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Obituary

St. Andrew's minister served for 37 years

The Very Rev. Finlay G. Stewart, minister of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church in Kitchener for 37 years and a former moderator of the Pres-



Stewart
1974 photo

byterian Church in Canada, died today at Huntsville Memorial Hospital. He was 85.

In 1938, when Stewart came to St. Andrew's, it had a membership of 300. It is now one of the

largest Presbyterian churches in Canada with a membership of about 3,400.

He retired in December 1974 to his home at Lake of Bays in Muskoka and was named minister emeritus of the Kitchener church.

On his retirement, the Stewart Award for Teacher Excellence was established. It is presented annually to a Waterloo Region teacher in recognition of Stewart who was an educator epitomizing excellence.

In June 1956, after declining the nomination for three straight years, Stewart was elected moderator of the Presbyterian Church in Canada. At 46, he was one of the youngest moderators in the church's history.

"He was larger than life," said Rev. Grant MacDonald of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, who knew Stewart for many years. "He had an enthusiasm for living that was a product of his faith."

MacDonald recalled that in his role as moderator, Stewart stayed true to his nature by insisting on "doing it his own way." While other moderators allowed a committee in Toronto to organize their schedules and send them around the country, Stewart insisted on having everything organized from his own office in Kitchener, MacDonald said.

"He prided himself on covering every part of the country and still only missing about 13 Sundays from his own church while he was doing that."

As a speaker, Stewart was a "barnstormer," MacDonald added.

"In those days there were speakers who would work the country and he was one of them — even the later years of his ministry he would be out speaking somewhere almost every week. He was a popular speaker with a good sense of humor; he could generate a lot of laughter and then drive home a point very quickly."

Stewart loved sports and had a mind that could take insights and push them to new levels, MacDonald said. "He had a wonderful sense of vibrancy and energy about him."

In 1955, Stewart was given an honorary doctor of divinity degree from Knox College, University of Toronto.

Stewart taught school in the village of Dutton and in Ottawa after graduating from Normal School. He entered the University of Western Ontario at London and graduated from Knox College in 1933.

Stewart was ordained at Huntsville where he met his wife, the former Molly MacInnes of Orillia. His first ministry was at Drummond Hill church in Niagara Falls, where he stayed for three years before moving to St. Andrew's in Kitchener.

Two years after he came to the Kitchener church, he left to serve five years overseas as chaplain for a

unit of the Royal Canadian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers in England and northern Europe. In 1945, he was decorated for his services in northwest Europe.

Through his efforts, St. Andrew's developed a day-care and nursery school which was open to the whole community. That day-care centre closed at the end of last year.

Among the many chaplaincies Stewart held were the Kitchener-Waterloo Granite Club, the Royal Canadian Legion, Kitchener Branch 50; K-W 404 Wing, RCAF Association; the Kitchener police department; the Kitchener fire department and the Kitchener-Waterloo Hospital chapel committee.

Stewart attributed his brief, concise sermons to having broadcast morning services on radio for 20 years and on television for 12 years. He said it was more challenging to prepare a short sermon than a long one.

While attending high school and university, Stewart showed great athletic ability, particularly in track and field — his high jump record was six feet, two inches and his pole vault mark was 13 feet, six inches. He was offered a place on the 1928 Canadian Olympic team but had to decline because he couldn't afford to take time from teaching.

In 1970, the Kitchener-Waterloo Jaycees named him Citizen of the Year. Stewart was also appointed an honorary member of Rotary International, an honor given for outstanding leadership in the community.

His extensive public speaking locally and across Canada and his regular television ministry from St. Andrew's made him a familiar and respected person throughout the area.

He served on the former Kitchener-Waterloo high school board for 16 years, retiring in 1967. He was chairman for three years, leading the board through its first stages of expansion, which included construction of Eastwood collegiate.

At the time of his retirement in 1974, Stewart was executive director for the Canadian centennial of the Presbyterian Church which was held in Montreal in 1975.

Stewart was involved deeply in the formation of the Kitchener-Waterloo social planning council and was its chairman for four years. For five years, he served as chaplain of the Galt girls' training school, which involved rehabilitation of delinquent girls.

Stewart was appointed to the Kitchener downtown planning and urban renewal committee which produced the plan for the redevelopment of the downtown core. He was also a member of the Gyro Club.

Stewart held directorships on the Canadian Cancer Society, the John Howard Society, St. John Ambulance and the Family Service Bureau.

He was born in 1908 on the family homestead near Dutton in Elgin County where his grandfather had settled on reaching Canada from Macrahanish, Scotland.

Surviving are his wife, two sons and two daughters.

The funeral service will be conducted on Monday at 3 p.m. at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church in Kitchener. The family will receive friends in the church after the service.

