “The earth is the Lord’s, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it.” Ps.24: 1

Every morning the sun appears and makes us sing “The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands. Ps19: 1

The climax of that story is a vision of the apostle John who saw a new heaven and a new earth. “I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. Rev.21: 1,2

Thank God for all new beginnings.

leasing of units. Sid expressed gratitude for the many volunteers who assist the staff. A volunteer registry is now in place to manage and recognize their effort.

From an operational perspective, new procedures and services have been implemented. The Board approved a new waiting list policy. There is now an active and an inactive waiting list. On the active waiting list are those who are ready to move in as soon as a suitable unit becomes available. On the inactive list are persons not ready yet to move in. Someone’s place on the list is based on the date of application to either the inactive or active list.

The Food Services department is expanding and has organized events to encourage patronage in the different areas. It is also catering to special events.

Tollendale is now doing its own garden maintenance. Uniforms add to the professional look, making staff easily identifiable. Nursing staff is on site seven days a week.

On the administration side, a comprehensive Human Resources Policy Manual has been put into place, formalizing policies and procedures for employees. A significant reduction in insurance premiums was put in place, providing about \$20,000.00 in savings.

The Board approved a change in policy to permit food and beverages in the auditorium, making for better use of the space, and providing rental income from outside organizations.

The present Equity Lease agreements, consisting of a tenancy agreement and a promissory note, will be changed to Life Lease agreements making them conform to a developing standard. This terminology will make it easier to deal with the Canada Revenue Agency.

A major focus has been the proposed nursing home. A management team, consisting of Board members John Eisses, Dick Romp, and Don Dykstra, Roland Jonker, architect, building committee chair Ivan Joosse, nursing manager Marie Vanderwal and the executive director are working with representatives of Barton Properties and Responsive Health Management on this major project.

Sid explained the background for this plan. When the concept for Tollendale Village was developed in the late 1990s it was the vision that Tollendale would be an “Aging in Place Community,” with accommodations ranging from independent living units, to assisted living services and ultimately a full care licensed nursing home. Zoning was approved based on this arrangement.

About five years ago the province allocated funds for

Executive Director’s report



SCCSH Inc. annual
membership meeting
November 22, 2006

Editor’s summary of Executive Director’s presentation

Sid Tjeerdsma reported that this was the first time there was no major construction project to report on. Staff changes in several departments resulted in 28 people now working full or part time on behalf of the residents.

The budget for this fiscal year includes an allowance for a part-time unit coordinator to assist in the re-

the development of 20,000 new licensed nursing beds in Ontario, and Tollendale applied for beds through a proposal process. This was done twice, unsuccessfully, as Tollendale Village was a relatively new organization without a proven track record. The Board also became aware of the fact that there was little likelihood that more licenses would be made available through this proposal process. It was uncertain at that time whether Tollendale would ever see the possibility of being able to fulfill its vision.

However, in 2005, Barton Properties Limited of Toronto approached Tollendale. Through a redevelopment process, it would have 160 nursing beds available. The Ministry of Health and Long Term Care instructed Barton to relocate those beds to the Barrie area. The Board then began discussions with this party. As an aside, Sid mentioned that Barton and Responsive Health Care's president Bill Dillane, has been involved in the nursing home industry for many years, and is currently president of the Ontario Long Term Care Association, which represents all the nursing homes in Ontario. He is highly respected not only in the industry but also at Queen's Park.

Earlier this year the Board signed a Long Term Care Facilities Agreement with Barton Properties, which spells out the arrangements for transferring the bed licenses to Tollendale. A management agreement was signed with them to manage our facility, as Tollendale does not have the experience required.

Over the past several months many days were spent visiting other new homes and all-day planning sessions took place to develop the conceptual plans for the home. Through this comprehensive design development process and working with recognized experts in the field, Tollendale hopes to build one of the best nursing homes in the province. It will consist of 160 beds on three floors, and will cost approximately 22 million dollars. An additional 98 underground parking spaces will be needed.

In order to address cross-liability issues and other matters, it is the Board's intention to incorporate the planned nursing home as a separate entity. The nursing home will thus be responsible for its own financial performance and not depend in any way on financial operations of the present village.

The Ministry of Health and Long Term Care has given indications that the transfer will be approved, and it is preparing the agreements to be signed by all parties to confirm the final details.

Although Tollendale is "somewhat disappointed" that the approval process with the Ministry is taking such a long time, Sid expressed hope that "a shovel may be in the ground" in the early part of 2007 with an

occupancy date in late 2008. The next few years are expected to be busy ones once again.

Note: The above annual meeting report serves as the executive director's report for this issue of *Tollendale Tales*.



Nancy Bigelow is the new (part-time) unit co-coordinator

Annual membership meeting - Answers to our questions

After his overview of the business of the past year, the executive director answered questions from the floor. At the editor's request, Ricky Kapteyn, Board secretary, provides here a compilation of Sid's answers.

