Friends gather at the Reilly House to honour long time volunteer, Agnes Heath

THE SCOOP
MABLE HASTINGS

Agnes “Aggie” Fuller Heath has been a volunteer at the Reilly House in Mansonville for over twenty-five years. Working alongside former Reilly House manager, Mavis Aiken and then with present manager, Fawn Patch, Aggie felt at home volunteering her time in the tea room serving customers, cooking and training new volunteers. In June 2013, Aggie hung up her apron and decided to leave her long-time post and she hoped others would get involved and volunteer at the place that has become so dear to her heart.

“Aggie and I have been ‘partners in crime’ for such a long time,” laughed Mavis Aiken. “The stories we could tell and the many experiences we have had together over the years while working at the Reilly House, could fill a book.”

Agnes Fuller married Kevan Heath in 1952 and the couple moved to Mansonville in 1962 where they made their home and raised their children: Debbie who now resides in Brampton, Ontario and Steve and Murray who live in Ottawa. Aggie and Kevan were very involved in the United Church and when the Reilly House opened in the early 80’s, the two started volunteering there.


cently, in a desire to be closer to her children, grandchildren and great grandchildren, Aggie decided that it was time to move to Brampton, Ontario; she will leave this coming Friday.

“I’m finding this hard,” shared Aggie. “I know however that this is the best thing for me to do and even though leaving all of my friends in Mansonville makes me very emotional, I am looking forward to my time being closer to my children and their families.”

with Aggie in person.

In her speech, Amanda Patch recognized Aggie’s long-time contribution, dedication and her honest and straightforward approach. Emphasizing the time given by both she and her late husband Kevan over the years, Amanda highlighted the memories and shared the collective best wishes of the group gathered.

Agnes Heath, a volunteer at the Reilly House
Reilly House President, Amanda Patch and Manager Fawn Patch along with board members like Derek Lacoste organized an open house on Sunday, March 9 where well wishers could drop by for refreshments and to share their wishes of the appreciation and love for her in Mansonville.

Flowers, a cake, cards, hugs........it was Aggie’s day and the over 50 people who attended the occasion were a mixture of young, not so young and in between, each with their own “Aggie” memory.

Friends who have been there since the beginning who volunteered with Aggie throughout the years were also in attendance. They included: Mavis Aiken, Mary Bailey and Marjorie and Robert Newell (Bob was a long-time president of the Reilly House). Many very special people who are no longer with us were felt in the room as the smiling faces gathered looked at photos, reminisced and shared a story or two with friends.

The Reilly House Board of Director’s and volunteers extend their warmest wishes to Aggie as well as their immense appreciation. Volunteers who give of their time, energy and heart for over twenty-five years are hard to come by.

Perhaps, in the years to come with her grandchildren at her side, Aggie will find a little tea room somewhere in Brampton and a volunteer will bring her a hot pot of tea while smiling brightly and Aggie will know that she’s found a new “home.”

Derek Lacoste had Aggie unveil two plaques that now hang, one over the doorway leading to the books which has now been dedicated to Kevan Heath (Aggie’s husband) and the kitchen appropriately now dedicated to Aggie. Aggie was also given a plaque to take with her to her new home as a reminder