



MIDNIGHT

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STOUFFVILLE
MAIN STREET
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Walking the beat in Stouffville

York Region police begin local foot patrols

ROGER BELGRAVE
Staff Reporter

Recently, York Regional Police have been leaving their cruisers and

taking to Stouffville streets on foot. According to York Regional Police Inspector Ivars Vitins, the increased foot patrols were prompt-

ed by a few local complaints. It was nothing serious, he suggested. A few overturned flowers, shrubs and gardens are the kind of occurrences the higher police visibility are meant to discourage.

But while the walking tours do much to discourage such vandalism, they also do wonders for public relations. Like many other local residents, George Wassef believes crime levels on Main Street don't warrant a significant police presence.

Although reports of tobacco break-ins has him somewhat alarmed, those incidents are few and far between, he concluded.

Wassef's family has been operating Houston Pharmacy for 23 years and he can't recall any trouble that required police assistance.

For the most part, his contact with

police has been limited to the occasional drive-by sighting of officers issuing tickets.

If nothing else, the foot patrols are a good way to for people like Wassef to meet the local constabulary.

If they're there to increase acces-

"I think it is a good way to get the community in touch with the police force."

sibility from the public to them it's a good idea, he said. "I think it is a good way to get the community in touch with the police force."

As long as extra manpower permits, foot patrols should be commonplace in downtown Stouffville, said Insp. Vitins.

But officers will always be encouraged to park their vehicles and patrol the area on foot, he added.

I like to have officers walk through the street and talk to the

people, Vitins said.

Constable James Provis is convinced local residents are happier to see the police among the town's everyday strollers.

While on foot patrol, officers regularly stop in local businesses and chat, he said.

With vehicle enforcement you don't talk to people other than when you stop people for minor traffic violations, said Provis.

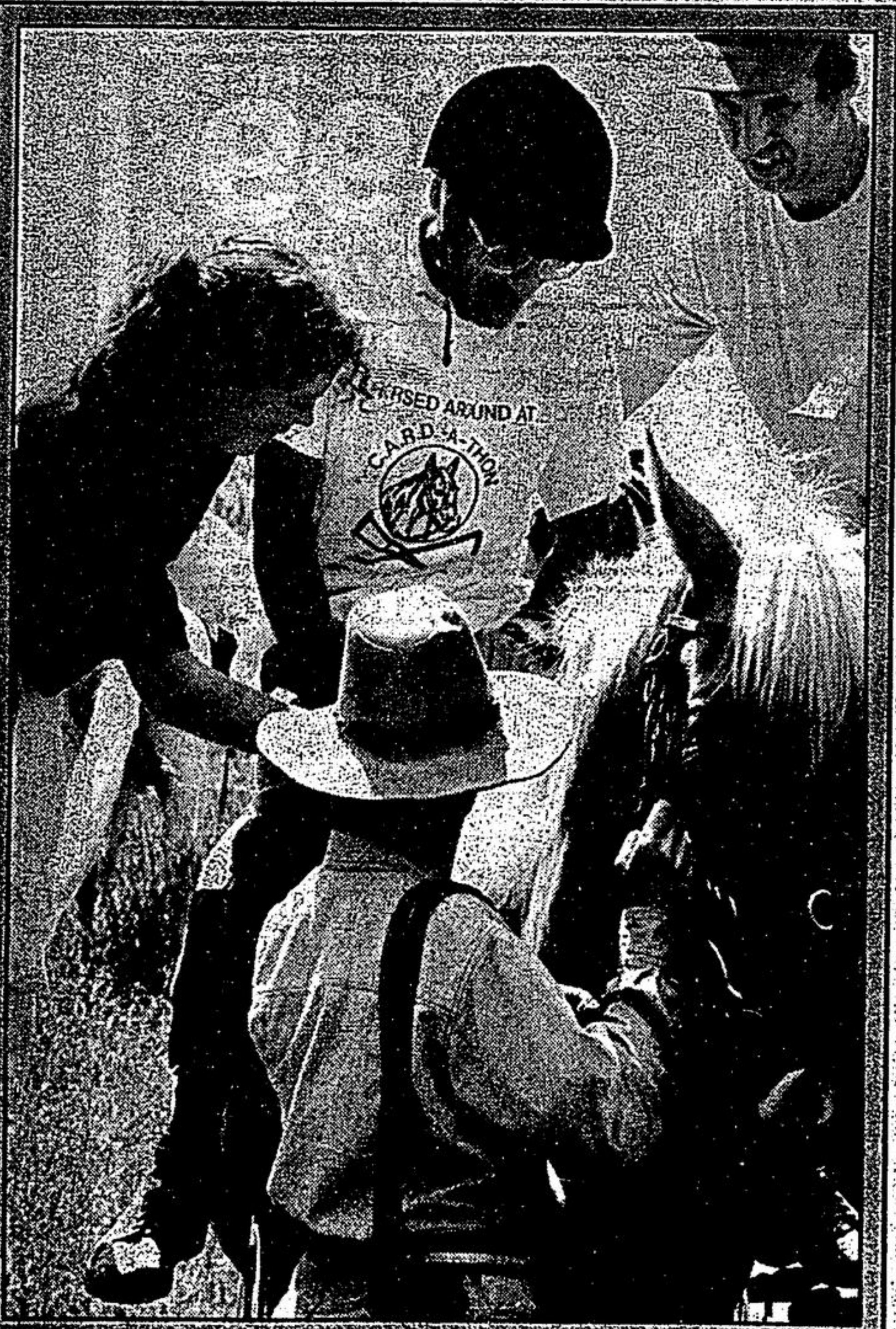
When officers take to the street on foot, they appear less intimidating, he believes. As a result, the officers appear more approachable.