- (i) The facility would be owned by a new corporation independent of SCCSH Inc., operated as a not-for-profit organization by a Board of Directors and managed by Barton Properties.
- (ii) Payment for the bed licenses will take place over a 20-year period.
- (iii) The Ministry of Health and Long Term Care provides capital funding equal to \$75,000 per bed over 20 years.
- (iv) The total cost is estimated to be \$22,000,000. Negotiations are underway with financial institutions for a mortgage in the range of \$16,000,000 – \$18,000,000. The balance will be raised through private investments.
- (v) The Christian character of the facility will be promoted through the implementation of design concepts as well as through the chaplaincy program and various activities.
- (vi) Of the 160 beds, 60% will be private and 40% semi private. All placements in nursing homes go through the Community Care Access Centre.

- (vii) Each residential area of the Long Term Care facility will have its own dining room and server but will share the existing kitchen with Tollendale Village. Costs of shared facilities will be appropriated accordingly.
- (viii) The new building will connect with the Village Square behind the bank area and to the back of the kitchen. It will have its own security system.
- (ix) Plans include an additional 90 parking spaces underground and 20 – 30 above ground spaces.

In response to a question regarding #9 in the notes pertaining to the financial statements, Mr. Tjeerdsma explains, that as outlined in the Promissory Notes given to residents at the time they move in, they are required to give 60 days notice in the event they wish to move out, following which SCCSH Inc. has 120 days to pay out the note. This allows staff sufficient time to re-lease the unit. To date the experience has shown that rarely has anyone had to wait 180 days for funds to be returned.

WOODSHOP NOTES

Summary of meeting held on November 6, 2006

Present: Albert Brouwer (vice-all) Frank Kamstra (chair); Orley Ball, Peter Vegter (treasurer); Harry Vander Kooij (secretary); Bill VanderByl; Bas Visser

Absent with notice: Don Houter – Maintenance manager

- ° Three new workbenches have been installed.
 - ° Only one quote was received for wiring at the new workbenches. Don Houter will request additional quotes.
 - ° Results of the questionnaire were inconclusive; no specific area was identified with a strong majority.
 - ° A motion was passed to “request a \$50.00 annual fee for the use of a top and bottom cabinet section along the work bench, with the work surface to remain open and free of storage or any attachments.”
 - ° A motion was also passed to “request a \$20.00 annual donation from occasional shop users who do not have a cabinet.”
 - ° The treasurer will prepare a list of all the shop users and ask for their contribution in January 2007.
 - ° The table saw switch needs replacing as a safety measure. Frank will take the required action.
- The next meeting will be on December 4 at 10:00 a.m.

Shop Treasurer's Report

The following report was provided by the treasurer after the meeting and is included for your information:
 Opening balance – May 29 - \$3,440.41
 Income – June 1 – Oct. 31 - \$1,105.28
 Expenses – June 1 to Oct. 31 - \$955.53
 Closing balance – Oct. 31, 2006 - \$3,590.16

Tollendale Tenant Committee



Information gleaned from minutes of TTC meetings

November 16, 2006

Present: Madlyn Bertrand, Albert Brouwer, Bob Hamilton (chair), Joanne Hammers, Helen Mathews, Reta Tanner (secretary), Harry Vander Kooij (Board liaison), Clarence VanderLei, Carol Visser
 Absent: Marguerite Vellinga

Business notes

1. Board liaison Harry VanderKooij reports that the Tollendale board declined the request for financial help from the computer club.
2. The Samaritan Purse project netted ninety boxes of donated items.
3. The tenant committee thanks the Tollendale garden club and the many other volunteers for their work. (The gardening group consists of Rennie DeBoer, Peter Meyer, Albert VanderHorst, Harry VanderKooij and Peter Vegter.)
4. A request for five more tables will be taken to the Board.
5. Another concern that will be taken to the board is the storage of gasoline and maintenance equipment in the parking garage. There are concerns about the safety of this.
6. The next meeting is set for December 14, 2006.



Eleanor Sherbo (D003) with a Remembrance Day display she made in the foyer of Sonrise Place

December 4, 2006

Present: Madlyn Bertrand, Albert Brouwer, Bob Hamilton (chair), Joanne Hammers, Helen Mathews, Reta Tanner (secretary), Harry Vander Kooij, (Board liaison), Marguerite Vellinga, Clarence VanderLei, Carol Visser
Absent: Marguerite Vellinga

Business notes

1. The committee supports Gary Lucas' idea for a Variety Night evening by and for Tollendalers, to be held on February 7.
2. The committee thanks the many volunteers who made the fall market day on November 18 a success.
3. For the first time, volunteers are organizing mending day. They will sew on buttons, and do other minor repairs for villagers. This will take place on Saturday, February 17 in the craft room of the Village Square from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.
4. The red information booklets are being updated and will be distributed to all residents early in 2007.
5. Bob Hamilton and Albert Brouwer met with Sid Tjeerdsma and Rob VanderMey to convey concern residents have expressed to the committee. From now on these meetings will be held on the first Wednesday of the month.
6. The food drive was a success. Twenty-four boxes of food items, five boxes of toys, a box of toiletries and 30 dozen eggs were delivered to the Salvation Army. The committee thanks all who participated in the donation drive.
7. The Christmas potluck dinner was cancelled because there were not enough volunteers.
8. The next meeting is to take place on January 18, 2007.



