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Charles Stewart

**After one year
councillor dies**

MARKHAM — After almost one year in office, Richmond Hill Councillor Charles L. Stewart, 35, died Nov. 27 when his car collided with a gravel truck at 16th Ave. and 5th Line.

A councillor from Ward 3, he was active in community groups since the age of 22.

He was president of the Thornhill Softball League and of the 16th Ave. Home and School Association as well as being active in rate-payers activities before running for council, and losing, at the age of 30.

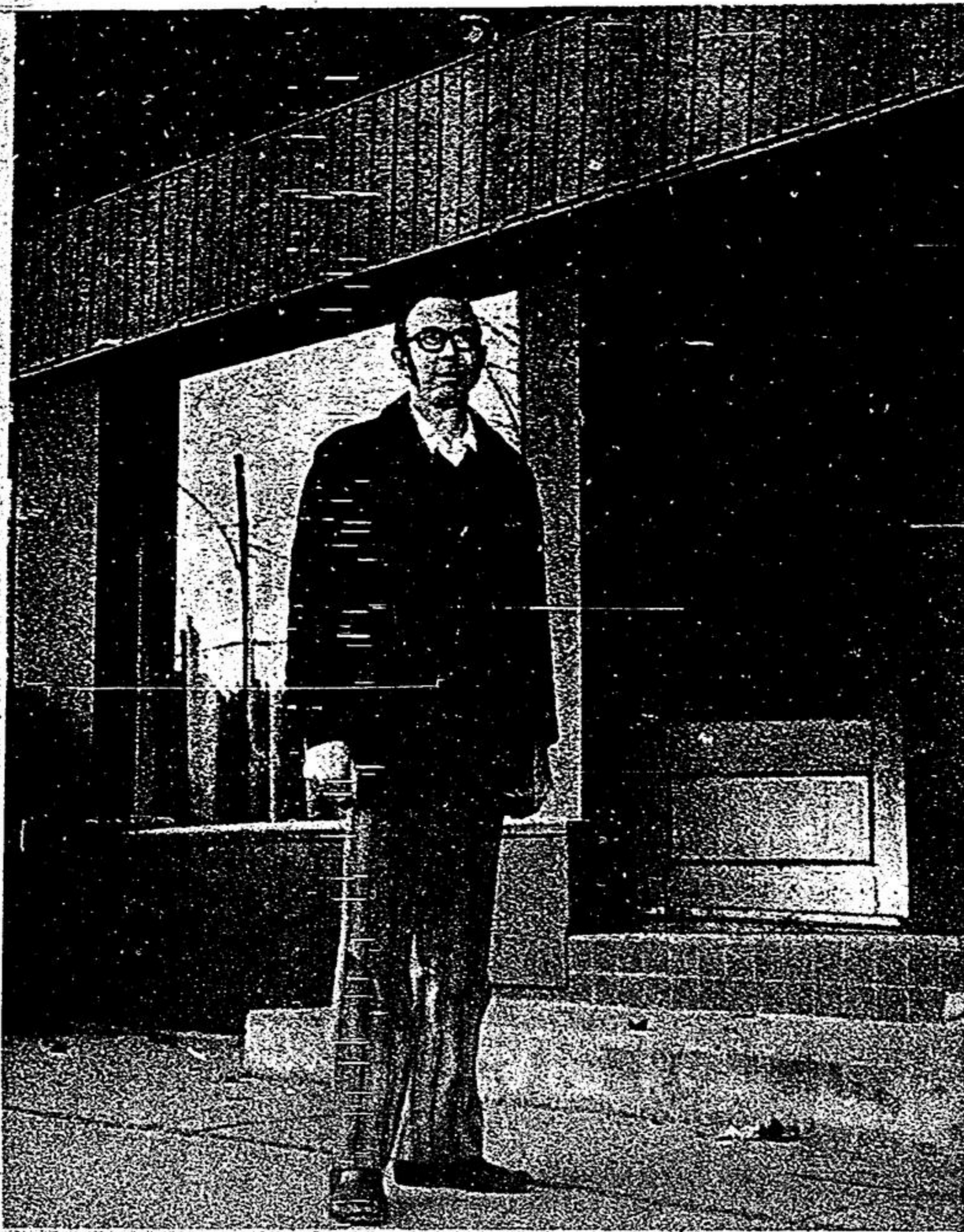
He ran two years later and lost and Dec. 4, 1972 was elected to

Richmond Hill Council. Mr. Stewart was a family man, a regular attendant at a local pentecostal church, and a man who took pride in being the father of four sons.

