

Weekender

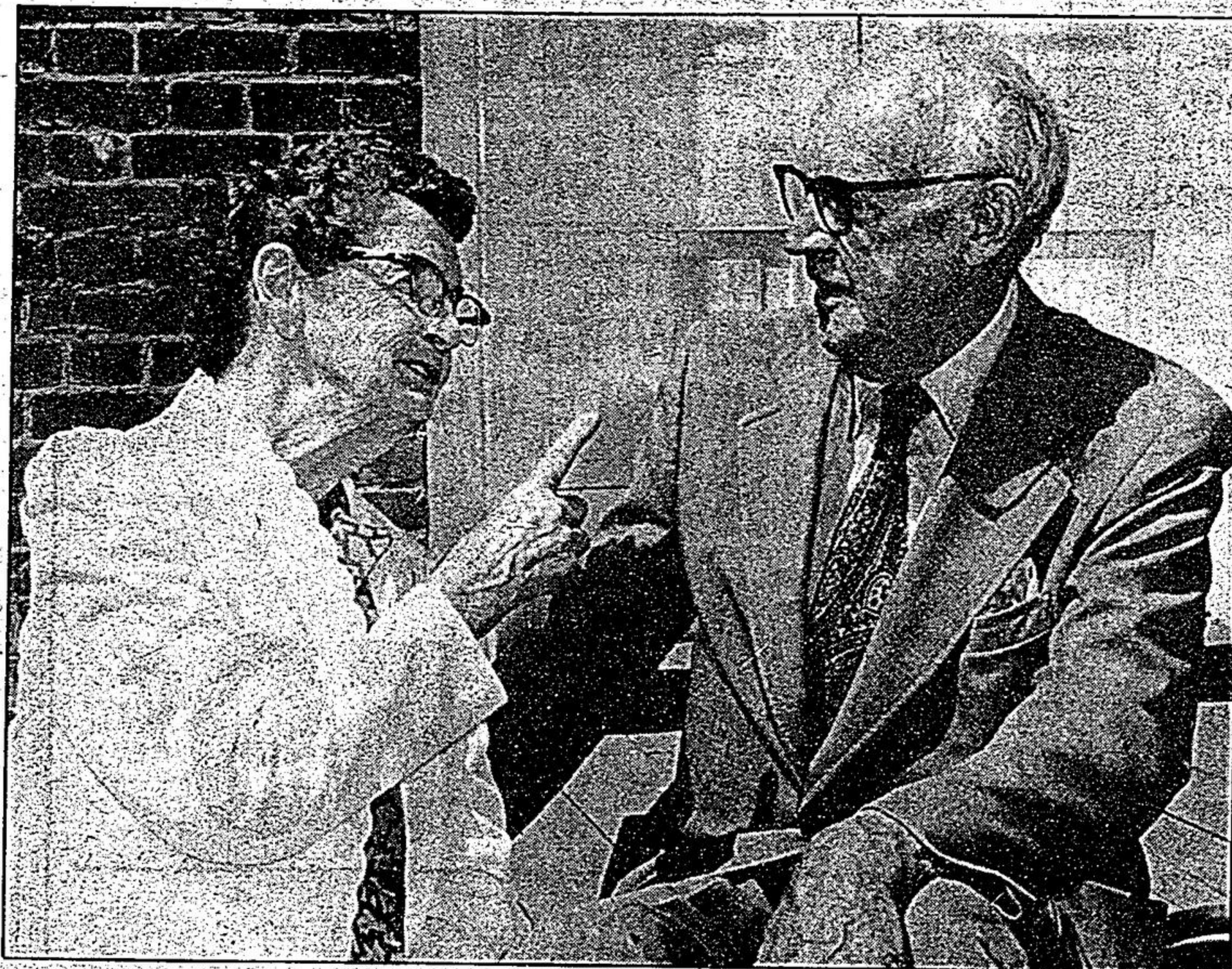
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Former teacher still teaching

Professor Gerald Graham of London, England, a former student of Franklin Street Public School, Markham and Markham High School, attended a reunion, recently, on the grounds of the Markham Museum. In attendance was a former teacher on the staff of Franklin School, Catherine (Johnston) Thomas, Village Squire Apartments, Markham. Mrs. Thomas, then Catherine Johnston, provided after-hours tutoring for the then Sr. Fourth pupil to help him pass

his final exams. Others attending the gathering were former schoolmates Ellsworth Stonehouse, Austin Reesor, Walter Atkinson and Aubrey Stephenson along with former Museum curator John Lunau. Prior to his return, Professor Graham attended a convocation at the University of Western Ontario where he received an honorary doctorate degree.