Don Dykstra (Board member) and Bob Hovius (C311)
at the November "Meet and Greet" event

Treasurer's report

November 16, 2006

Opening balance \$ 15,841.90

Expenses

Donation to library \$350.00
Tape for mini-golf floor \$20.49
Sundries \$73.17
Coffee (Mrs. Kiers sale) \$28.00
Total expenses \$ 471.66
Balance \$15,370.24

December 4, 2006

Opening balance \$ 15,370.24

Income

Coffee social \$100.00
A & M vouchers \$150.00
Busy Needles \$80.00
Market Day \$1,314.00
OPP collection \$360.85
Total Income \$ 2,004.95

Expenses

Sundries \$28.44
Sign letter \$28.90
Workshop \$68.00
Printing supplies \$100.09
Food Bank \$360.85
Total expenses \$586.28
New balance \$16,788.91

Chaplain's Corner

By Chaplain Siebert Van Houten

"A Ladies' Day Apart" - On February 3, 2007 we will have a special day for the women of Tollendale. The time together will focus on spiritual issues facing women and will include a time of fellowship and praise. We hope to make this an annual event. Hilary Price from the Peoples' Church in Toronto will be speaking on the topic Faithful to the End. "Ladies of Grace", a small choir, will provide special music. Invitations will soon be delivered, and shortly thereafter the organizing committee will come by to collect the registration forms. Please note that this event will not be televised, so come and join fellow residents for this day of renewal and fellowship.

Special gifts - We had a wonderful response to the request for donations to the spiritual care program. Just over \$10,000 has been pledged with more than \$6,000 already having been received. We thank all who gave so generously. The intent is to use the money to enhance spiritual care here at Tollendale, allowing for more special music in chapel and inviting guest speakers to come in for such events as A Ladies' Day Apart.

Alpha course - I am again extending an invitation to those who would like to participate in an Alpha course. The course would meet for ten weeks, for about an

hour. Residents who have attended it in the past have found it very helpful and informative. Even if you have taken it previously we would welcome you to come and attend another session. If you would like more information, please contact the chaplain.

Chapel services - We now have a roster of volunteers who usher at the services with a monthly rotation schedule that is working well. We are still looking for more volunteers. Those who are interested are asked to contact the chaplain.

Audio-Video Committee - We are exploring the feasibility of showing movies and other interesting programs on channel 18 at special times or even regularly. If you have any suggestions or ideas, please speak with Jack Gehrels or the chaplain.

The slide and music presentation on channel 18 on Christmas Day was well received. Here is a plug already for next Christmas. If you have music or carols in a language other than English, please let the chaplain know. We hope to have all the languages represented a Tollendale in the audio part of the program which we will again put together next Christmas.

Advance notice of Communion Services – Communion services in 2007 will take place on February 7, April 4, June 6, August 1, October 3 and December 5 in the meeting room in Eden Hall. All are welcome.

CHAPEL and GIFT DONATIONS

<i>November 5</i>	<i>\$339.28</i>
<i>November 12</i>	<i>\$247.14</i>
<i>November 19</i>	<i>\$147.14</i>
<i>November 26</i>	<i>\$165.06</i>
<i>December 3</i>	<i>\$600.78</i>
<i>December 10</i>	<i>\$494.58</i>
<i>December 17</i>	<i>\$189.12</i>
<i>December 24</i>	<i>\$547.26</i>
<i>December 31</i>	<i>\$382.65</i>



Phyllis Parent (C315) and Margaret Wigle (C114) are proud members of the popular Parkview Singers who performed in Tollendale in December



Did you read the Tollendale transportation paper?
If you are interested, don't forget to fill out
the survey form.

Do not buy a new radio



Like many of Tollendalers, I was unpleasantly surprised when suddenly last week my radio only produced a soft hissing sound. I hoped it wasn't broken.

Who better to ask than our resident expert on matters electronic and beyond: Jack Gehrels. Jack is very willing to give Tollendalers a mini lesson on the cable industry.

In the early 1950s this industry began to take off in Canada. People would put up a big mast with antennas next to their homes. The cable system ran into problems for those who lived in multiple dwellings since it is impossible to install 100 antennas on a 100-unit apartment building. In 1955 Jack Gehrels was deeply involved, as he calls it, with designing systems that would amplify the signals so each unit could receive them.

Although a successful enterprise, it did not solve the problem for those living outside the towns or in valleys. So, masts were erected on hills outside towns, and individual subscribers were wired to this communication tower. It was the first community TV. Transistors began to replace vacuum tubes making it possible to build larger amplifiers, and cities could be connected to the one communication tower.

FM radio has many similarities with cable television, and the cable industry decided to send the FM signals also through its cables. So our FM tuners were connected to the cable. In the future there will be no more TV transmitters.

