

Dr. Jas. Cummings Killed Wife Injured, Hit By Auto

Few accidents in this area have aroused more sympathy among residents than the death of Dr. James Cummings of Bond Head, and the serious injuring of his wife last Friday evening. Not only does the community mourn the tragic end of a long and valuable life, of a beloved citizen, and serious injuries to a most estimable lady, but it also feels keen sympathy for the driver of the car which struck Dr. and Mrs. Cummings. Whether or not a driver is blameless in such an accident, to conscientious people, it is a terrible experience, and, when the victims are well known and held in highest regard by that driver, it is much more so.

Such was the case in Bond Head last Friday evening. The regular Friday evening party was held at the Memorial Hall there and all had spent a happy neighbourly evening together and were homeward bound. Among those at the party were Dr. and Mrs. Cummings and Fred Welch, West Gwillimbury farmer, and friend of the Cummings family. Dr. and Mrs. Cummings were walking the short distance from the hall to their home in Bond Head, and, because of the snow, were on the highway, and Fred Welch was driving to his home a few miles distant. The lights of an approaching car are said to have temporarily blinded Mr. Welch and, in that moment the tragedy occurred. A very devoted couple, the aged doctor and his wife usually walked with linked arms and therefore it is not surprising that both of them were involved when the car struck.

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DR. JAS. CUMMINGS KILLED, WIFE INJURED; HIT BY CAR

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juries. Mrs. Cummings' left leg was broken and she also suffered head injuries. They were carried into the nearest home and given first aid while waiting the arrival of police, doctors and ambulances. As soon as the ambulances arrived both Dr. and Mrs. Cummings were rushed to Newmarket hospital. The doctor did not regain consciousness and passed away shortly after entering the hospital. Mrs. Cummings is expected to recover but will probably be a hospital patient for some time.

Dr. James A. Cummings

No man in a community is so closely linked to the life of that community as is a good family doctor, and when that doctor's life in that community has extended over a period of more than 80 years, such a man has a place in the affections of every home. So it was with Dr. James A. Cummings. He was born in Tecumseth Township and, with the exception of a very few years of his life, Bond Head and its surrounding territory were his home. As their good doctor he had shared their sorrows, and the joys, of most homes in the area and in so doing had become a very dear friend to the inmates of those homes. His tragic death at the age of 96 on Highway 27 last Friday night brought sorrow to the people of the Bond Head area.

Dr. Cummings was a graduate of Bradford High School, of Ottawa Normal School, and of the University of Toronto in medicine. After practicing for about two years at Markdale, Dr. Cummings returned to Bond Head where for so many years he not only cared for the bodily ills of the people there, but led in church work, being a church warden and Sunday School superintendent in Trinity Anglican, Bond Head; served as a school trustee for S.S. No. 5 for a number of years; was Medical Officer of Health for Tecumseth Township, and coroner; and was a past president of Simcoe Medical Association.

He married Helena Mildred Ball of Thornhill, who survives him, with their four sons, Kenneth of Plainfield, N.J.; Harley of Ottawa; Victor of Hamilton; Julian of Toronto. Two brothers and one sister also survive, Dr. Albert E. of Thornbury, John D. of Hamilton and Mrs. Surtees (Elizabeth), Clarence, Ontario.

The funeral was held yesterday, Tuesday, March 14, from Trinity Anglican Church, Bond Head, with services conducted by his rector, Rev. C. R. P. Hearn. Interment was in St. John's Cemetery, Tecumseth.

The pallbearers were his four sons, Harold Cummings and Wilfred Ball.