

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.



PHOTOS BY MABLE HASTINGS

Robert (Bob) Newell, Agnes (Aggie) Heath, Marjorie Newell, Mary Bailey and Mavis Aiken.

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

Aggie's husband Kevan died a
go, Aggie sold their home and
into the Potton Residence
for autonomous seniors. Re-

Reilly House President, Amanda Patch
and Manager Fawn Patch along with
board members like Derek Lacoste orga-
nized an open house on Sunday, March 9
where well wishers could drop by for re-
freshments and to share their wishes

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 ap-
propriately now dedicated to Aggie.
Aggie was also given a plaque to take
with her to her new home as a reminder

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 mix-
ture of young, not so young and in be-
tween, each with their own "Aggie"
memory.

Friends who have been there since the
beginning who volunteered with Aggie
throughout the years were also in atten-
dance. They included: Mavis Aiken,
Mary Bailey and Marjorie and Robert
Newell (Bob was a long-time president of
the Reilly House). Many very special peo-
ple who are no longer with us were felt
in the room as the smiling faces gath-
ered 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."