But technology never stands still. New technology, called digital cable, came out with a much larger choice of programming and superior reception. Digital cable began to compete with the satellite systems.

Many listeners in Barrie, including Tollendalers (comprising 284 connections), couldn't believe their ears when, a few days into the New Year, they found only silence on their FM station. Their beloved CFMX, the classical music channel, and other FM stations were taken off the cable.

Although Rogers Cable says people knew about it, Tollendale management was not notified, nor were other subscribers in Barrie and surrounding area. Residents wondered whether their radio had given up on them and some intended to buy a new one. It turned out that Rogers had decided to discontinue the old

analog system and convert to digital, forcing all who want to continue listening to FM stations via the cable to buy or rent a digital terminal that enables them to enjoy digital radio and TV. Yes, CFMX will be available as channel 931 on digital radio. Many additional TV programs are also on digital TV, but these must be purchased in "program packages" for a monthly fee.

At press time Tollendale management is negotiating with Rogers for all of us. Tollendalers should watch channel 18 where the needed information will be posted as soon as it will be available.

Jack Gehrels and Julie Christiaan

Here at Tollendale

We remember

Bill Mendel (C119) † November 14, 2006

We welcome

Dennis McDevitte (C217) from Burlington

Ian MacPherson (B301) from Barrie

Susan Leeman (A304) from Innisfil

Audrey Hollebek (B320) from Victoria, BC

Verna Trombley (B207) from Barrie

Rita vanHeyningen (A309) from Mississauga

We said good-bye to

Beryl Putt (C217), who moved to a nursing home in Barrie

Mary McCague (B207), who moved to a nursing home in Barrie

Don & Madge Wood (B114) who moved to a retirement home in New Liskeard

Barry & Verna Lusk (D305), who moved to a new house in Barrie

Graham Warlow (A202), who moved to a seniors' apartment in Markham

June Watts (A111), who moved to an apartment in Barrie

We congratulate

Harry Alle and Ethel Snow on their recent wedding (now C110)

Rose Tjeerdsma's heart was touched

Before we let Rose talk, some information gleaned from the website of the Leprosy Mission can serve as a reminder of the occurrence of this disease in general.

Few Canadians realize that leprosy still exists and would be surprised to learn that in the next 24 hours, roughly 1,000 people worldwide will find out that they have leprosy. The World Health Organization (WHO)

estimates that in 2005 there were about 300,000 cases of new diagnosed cases of leprosy. Almost 50,000 of these cases were detected and treated in Leprosy Mission owned and aided centres.

Leprosy, also called Hansen's Disease (HD), attacks the nerves that are located near the cooler parts of the body – the extremities such as hands, feet and face are especially vulnerable. The most common symptom is discoloured patches of skin that lose their sensitivity. If left untreated, leprosy can cause the fingers and toes to claw inward, the eyes their ability to blink, therefore causing blindness and permanent ulcers and infections to form on various parts of the bodies. Ulcers and infections in the hands and feet occur because, when no pain is felt, cuts, bruises and burns are ignored and secondary infections occur.

On another website I read that India has the greatest number of HD cases, with Brazil second and Myanmar third. At highest risk are those living in endemic areas with poor conditions such as inadequate bedding, contaminated water and insufficient diet, or other diseases (such as HIV) that compromise immune function. (*Editor*)

Rose Tjeerdsma writes: The Leprosy Mission of Canada is a Christian organization. Its website (www.leprosy.ca) has a lot of interesting information on it. A special thank you goes to Janny Mudde and her staff and to all of you who supported the card sales for The Leprosy Mission. We have sold about 2,100 cards, and with a donation from Tollendale, we were able to send \$761.85 to the mission. Here is how it works. Cost of the card is 20 cents, and with labour of love the profit is 30 cents per card.

I would like to tell you what prompted me to make and sell those note cards. Around Christmas time a year ago when I was quite ill and not able to do anything but watch television, I saw a program about the Leprosy Mission. What I saw touched my heart and gave me the desire to help, especially since there is a cure for this disease and the cost is small. If a person gets treated in time the disease is arrested.

When visiting with a friend I mentioned the program to her and my desire to help. The friend suggested that I "do something with my painting." At that time I had no idea what the "something" might be. Two weeks later I woke up with the idea of making note cards.

I now want to thank all those at Tollendale who have made this a success. Thank you for your support.



Alberta Shelton (C214) happily holds up the key set she retrieved after a frantic search in the recycling bin



Firemen
came to
check out an
alarm in Eden
Hall on New
Year's Eve

New Year's Eve Get-together

Sixty-four Tollendale residents met in the Eden Hall meeting room to celebrate together the arrival of the New Year. The only thing wrong was that there was too much delicious food to choose from, including Freddy Stoof's *oliebollen* (Dutchies) and Langhout's chocolate letters.