He was concerned primarily with the kinds of neighborhoods families had to live in, with the quality of recreation provided for children and in keeping the streets of Richmond Hill safe for people.

Prime concerns were that developers plan for families and that his political colleagues justify their budget proposals.

He is survived by his wife and four boys.



Stouffville insurance adjuster Robin Brown, outside his new office at 161 Main Street West. — Jim Thomas.

Robin Brown

Honest policy

By Jim Thomas
STOUFFVILLE — Through the years, I have attended hundreds of accidents, some of a minor nature, some serious.

It's all part of the job — take a few pictures, speak to witnesses (if any), and check out the name of the investigating officer.

I seldom pay attention to spectators — the curious, who for some strange reason are attracted to scenes of death and injury. There's nothing pretty about it.

However, on many occasions, I've come to notice one familiar face in such crowds. He never 'pushes' his way in although he usually carries a camera. He never presses witnesses for information but instead hands them his card. He never interferes with investigations although police are conscious of his presence.

He's Robin Brown, an independent insurance adjuster with a new office location at 161 Main Street West.

"Sure, I do a bit of ambulance chasing," he admits, "but I never act except on direct assignment from companies concerned." He's held a licence for 12 years, one that includes all classes from auto and fire through to burglary.

Robin says most companies are only too happy to co-operate, particularly when they know he has most of the information. "On occasions, I've driven right past an accident and later learned I've been assigned the adjustment. That's when I wonder why I didn't take the time to stop."

Using common sense is Robin's secret to success. "Never get caught in a lie," he advises, "be straight forward and open and never try to mislead anyone". He notes that

many people don't really understand the protection their insurance policy offers and therefore are at a loss when it comes to filing a claim. By being on the scene when an accident or fire occurs, Robin is able to establish contact with the people involved. Later, he can go back and speak to them when they've had time to think things out.

The blaze in the the Ratcliff Block, Main Street, Stouffville was a major valuation. The loss was estimated at \$275,000 and the fire ruled "accidental".

Another involved seven people in a two-car collision on a highway in the States. It still hasn't been settled.

Robin is a personable man, always busy, but never to the extent he can't take the time to say hello.

His receptionist is the same. Her name is Donna. She's his wife.

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Mayor comments on . . .

Region 'think' conference

STOUFFVILLE — A "Thinkers Conference" for York Regional mayors, regional councillors and heads of departments was held last week at Deerhurst Lodge, Huntsville. Did it prove beneficial? Yes, says Mayor Gordon Ratcliff, present 11 days. "Many things were discussed in an informal way," he said. He observed that on occasions, councillors "blow off steam" at regional meetings, but don't have the facts. He felt it might have been more beneficial if the Conference had been held last year. "I feel it came a year too late," he said, "the more insight members have into the operation of the Region, the better."

Question: Has development to the south of Stouffville been abandoned?

Answer: Development to the south of Stouffville will be influenced by the pending Airport. The property is zoned "Rural". Right now, the area of proposed build-up is to the north and north-west.

Question: Who is covering the cost of the water main from Blake Street to Park Drive South?

Answer: Developers of the Bayerst Subdivision are covering the cost (\$57,000), and the remaining distance, except through the Thicketwood Subdivision

(Booth Farm), south of Main.

Question: The Town has a lot severance fee of \$700. What is the purpose of such a charge?

Answer: The \$700 fee goes into a special account and is available for many things such as park properties, firehalls and any capital projects. I feel it's a reasonable figure. Payment of the \$700 is one of the conditions in granting a

severance by the Committee of Adjustment.

Question: When will information on Stouffville's Traffic and Parking Study be made public?

Answer: The Study will be made public either next week or the week following. I regard some of the recommendations as 'good news' for both the residents and merchants.

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