—Jim Thomas

It's our 1st birthday

Crack open the champagne and grab a balloon. It's our anniversary.

Today marks a full year of publishing the Weekender.

The tabloid newspaper, which was first published as an experiment on June 15, 1985, has grown in size, circulation and success since its inception.

Publisher Bruce Annan said, "I'm delighted with the response from readers and proud of the product turned out by the people at our Markham and Stouffville offices."

He described the newspaper

as an alternative to the Wednesday papers with a greater emphasis on lifestyle and leisure stories and more photos. The Economist and Sun will celebrate its 130th birthday July 1.

He added that the balance of hard news, an editorial page and letters to the editor with general interest stories and photos "makes for a good read on a Saturday morning."

Unlike the Wednesday editions of the Economist and Sun and the Tribune, the Weekender is mass-distributed to every home in our market area.

"As the population in the area increases, we will match (that increase) with a bigger pressrun," Mr. Annan said.

In its first year, circulation of the Weekender has increased from an initial 23,000 copies to 25,000 and now stands at 30,000 issues, delivered in Markham, Unionville, Milliken, Stouffville and even Box Grove.

On behalf of his staff Mr. Annan thanks readers and advertisers for supporting the Saturday paper and said, "We look forward to the next 129 years of the Weekender."

Heart transplant

Markham woman had only days to find new heart

By PAULA CROWELL
Staff Reporter

May 10 marked a new beginning for Colette Babineau.

Heart transplant surgery has given the 23-year-old Markham resident a new lease on life.

Mrs. Babineau discovered she had a heart condition at the age of 12 while growing up in Stouffville. Doctors said the problem was caused by an enlarged muscle on the left side of her heart.

"I had to take it easy and not participate in too many sports," she explained. "I couldn't do any running. I knew my limits and if I felt I needed sleep, I would sleep."

Other than fatigue, Mrs. Babineau lived a normal life — until last Christmas when she became ill and got progressively worse.

She couldn't eat and her husband Jeff says she eventually couldn't even take water. Her breathing was shallow and labored.

Flown to Toronto

She was home with her parents, Al and Meryl Hudson, in Minden when her condition became so bad they took her to the hospital. Local doctors soon realized she needed care beyond what they could give.

A team of medical staff was flown from Toronto General Hospital (TGH) to treat her while she was in transit.

From Minden she was transported to Bracebridge and flown to Buttonville Airport. A helicopter ambulance delivered her to TGH where she stayed for about a month.

While in intensive care, her weight dropped from a petite 105 pounds to 65 pounds. Even now, a month after surgery, her arms and legs are slender, more like a child's than a woman's. But her face radiates confidence as she slowly returns to her normal weight.

Mr. Babineau explains, "They (the doctors) thought she picked up some kind of infection. They didn't think it was her heart."

She was released from hospital and returned to cottage country — but not for long.

"She wanted to lay down, so we

put her in her parents' bed. I went in to see her and her lips were turning blue," he said. "We thought if they gave her oxygen she'd be fine. We took her to the Minden hospital and they gave her oxygen and something to make her sleep."

Cold and clammy

"But when I touched her hand it was cold and clammy," he says recalling his shock about the severity of her illness.

She was taken to hospital in Lindsay which is better-equipped to deal with serious health problems. They contacted heart specialists at TGH who told them to get her to Toronto as soon as possible.

"I didn't realize I was that sick," she says. "I just kept saying I wanted to sleep."

Had she been allowed to sleep, she later learned, she might never have awakened.

When she arrived at TGH, doctors were upfront and honest about her condition.

"They told me right away that I needed a new heart. They found an extra beat that was causing the problem," she explains heaping praise on the medical staff at Toronto Western Hospital where the surgery was actually performed.

Toronto Western and Toronto General hospitals recently united. Toronto Western is the only hospital in Toronto which does heart transplants. The first successful heart transplant was performed at the hospital on March 7, 1985. In the first year seven such operations were done — six were successful.

Since the end of March four additional transplants have been done. Three patients have died while on the waiting list for donor hearts.

Although the procedure is relatively new to hospital medical staff, they've mastered the art of dealing with their patients, Mrs. Babineau said.

On waiting list

"They were so straight with me. If something was wrong they told you. They told me every day

SEE PAGE 3

WHAT'S INSIDE



Markham's Mr. Mom
Brian Healy/8

Directory	
Comment	p. 4
Church Page	p. 14
Children's page	p. 25
Entertainment	p. 22
Sports	p. 27 to 29
Real Estate	p. 30 to 36
Classified	p. 37 to 43

He's a big brother
Dave Whittamore
/10