We enjoyed story telling, comedy, games and much good conversation, mostly consisting of reminiscing. The event was the brainchild of Freddy Stoof and Pim van der Toorn was the capable master of ceremonies. George Snieder had much to say about a Japanese sea mine discovered and blown up on a beach in Malasia, while he was a member of the Dutch army. (It was supposed to be a pig hunt, but ended in a big bang.) Marten Sytsma had an *oliebol* story from his youth in the Netherlands, and Edith French recited a humorous poem about an old age home. Pim van der Toorn had a funny wordplay about names rhyming with Van Gogh. There was a contest with six participants, consisting of two parts: who needed the least time to blow up a balloon, sit on it and then make it pop, and who could carry out a given task most convincingly. The five participants all winning second prize were Hank Swagerman, Don French, Betty Wander, Atie van der Toorn and Don Charters. Winner was Albert VanderHorst, who most impressively read a paragraph from a novel - Shakespeare style. Henk Stassen conducted this event because Freddy Stoof's voice had given out. The awarding of door prizes added to the entertainment.

When the clock struck midnight there was a time of New Years' wishes and all sang the traditional Auld Lang Syne. It was a happy evening, but we also had thoughts about the coming year and the immediate future. We were grateful that we could share this celebration with friends in good health. As for me, I wish all our friends God's rich blessings for the New Year.

Henk Stassen

Note from Irene Cassidy (A213)

I would like to say a big Thank You for your prayers, cards, phone calls and hugs, during my recent surgeries. You blessed me over and over. I thank my God for you all.

May you have a Blessed New Year.

Bridge and Euchre scores

November

Euchre (T.W.)

1st Olive Robertson – 199 points

2nd Agnes Visser – 176 points

3rd Marjorie Todd – 170 points

L. H.s: Orly (6); Taeke (5); Ken H. and Ken T.

Euchre (B.G.)

1st Elva Frankland – 179 points

2nd Anne Light – 172 points

3rd Julie Brytak – 127 points

L. H.s: M. Lily Hughes (10); Myrna Gilles (9)

Bid-Euchre (T.W.)

1st Marjorie Todd – 745 points

2nd Sid VanDyke – 738 points

3rd Ninka Hovius – 689 points

Moons: Alva C., Hans P. (2); Inge (1)

Bid-Euchre (B.G.)

1st Elva Frankland – 615 points

2nd Anne Light – 588 points

3rd Anne DeGroot – 560 points

Moons: M. Gilles - 2

Bridge

1st Jerry Nyenhuis – 10,670 points

2nd Frank Benum – 9,920 points

3rd May Ashkanase – 8,780 points

4th Audrey Robinson – 8,740 points

December

Euchre (T.W.)

1st Marjorie Todd – 216 points

2nd Ken Tye – 213 points

3rd Orly Ball – 211 points

L.H.s: H. Kloosterman – 7;

N. Hovius – 5; K. Harmston, A Tripp – 4 each

Euchre (B.G.)

1st Orly Ball - 144 points

2nd Hilda Kloosterman – 134 points

3rd Marjorie Todd – 123 points

L.H.s: Orly 6), Nynka and Hilda (5)

Bid- Euchre (T.W.)

1st Hans Poppler – 576 points

2nd Sid VanDyke – 521 points

3rd Inge Poppler – 520 points

Moons: Frank, Nelly, Agnes, Hans (1)

Bid- Euchre (B.G.)

1st Elva Frankland – 540 points

2nd Anne Light – 539 points

3rd Jean Jarrett – 527 points

Moons: Elva, Myrna, Jean, Margaret LI, Sharon -1 each

Bridge
1 st Jerry Nyenhuis – 9,390 points
2 nd Frank Benum – 8,460 points
3 rd May Ashkanase – 8,180 points



Wendy Hicks (D113)

Wendy Hicks has worn many hats

By Julie Christiaan

If Wendy Hicks (D113) were to apply for a job, her résumé would not fit the required one- or two-page format. A friend to whom I mentioned that we would feature Ms Hicks in *Tollendale Tales* commented, “If anything was going on in Barrie, Wendy was involved in it.”

Although now adjusted to life in the village, Wendy had to be persuaded by her friends Don and Edith French a few years ago that Tollendale would be the right “fit” for her. About her decision to move to Tollendale Wendy says, “God knows better than I do.” Her home on Debra Crescent in Barrie with its splendid gardens – she has a photo book to prove it – was hard to part with. Today, besides her balcony, lush with plants in the summer, there is a small garden behind her apartment, kindly tended by Rennie DeBoer. He knew her love for flowers and has placed a sign in it saying “Wendy’s Garden.”

Wendy Baldwin grew up in Chelmsford, Essex (UK), a village “where nothing was happening.” Already at a young age she was exposed to the stage. Her parents ran a concert troupe as a hobby – with her father the (lead) tenor of the group and her mother a comedienne. They took Wendy along when she was just five years old. Travelling by taxi, they gave “concert parties” in village halls during the war. It was good training in many aspects of entertainment, including comedy and singing. When the television era took over, this type of entertainment disappeared.

