

Sanders looks to future after election loss

BRUCE STAPLEY
Correspondent

Two days after losing his ward 6 council seat to political newcomer Ken Prentice in last week's municipal election, Whitchurch-Stouffville's councillor emeritus Jim Sanders spent an evening at home with his wife Lovanna, listening to music and reading a book.

"It was kind of nice," Sanders admitted.

"Already I can start to feel the weights coming off."

For Sanders, his 13 years as councillor were less a political venture than a means of thrusting himself into the community he loves to call home.

And while he insists he won't be at a loss for local projects to volunteer his time towards he is almost relishing the thought of being able to leave the tedious side of the job to those who are being paid by the town.

"I plan to continue my involvement in the community in whatever way possible. But now I won't have to worry about the fine details and the personnel matters. Council can look after that."

Sanders said he isn't even considering entering the provincial or federal political arena. He claims to be much more interested in the betterment of the town than in pursuing a career in politics.

"I don't see politics as something to get into and work at for

politics' sake. Sure, you have to understand the political system to get things done. But it's the community that counts, and if I can do things to help out in the community, that's great. But politics is sort of like the vehicle you have to drive if you want to take the trip."

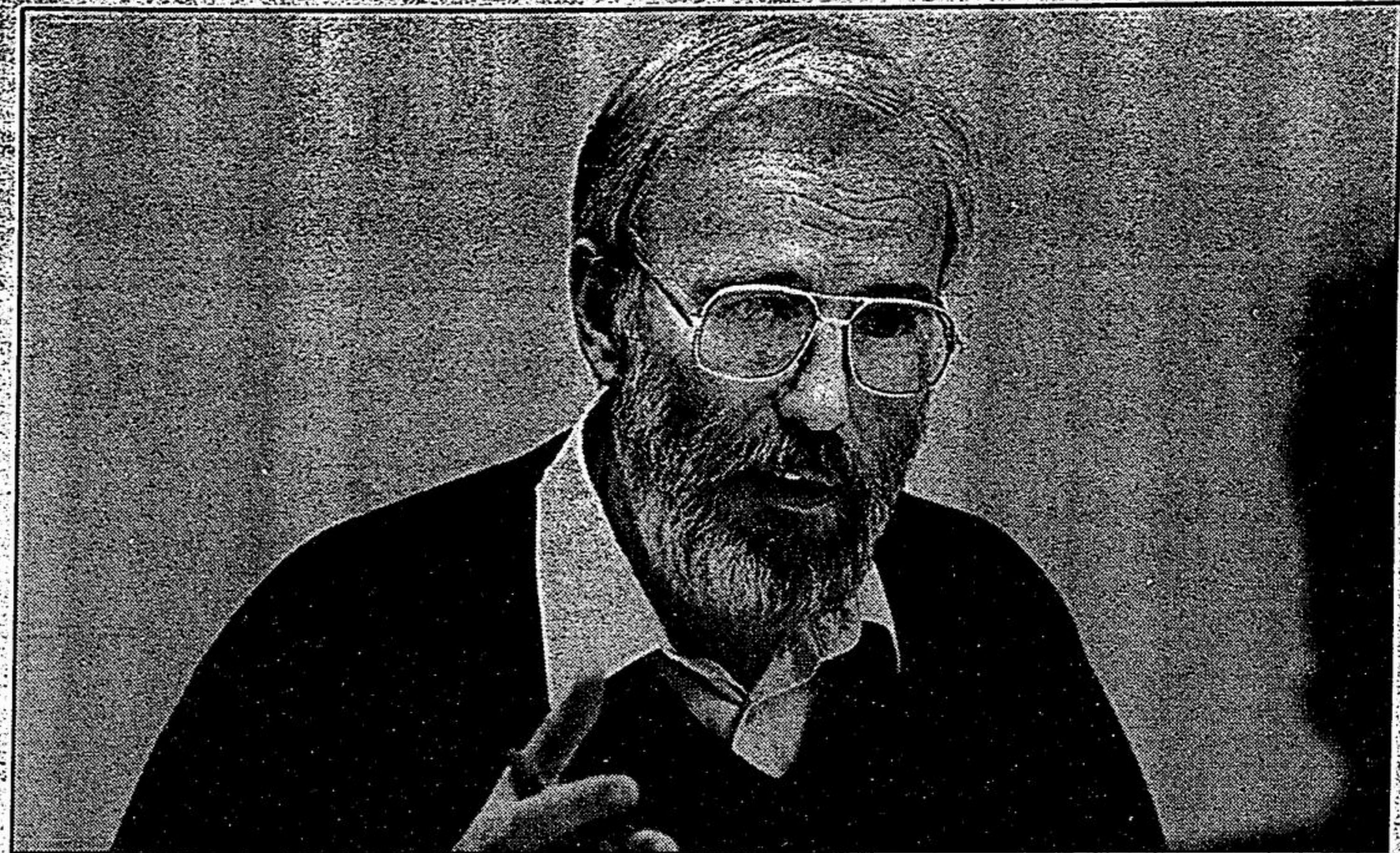
While admitting to being disappointed at having been ousted from his council seat, Sanders took heart in the fact that his support base seemed to be as strong as ever during the campaign.

