

Birthday and farewell celebration for Pat Dalphy

SPECIAL TO THE NEWS

It was a well-kept secret, perhaps one of Stittsville's best ever.

As a result, Pat Dalphy was totally, utterly surprised when she arrived at St. Thomas Anglican Church on Saturday afternoon, July 22, to deliver what she thought was a necessary key for the premises. Instead, she found a basement hall full of family and friends, all there not only to wish her a happy 80th birthday, but also to wish her

a fond farewell as she is moving to Arnprior this month.

Word had been circulated around the congregation and community about this event, with the admonition that it was going to be a "surprise" for Pat. Well, everyone kept the secret because, as she admitted, she had absolutely no clue that such an event in her honour was being planned. She had thought that she was going to be going with family to have

a photo taken when she got a call that a key was needed at the church. So she was stopping by there to drop it off.

Just after 2 p.m., the 75 people assembled in the parish hall became silent as word came that Pat was arriving at the building. They expected her to enter via the front door, but she came in by the back door. However, whether by front or back door, it was all a surprise to her, as she initially stood by the doorway, awestruck by the surprise gathering.

Upon her entry in the hall, those assembled burst into a rendition of "Happy Birthday," after which she was presented with an 80th birthday sash and, later, a birthday hat.

Balloons and decorations about her 80th

birthday were on display around the hall. A giant birthday card and a "thank you" card were available for signing.

One card included a replica church bulletin which had Pat performing all of the roles in the liturgy and also had her as the contact person for all of the announced church activities such as the Anglican Church Women meeting, the Altar Guild meeting, the Open Table community dinner, helping in the nursery during the service, helping at the Shepherds of Good Hope kitchen and providing transportation. This was all in recognition for the work that Pat has done at the church over time, including years on parish council, service as the people's warden for four years

and leadership with the Anglican Church Women.

Upon entering the hall and being serenaded with "Happy Birthday," Pat visited many of the tables set up around the hall's exterior, chatting with those at the table, with lots of hugs all around.

She then was called upon to introduce the members of her family who were present, ranging from her daughter Susan and her son John to her grandchildren.

The celebration included a tea table where tea and coffee were served.

There was also a long stretch of tables in the middle of the hall filled with sandwiches and other goodies. There was also a birthday cake in the centre of this lengthy stretch of tables.



Submitted

Pat Dalphy wears a birthday sash and hat as she enjoys herself at the surprise birthday and farewell celebration in her honour at St. Thomas Anglican Church in Stittsville on July 22.



A hug

Submitted

Pat Dalphy (left) is about to get a hug from Bev Coote (right) as Keldine FitzGerald (centre, back) looks on at the birthday/farewell celebration for Pat Dalphy at St. Thomas Anglican Church in Stittsville on July 22.