Wendy married John Hicks, who was pursuing medical studies, in 1947. Their son Timothy was born in 1949. The young family emigrated to Canada in 1955. “It broke my mom’s heart,” Wendy says. Her husband became a member of the RCAF in Winnipeg, Manitoba. In Winnipeg, Wendy picked up stage work

again. She made many appearances as a singer and comedienne on local and national radio and television from Winnipeg.

In 1958, when her husband had finished his commission, the family moved to Barrie, where Doctor Hicks set up a general practice. Although her husband would have preferred Wendy to stay at home and be the traditional doctor’s wife, the entertainment world beckoned again. Her chance came when she was hired as a hostess on the Women’s Show at CKVR-TV to fill in for a woman on maternity leave. Wendy ended up staying for four years. Conducting interviews and booking guests were just a few of her many tasks. Her television show won the Liberty Award for Best Women’s Show in Canada three years in a row. On CKBB radio, Wendy had a daily homemakers show helping listeners solve their problems of many descriptions.

In 1958, she started a branch of the Canadian Save the Children Fund and led its successful fundraising campaigns. She was a columnist, first for the *Barrie Banner* and then for the *Barrie Examiner* between 1963 and 1976. Wendy wrote and directed musical plays for children and did national and local commercials for well-known companies. As if that wasn’t enough, she was also a fashion commentator and had a short but interesting stint as a tour guide.

Wendy’s proudest years – her real career, as she calls it – were those she spent at the Georgian College of Applied Arts and Technology, where in 1972 she was first hired as a program assistant, “the lowest rank.” After several years of gradual promotions, she ended her career there as director of Corporate Public Relations in 1989. Wendy says that she worked “incredibly long hours” and did many things she didn’t believe she could do.

While at Georgian, Wendy performed with the professional Gryphon Theatre Company and was also a guest panellist on CBC TV’s Front Page Challenge. Her involvement in theatre and stage has been multifaceted. After Dr. Hicks retired, they were able to spend two “lovely years” together.

Wendy is still acting as M.C. at the King Edward Choir concerts and in past years has been one of the performers at the annual reading of Charles Dickens’ *A Christmas Carol*. Looking back on her life, Wendy says, “I wouldn’t have done all this in England.”

Her son’s family, including two grandchildren, is in Victoria B.C. After I had written this story, Wendy told me that during a Christmas visit she has finally given in to her son’s plea to come and live closer to them.



She is planning to move to Victoria as soon as a place becomes available in very nice retirement home there.

Erna Gillies, Tollendale's war bride

By Julie Christiaanse

In television programs and in the printed press, stories of war brides received considerable attention this past year. Some provincial governments and war brides associations declared 2006 as the 'Year of the War Bride'. According to canadianwarbrides.com, the term "war bride" refers to the thousands of young women who met and married Canadian servicemen during the Second World War. These war brides were mostly from Britain, but a few thousand were also from other areas of Europe: the Netherlands, Belgium, France, Italy and Germany. During the Second World War, there were an estimated 48,000 war brides and, when the war ended, most of these young women and their children (nearly 22,000) followed their husbands to a new life in Canada. A lesser-known historical fact is that war brides also came to Canada after the First World War. The official Government of Canada history of the First World War reports that an estimated 54,000 relatives accompanied the returning troops during demobilization from Britain to Canada.

The *Barrie Examiner* interviewed Erna Gillies (A104), Tollendale's war bride, for an article around Remembrance Day. (The *Examiner* also interviewed Freddy Stoof (A115) about her wartime memories.) Erna Lambermon (the name denotes French descent), a Dutch girl from Hilversum, the Netherlands, had survived the Second World War. In the months after liberation from Nazi oppression, Erna became one of the thousands who were taken by a handsome Canadian soldier. Erna told the *Examiner*, "It was love at first sight." Art Gillies left Holland in January 1946, but soon Erna received a letter and a proposal to marry. Erna's mother (her father had died when Erna was young) had objections – her daughter was just twenty years old and Canada a big unknown. Nevertheless, thinking it was a big adventure, Erna boarded a ship to Canada in 1947.

Barrie, Ontario, was a small town in the 1940s, quite unlike Hilversum, a somewhat upscale town in the Netherlands. Art and Erna (the girl who according to her mother "didn't know how to boil water") married in the United Church on Dunlop Street, went to Niagara Falls for their honeymoon and set up housekeeping in downtown Barrie. She found a friend in a woman from Amsterdam who "was in the same boat." Erna does not recall ever being homesick, but in 1956 on her first visit back in Holland, with her daughter, she realized how cozy (Dutch *gezellig*) home life there was. In those first years she thought that Barrie looked like a town in the cowboy movies she had seen in Holland. She had also noticed the difference in interior decorating styles. It seemed to her everyone was always just about ready to move with the furniture lined up along walls instead of in a conversation circle. And the windowsill and window treatments took some getting used to. She missed the plants and the way one could look in at people's living rooms back in Holland.