People would be more inclined to walk up to you and ask you a question than they would when you're driving down the road, he said.

The interaction with local residents benefits officers as well as town's people.

There are good days and bad days for any officer. But if one person comes up and says, officer, have a nice day, it makes it all worth while, said Provis.

It's nice to know, agreed Constable John Smithyes. You don't get a chance to hear that when you're driving through town.



Photo/ANNETTE BUCHKOWSKI

Riders raise funds

Riders from across Ontario participated in the 15th annual C.A.R.D.A. Triathlon over the weekend at Al's Tack Shop in Balgony. The ride helped raise funds for the Community Association for Riding for the Disabled (C.A.R.D.) Ches Purdy, centre of horse GM which he rode in the event.

Veteran trustee seeks re-election

JULIE CASPERSEN
Staff Reporter

Veteran school board trustee Harry Bowes will run for a position on the York Region Board of Education.

Whitchurch-Stouffville trustee Bowes officially announced his intention to run in the November municipal elections.

Bowes joined the board in 1975 and during his 16 years as a trustee was five times elected chairman of the board.

When he was first elected to the board, Bowes said trustees were divided on many issues.

It was a split board in '75, then it really improved when (Director of Education) Bob Cressman came in '81, he said.

But the board is divided again, a situation that prompted Bowes to once again vie for a seat. I hope to have a modifying effect on the board, he said.

Bowes fears some candidates are running on single

issues and will not represent the interests of the ratepayers.

To have some single-issue groups run and get in - I just couldn't live with that. They don't understand the role of the trustee, he said. I have an open mind and represent all the concerns.

It was the threat of even further conflict among trustees that was a deciding factor in Bowes' decision to run again for election.

Bowes had originally hinted he'd retire from the board after the current term to spend more time with his family now that many projects he's pushed for over the past years are in the process of being completed.

Those projects included the addition to Summitview Public School and the track at Stouffville District Secondary School.

According to the clerk's department, Bowes is the only candidate registered to run for public school board trustee in town.

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