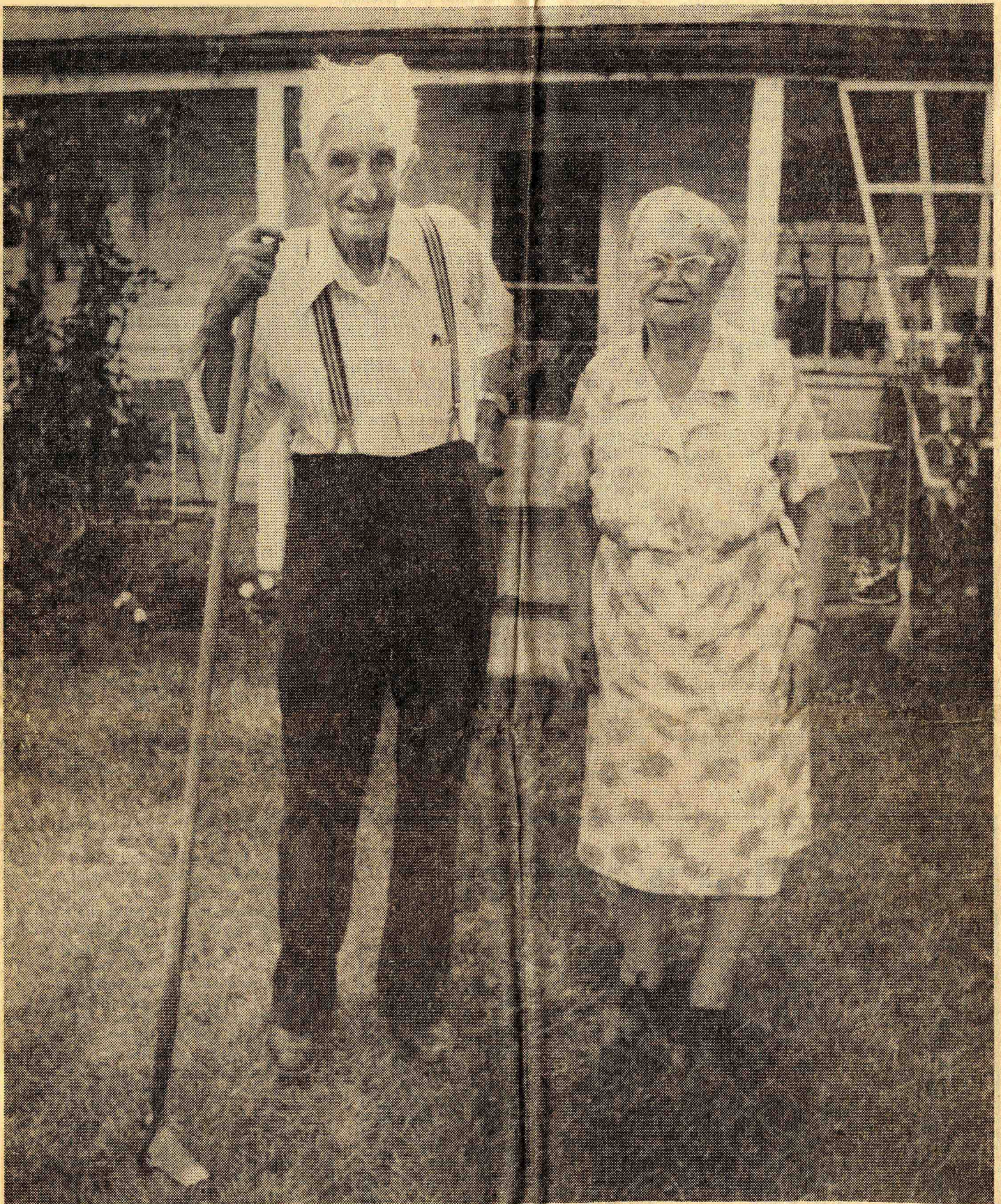
ANNIVERSARIES

(Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Livingstone-40th)

Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Livingstone celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary on September 12th, 1976, at the home of their daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. William (Barbara) Taylor of Inwood. A family picnic with brothers, sisters and their families was enjoyed by all. Barbara Taylor, the only daughter has four children - Elaine, Janice, Bobby and David.

(Mr. and Mrs. John Dymock-25th)

On the 23 rd of October, 1976, Mr. and Mrs. John Dymock celebrated their Silver Wedding Anniversary with their family and friends at a dance held at the Legion Hall. The family includes four children- Marlene, Jim, Janet and Joan.



By Dick Wallace of The Free Press

Marital bliss

Tom and Janet Morrison of Wardsville had reason to smile Thursday. They were married in Scotland in 1906 and were celebrating their 72nd wedding anniversary. 'We've

got something to be proud of,' said Mrs. Morrison, 89. (A story on the Morrises and another photo are on Page A4.)