"More people than ever were saying they liked what I was trying to do. And I was just pleased to see new people getting involved."

But it disturbs Sanders to think the people who voted against him were saying they didn't want some of the things he considers so crucial.

"Home Support Services are thinking of moving out of Stouffville and going to Markham and people may pull out of the program because of that. I was the council liaison for CHAS (Community Home Assistance to Seniors), and I believe it's essential for the identity of the town to keep the program here. But I'm taking the vote as saying people aren't going to support that kind of service here."

Sanders also took the election result to mean the people in ward 6 don't support the proposed mobility transit system he was in favor of. He said his opponent



Jim Sanders, after more than a dozen years on council, is spending his time on new projects.

Prentice had said at the all candidates meeting Nov. 1 that he had some reservations about the program.

He felt his stand against development and the big pipe hurt him as well.

"I wasn't seen to be supportive of development, and I didn't support the big pipe. The developers were complaining we (council) weren't getting out of the way and letting them build what they wanted to build. But it was me a case of the barriers being put up by the

province."

In stepping down Sanders takes with him the pride that came with helping establish a recreational focus for the town, getting the town's recycling program on track and facilitating the Dulverton subdivision which had been stuck for so many years.

He was instrumental in causing the current library to be built and he pushed for the town to hire a CAO to organize its staff.

He also includes the improvement of the westerly approach to

town among his triumphs, as well as the establishment of the town's tree committee.

His association with the region's community services council was another source of satisfaction for him.

When asked if he intends to try to regain his council seat in the 1994 election, Sanders insists it's the last thing on his mind at the present time.

"I have no idea. I'm not driven by those goals. It's what I can do in the present that counts for me."



Photo/ANNETTE BUCHKOWSKI

Up for sale

A garage sale was held at 6111 Main St. Saturday sponsored by the Grade 6 class at Orchard Park Public School to raise funds for a needy family at

Christmas. Manning the hot chocolate and cookies were (from left) Jenny May, Allison Turner, Clare Gilderdale while Shawn May buys a cup.

Boards grapple with lot levies this week

JULIE CASPERSEN
Staff Reporter

Developers, lawyers, landowners and homeowners banded together last week for a common cause: to thwart the two York Region school boards from passing bylaws hiking the price of new homes to pay for new schools.

Two consecutive public meetings were held at the boards' headquarters last Wednesday and Thursday as trustees heard from groups opposing educational lot levies.

The Development Charges Act allows boards to impose a levy on residential and commercial developments with the money paying for new school construction in that neighborhood.

The York Region Board of Education proposes to charge \$2,451 per residential unit while the York Region Roman Catholic Separate School Board's proposed levy is set at \$1,172 for a total levy per home of

\$3,623. The money will be deposited in a joint account.

The numbers are based on projected development in York Region with an estimated \$39,510 new housing units built over the next five years creating a need for schools for 14,620 elementary and 1,162 secondary students. Construction of these schools will cost almost \$130 million, and according to the boards, development charges will cover the full construction cost, with residential levies picking up 75 per cent of the tab.

Some development, for example seniors complexes, subsidized housing, institutional or recreational facilities, can be excluded from the bylaw.

Certain areas of the region can also be deemed exempt from the bylaw if no new schools are needed.

The boards were expected to pass their bylaws Monday and the levies could take effect within five days. This would be a first in the province, but the Ontario Home Builders' Association has plans to take the boards to court.

Group vows to fight

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Anglican and the Missionary Church for permission to use their facilities, in order to continue the club for students at Orchard Park and Summitview Schools. Although the group is appreciative of local churches' willingness to provide facilities, moving students off school property creates concerns about safety and will likely result in reduced enrollment, predicted Ratcliff. As well, students from the other two schools involved, Ballantrae and Whitchurch-Highlands, are being denied the opportunity to participate, since there are no alternative facilities nearby. With the high degree of local interest in the future of Sunshine Square, organizers hope to attract new members to FINE to work on the next steps towards resolving the problem and getting the club back into area schools.

"We feel we just can't let it

drop when that much interest is shown," concluded Ratcliff.

"When you see that kind of support from the community, you realize it's a fight worth fighting."

For more information call Ron Warder at 887-5820.

Hill may seek board chair

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new board meets for the first time on December 9. Hill has been in the French section of the board since 1986. She said her experience chairing board committees for finance and properties and special education, and her three years as vice-chairperson of the French section make her a good candidate to fill the position of board chairperson. O'Reilly, who sat as vice-chairperson of the French section during the last term, is favored to fill the post of French-section chairperson.

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