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Jopp still on safety patrol

By CHRIS SHANAHAN

At the age of 81, Sebert Jopp's still on patrol at Uxbridge Public School.

Following six years as a school crossing guard in Pickering, the likeable senior citizen is continuing his career as an assistant with Uxbridge's student safety patrol.

"I had my eye on the kids because it had been my job for six years," he says of his first visit to the Victoria Ave. school early one September morning.

Mr. Jopp, who moved to Uxbridge in August, admits he initially drew some suspicious looks from parents and concerned school officials whom he says were probably wondering "who the strange man was."

But a brief chat convinced vice principal Wendell Fisher of the newcomer's integrity and of his good intentions.

"We're quite glad to have him," says Mr. Fisher, who was instrumental in creating the volunteer position. "He acts as a mentor for the children. They enjoy him and he certainly likes them."

To show its appreciation, the school supplied the octogenarian with an official patroller's badge and a raincoat for protection against inclement weather.

Mr. Jopp says he "loves Uxbridge" even though it is a lot colder than his native Kingston, Jamaica, where he worked as a cook before his emigration in the late 1970s.

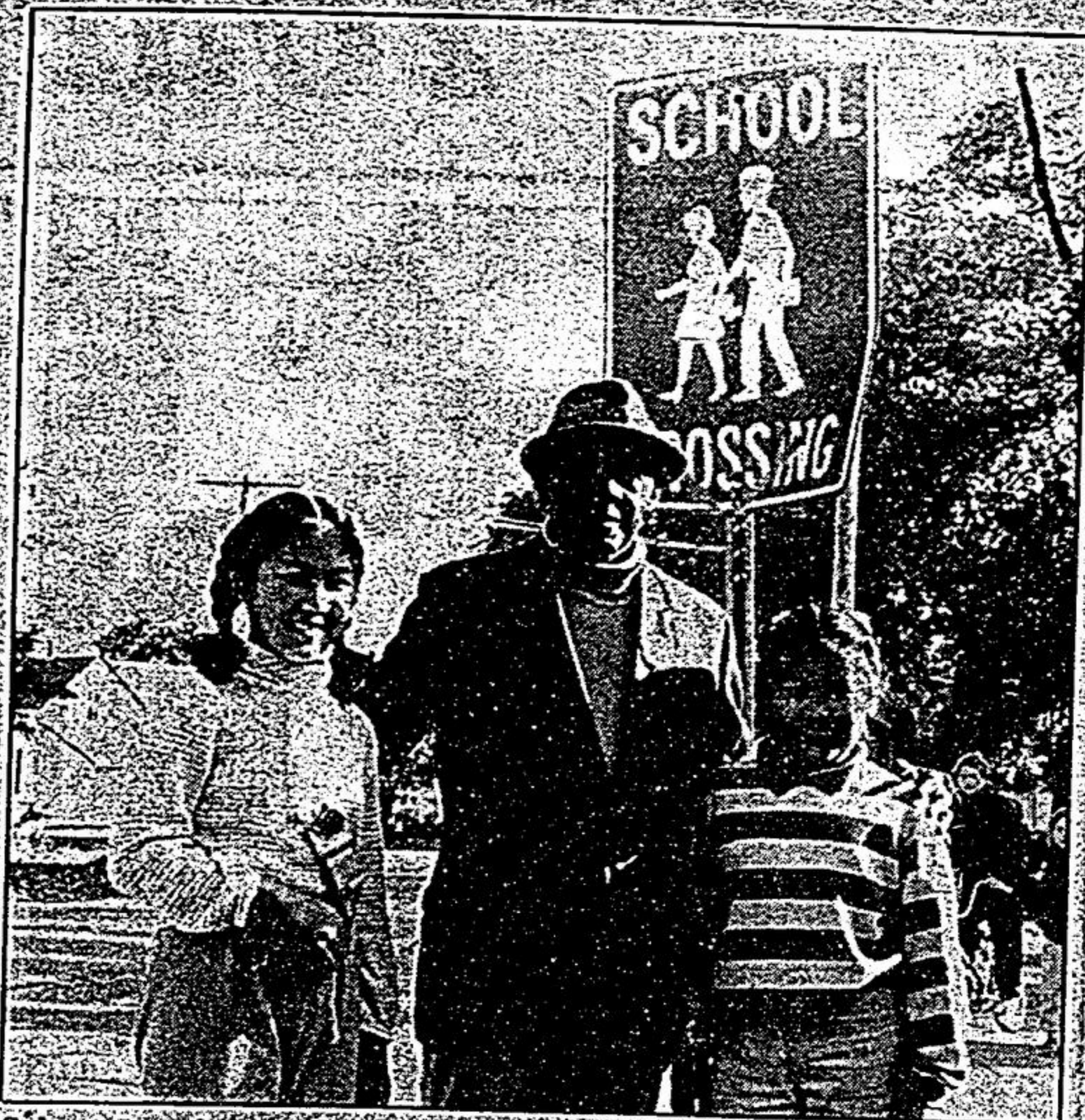
Prior to entering the Brookside Apartments, he lived with his daughter Olive Pickering and family in, you guessed it, Pickering.

He was formally introduced to all the school's classes and is now on a first-name basis with many Uxbridge students.

The volunteer is impressed with the knowledge and maturity displayed by the 65-strong safety unit, but doesn't hesitate to share with the pupils his "knowledge of all the rules and regulations."

Mr. Jopp said he would still consider an offer to serve as a full-time crossing guard for the municipality of Uxbridge.

He served in that capacity while working for the Town of Pickering at both Sir John A. Macdonald and Holy Redeemer schools.



Sebert Jopp has made quite a hit with students at Uxbridge Public School, especially the 65 members of the school's student safety patrol. The 81-year-old crossing guard is flanked by patroller Lisa Lim, 10, (left) and her eight-year-old sister, Elsa.

— Chris Shanahan

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Anniversary services at Markham church

Anniversary services are being held at Markham Missionary Church this weekend.

Guest speaker for all the services is Dr. Leonard DeWitt, president of the Missionary Church. Dr. DeWitt, a Canadian, now lives in Fort Wayne, Indiana.

Oshawa singing duo, Anne Nicole and Hiram Joseph will provide entertainment tonight at 7:45.

On Sunday, Oct. 20, at 11 a.m. and 6:30 p.m., soloist Nancy Holmes will participate.

The congregation has plans to

relocate on Major Mackenzie Dr. so this may be the last anniversary in the Main St. location.

The public is invited to share in these Anniversary Services.

Coming up on Sunday, Nov. 17 is a production of the children's musical, The Music Machine. Sunday school classes are preparing for this presentation with instruction in the Fruit of the Spirit.

A music machine has been built and will be unveiled on Sunday, Oct. 20 at 9:45 a.m. for all to see.

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