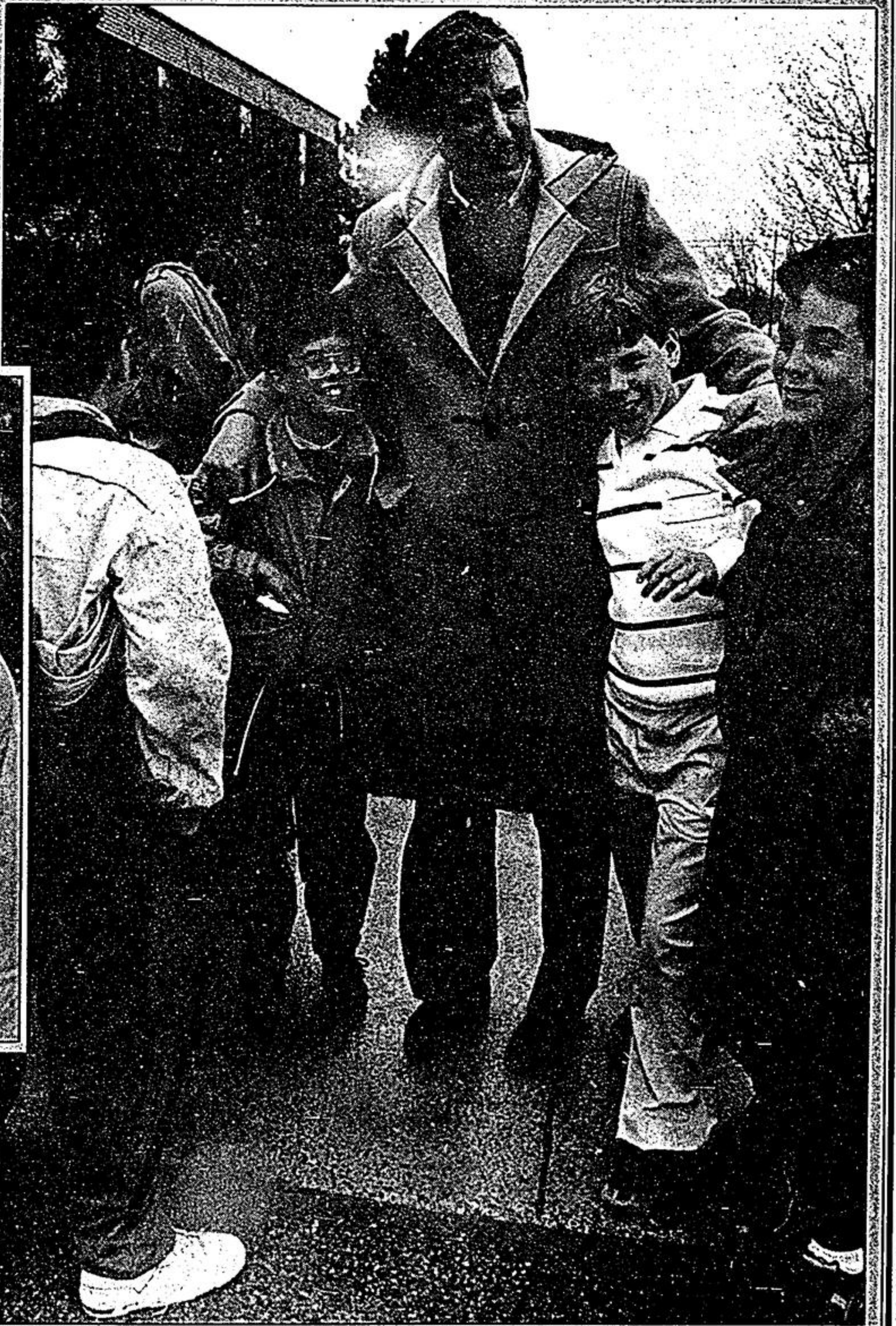


Students arrive for friendship exchange



Dickson Hill Public School students welcomed a group of exchange students from France on Sunday and finally met the group they had been exchanging letters with in recent months. The exchange, which will include visits to the country's capitol and other popular spots, is the first of its kind in the Stouffville area. Students have been billeted to local homes. In the photo at left, visitors Bertrand Neu and Jean-Pascal Roederer are welcomed by student Nick Porter and teacher Mike O'Reilly. At right, the students are officially welcomed by local dignitaries including Stouffville Mayor Fran Sainsbury, Markham Mayor Tony Roman and Markham MPP Don Cousens. Below right, (from left) Ludovic Menot says hello to Colin Darg and friends Peter Darg and Aaron Small. This sign held up by young Paul Heldema and friend Jason Quan helped welcome pen pal Franck Maimaran from France. The French students are now busy acquainting themselves with their Canadian counterparts.



JULIE CASPERSEN
Staff Reporter

Grade 6 pupils from Dickson Hill Public School are practicing "global harmony" as well as their French. Yesterday, after three years of letter writing, 21 girls and boys from Strasbourg, France arrived to meet their Markham pen pals for the first time. "It's the realization of the dream of parents who put their children in French Immersion," Dickson Hill Grade 6 teacher Michael O'Reilly told the York Region Board of Education Monday evening. This elementary exchange program, a first in York Region, not only allows children to use their knowledge of the French language, it encourages global awareness, O'Reilly said.

The Grade 6 Dickson Hill class will be hosting the 21 French students, along with a teacher and three parents, for three weeks. "Already, a difference between the countries is evident to parent Neu, Etienne, who said, that although teachers in France are more strict than Canadian teachers, the students here are much more disciplined in class."

SPEAK YOUR MIND

What was your reaction to the resignation of John Turner as leader of the federal Liberal party?



BILL PRESTON

"I think he gave it his best shot, but he never made it. He's had health problems and I guess he's getting on. Maybe it's time to give a younger person a shot at it."



PAUL BAKER

"It's about time. He put the Liberal party \$6 million in debt. They are still weak and wouldn't make a good governing party, let alone a good opposition party."



DAVID MORRISON

"If they are deciding to get rid of the turkey it must be Thanksgiving. He came across to me as someone who was always overreacting. He took things out of proportion. It was time to replace him with someone more down to earth."



JANET ARENDS

"I think John Turner has had his day and I believe the Liberal party will be able to replace him. I think he held the party back and that he hasn't had a good attitude for the past several years."



ANDREA CORNER

"I think he knew the right time to get out. I thought he ran a good campaign last time around, but it was just not his time."

Council briefs

Phantom flights baffling

Whitchurch-Stouffville residents are urged to be on the alert: UFOs have been spotted by a major with the Canadian Armed Forces.

Actually, the objects are unidentified helicopters that are baffling officials at Canadian Forces Base Borden. Town council received a letter from base officials asking

local residents to report any such flying phantoms.

All calls should be directed to the base's tactical division at 635-4759. If local residents do make such sightings, OPP squads will investigate.

Sporting idea

If the plans by Fable Enterprises materialize, the area in front of the Rec complex could

be developed into commercial establishments. Appearing before the town's planning advisory committee, Robert Johnston suggested such uses as a sporting goods store, convenience store, restaurant, or fitness centre, among others in the area.

Council suggested that a public meeting be held before the end of June recess.

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