Art was a good provider. He worked for the CNR for forty years. In those first years, he would walk down the path along the Bay to the Allandale station. The Dutch city girl learned to boil more than just water. Her father-in-law, an accomplished CNR chef who had prepared a meal for the king and queen on one of their Canadian visits, complemented Erna on her cooking: 'the best he had ever tasted.' While Erna learned the Canadian ways, Art came to love Holland and the Dutch relatives on their return visits to the old country. After more than fifty years of marriage, they were among the first to move into Tollendale. Soon afterwards, Art's health deteriorated and he died in 2001.

Erna has learned the "Canadian ways." Now coping with diminishing sight, she is happy to live in Tollendale with her trusted feline companion.



Sierk Rupke, Peter Meyer, Albert VanderHorst and Markus Hoving enjoy a game of pool



Julia and Marten Sytsma (A116) recently celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary

The Sytsma saga

By Julie Christiaanse

On January 6, 2007, Marten and Julia Sytsma celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary with more than 80 in attendance in the meeting room of Eden Hall. It was a day Martin and Julia are still reliving with much thankfulness as I visit them a few days later. “I couldn’t fall asleep on Saturday evening,” says Julia. “We were surprised with the way they set it up,” says Marten, referring to the program their children and grandchildren had put together.

Marten was 23 and Jeltje Swart was 20 when they married in the old town of Balk in Gaasterland, a picturesque corner of the Dutch province of Friesland. Marten worked for a farmer there and they were able to rent part of a house with the name of Little Amerika. But wages were higher in other parts of the province and they moved back to Marrum where Marten had grown up. Seven of their children were born there. Then the emigration bug hit their village. “Neighbours talked us into emigrating, with the news ‘The government is paying for it now!’ ” says Marten. Half jokingly, he suggests that the Dutch government wanted to get rid of the large families who received the new family allowance.

In 1951, the Sytsma family boarded the emigrant ship the *Volendam* and set off for Canada. Nine days were spent on the Atlantic Ocean, followed by a three-day trip on an old train that left its passengers covered with black dust. A brother of Marten and a brother of Julia were already in Alberta. It was –30° C when they arrived in Edmonton in February with \$300 in their pocket. “You’d better first go to Eaton’s to get warmer

clothes,” Marten was told the next day, “You’ll have to earn the bread and butter.” “It was cold in those years,” Marten remembers. Settling in Beverly, a suburb of Edmonton, Marten found work in a grain factory right away. Julia supplemented the family income by doing some house cleaning. They did not buy a car. “I saw some people spend more time lying under their car than riding in it,” says Marten. When he began to suffer from frequent nosebleeds, the doctor advised him to leave that altitude and move to British Columbia or to Ontario. And Willowdale, a suburb of Toronto, became their new home.

Before long they were able to buy the house in which they were to live for fifty years. In Canada they had three more children. Julia made a loving, welcoming home for their family. Marten worked for the Parks and Recreation Department for 25 years until his retirement in 1978. Then they took some extended vacations, to California, among other places.

Their apartment is filled with beautiful flower arrangements left from the big celebration. (The flower arranger had been told to do an extra good job, because Julia knows a thing or two about flower arranging. She had taken courses as a hobby and to help a daughter-in-law in the business.) But at any time their place, inside and out, is evidence of their love for gardening.

This short story would not be complete if we didn’t mention Marten’s career as a *voordrager* (a reciter, or elocutionist). At a young age already, Marten became interested in recitation. He knew he had a gift that was worth being developed. He belonged to a group of young people that taught each other to recite poetry and prose, both serious and humorous. The members of the group critiqued each other. Besides providing welcome entertainment at many events, they took part in local, regional, and even countrywide contests. He put his heart and soul in these performances and often won top prizes. The hobby also provided some welcome extra income.

Of course, Marten had to look smart on the stage. Once, when he had just bought a fine new suit, the weather turned nasty during one of the performances. Marten and a few companions had to ride home on their bikes in driving rain along a narrow road with a deep ditch alongside it. Marten, new suit and all, ended up in the water. What a pity. Fortunately, one of the young women in the group offered to “take care of the suit.” When they were married, Julia attended the performances as often as she could.

“The Lord really blessed us,” says Marten. “Our minds are still good, although the body and voice are not the same any more.” Every day they have “ a little

conversation with the Lord.” “Everything is a gift from our God,” says Marten.



Jenny Houter and Margaret Henstra check out the merchandise in the Christmas shop

Tollendale Treasures and Gift Store

Here we are in January already. We hope you had a good Christmas season, and we wish you all a Blessed New Year.

Since our last Tollendale Tales we had a market day on November 18. Along with the gift shop we had three large tables in the Gathering Place for a better display. We took in \$78.00 that morning. The following week we opened the Christmas Shop. Even if you didn't need anything, it was fun to look at the displays.

During the time we had both shops open for the Christmas season, we received \$1,250.00, so there must have been something there for someone. It was a busy time, but very enjoyable.

Now we are all cleaned up and back to the basis shop. We have some new things, but we need donations to continue. Think of us as you are cleaning up your Christmas things and gifts. Anything is appreciated. On Wednesday, January 17 we will begin our book sale, which will run for three days. If you have any books to donate, please bring them to the gift shop any time. Stamp cutting for the Leprosy Mission will be held at the end of January or in the beginning of February. Please watch channel 18 for a notice. We thank you all for giving and buying. It has been a great season.

Janny Mudde – shop manager



January 01	Alle	Harry
January 01	Ball	John
January 01	Crane	Anne

January 01	Popma	Repko
January 02	Shelton	Alberta
January 03	Ball	Orley
January 06	Benum	Frank
January 10	Romp	Nellie
January 11	Sturtridge	Michael
January 11	Visser	Agnes
January 12	Gillis	Bernie
January 14	Kort	Shirley
January 15	Raison	Evelyn
January 16	Cornelisse	Heidi
January 19	Hovius	Bob
January 20	Higgins	Marie
January 20	Kooi	Jenny
January 22	DenBoer	Pieter
January 22	Sjerps	Nick
January 24	Romp	Dick
January 25	Duncan	Sarah
January 25	Gillies	Erna
January 25	Mout	Jan
January 26	Bouwmeester	Jacoba
January 26	Datema	Alice
January 28	Arends	Peta
January 28	VanSickle	Barbara
January 29	Miedema	Marie
January 31	Mathews	Helen
January 31	Sytsma	Martin
January 31	VanderVen	Corrie
February 01	Crawford	Alva
February 01	Nyhof	Harry
February 03	Nyenhuis	Jerry
February 06	Tye	Kenneth
February 07	Menary	Olive
February 09	Divine	Patricia
February 10	Gerkema	Gary
February 10	VanDyken	Amy
February 11	Dearham	Stephanie
February 11	VanderVeen	Klaas
February 13	Smith	Ina
February 17	Mitchell	Edna
February 17	Zuiderveld	Mary
February 19	Spaans	Matt
February 20	Dunn	Beryl
February 20	VanderVeen	Leah
February 20	Kenwell	Don
February 21	Meyer	Peter
February 22	Christiaanse	Julie
February 22	Morley	Jan
February 23	Crawford	Audrey
February 23	Eigenhuis	Lenie
February 23	Robb	Lola
February 24	Langlois	Gilles
February 25	Meijers	Lenie
February 26	DeZoete	Wilma
February 27	Mobach	Nora
February 27	Spaans	Trix

Please mention any errors or omissions in the birthday list to Tena Kamstra (D304) Tel.725-9298



Bas Visser (D108) is one of the many shop users

Nursing notes

Marie VanderWal R.N.

All the nurses wish the residents a Happy New Year. We thank you for the cards and gifts we received this Christmas season.

Coffee Cup Award

Tollendale Village received the Alzheimer Society Coffee Cup Award in the retirement home or community category. The Alzheimer Society Coffee Cup Award was created to recognize people who have gone the extra mile in supporting the Alzheimer Society of Greater Simcoe County. The award is also a means by which others are encouraged to get involved and make the effort to hold a successful Coffee Break, fostering a bit of friendly competition. We collected \$ 629.50, and our award can be seen in the administration office.

Information about Alzheimer Public Information sessions is located on the bulletin board at the nurses' office in the Village Square.

Lost item

We have lost track of our commode. If you have it in your apartment, please call the nursing office 726-1213.

Defibrillator

A defibrillator is located in the Village Square and is public accessible. Please familiarize yourself with its location, and how to use it.

Nursing office hours

Please note that the nursing hours are as follows:

- Monday to Friday: 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
- Saturday and Sunday and holidays: 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon

Tollendale's photo puzzle

Who are the people in the previous issue of TT?
If you guessed: Adriana Frouws (B317), Ron Menary and Olive Menary (B110), you were right.
And the winner of a coffee shop gift certificate is:
Thelma Aylett.

New photos



Photo no. 1
(Sonrise Place)



Photo no. 2
(Eden Hall or Garden Homes)



Photo no. 3
(Eden Hall or Garden Homes)

Who are these residents?

Write your answer on a piece of paper, include your name, and put the entry in the box in the administration office.

Deadline is January 31.

Contact the editor if you would like your photo featured.

Slice of Life in Tollendale

Please get in touch with the editor if you would like to have a picture of a Tollendale event taken for *Tollendale Tales*.



Tena Kamstra and Edith Kuntz at a craft table on Market Day



Harold and Aline Holloway enjoy the free treats provided by the Tenant Committee when the coffee shop was closed during the holidays



Fine woodworking is just one of George Snieder's hobbies



MP Patrick Brown poses with "birthday people" at the December party



Garden Home residents finally got the house numbers that makes the addresses more easily identifiable

Tollendale Tales deadline

The submission deadline for the next issue of *Tollendale Tales* (No. 39 March-April 2007) is February 28, 2007

Simcoe County Christian Senior Home Inc.
Tollendale Tales

Publication of Tollendale Village
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