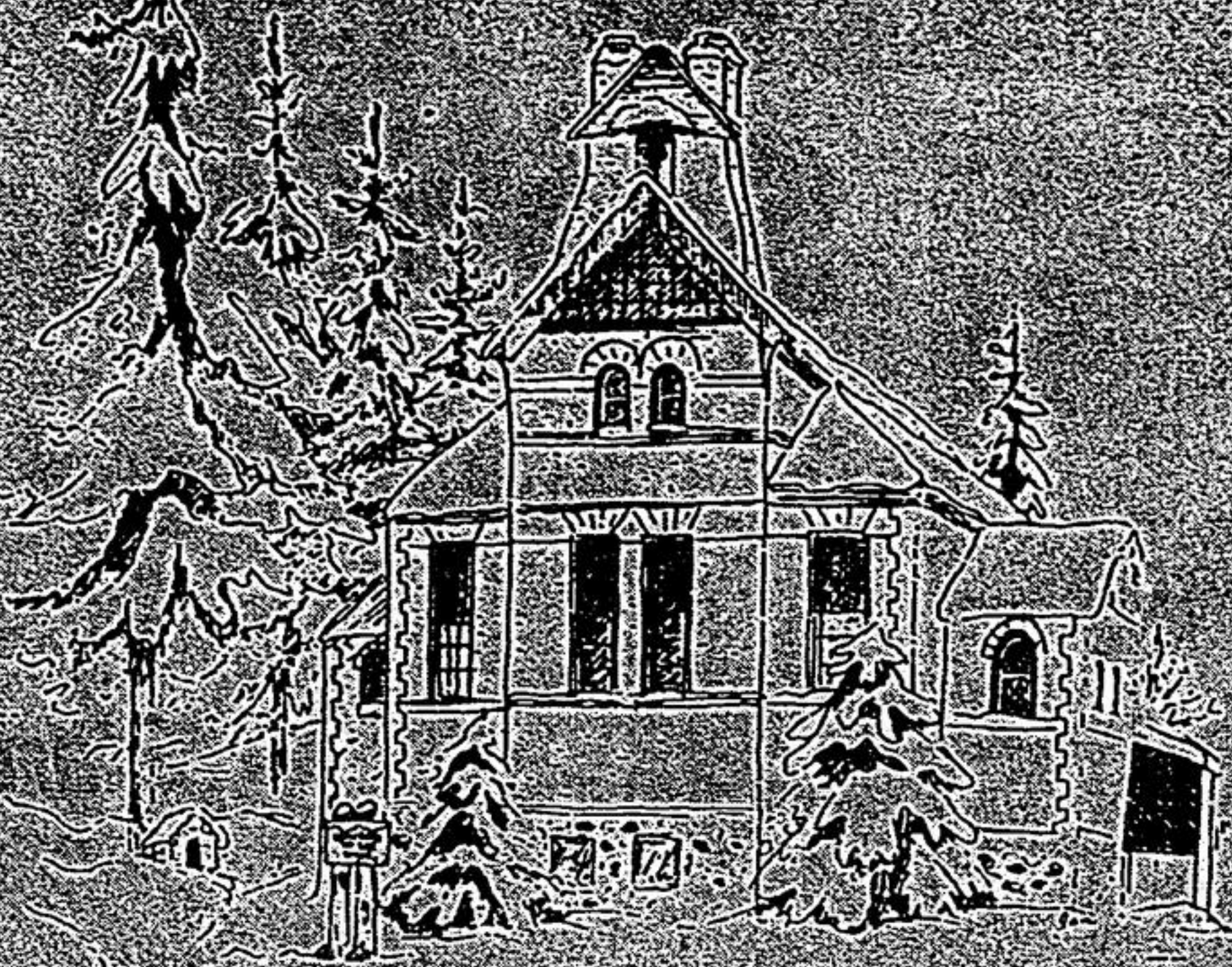


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Mobility Transit ready to go after council gives nod

TRACY KIBBLE
Staff Reporter

Whitchurch-Stouffville Mobility Transit Service is finally revving into high gear after local politicians this week threw unanimous support behind the finalized plans.

Mobility Transit Committee (MTC) members were elated after officials agreed to help the group administer a one-year pilot program through its treasury department.

Politicians also gave the MTC the long-awaited go-ahead to look for a suitable bus that will transport local disabled residents to and from their homes.

"We need to get these people out of their homes and into the local businesses and you have just made that possible," said MTC chairman and Stouffville's citizen of the year, Margaret Britton.

She said the group has raised \$9,000 through on-going fundraising efforts during the past year, but still needs council's support to qualify for a \$12,700 Ministry of Transportation grant.

"The funding from the

province must be channelled through the town," Britton said.

The group presented officials with an annual operating costs forecast which shows — after considerable research — that the mobility taxi will take about 2,200 trips a year.

A \$23,300 annual operating cost comes into line after an estimated annual \$3,300 trip revenue and the provincial grant.

Finance director Ed Blackburn told officials, while he is fully in support of the plan, that if they agree to sign the provincial grant papers the program becomes a municipal responsibility.

But Ward 4 councillor Cliff Dunkeld praised the group and its dedication, stating he is confident the group will keep on top of the operational costs and inform the town if there is a problem.

The group plans to seek out a government-standard bus with a raised roof and supported sides and proper access.

MTC members will now take tenders from the private sector, order a vehicle and recommend its choice to council.

The group hopes to have the bus up and running by the spring of 1994.

Councillors not only supported the plan but made donations to the cause and pinned Mobility Transit buttons, emblazoning the MTC logo designed by Bruce Burton.

Shed robbed

The contents of a locked storage shed were reported stolen Thursday. The shed at a Woodbine Ave. address was pried open sometime after August 23. Scaffolding worth \$26,000 was taken.

Man arrested

A Stouffville man was arrested after police found a stolen car at a Hwy 48 garage Wednesday. The 40-year-old Hwy 48 man was charged with possession of stolen property over \$1,000. A 24-year-old Markham man faces charges of possession of stolen property over \$1,000, theft over \$1,000 and mischief to property.

Diabetics meet

An ophthalmologist who specializes in retina diseases will speak at the next meeting of the Markham/Stouffville Diabetic Association.

On Tuesday, Sept. 28, at 7:30 p.m., Dr. Carol Schwartz will address the treatment of diabetic retinopathy, usually a complication of long-term hyperglycemia leading to blindness.

The meeting takes place at the Markham Police Station on McCowan Rd., just north of Hwy 7.



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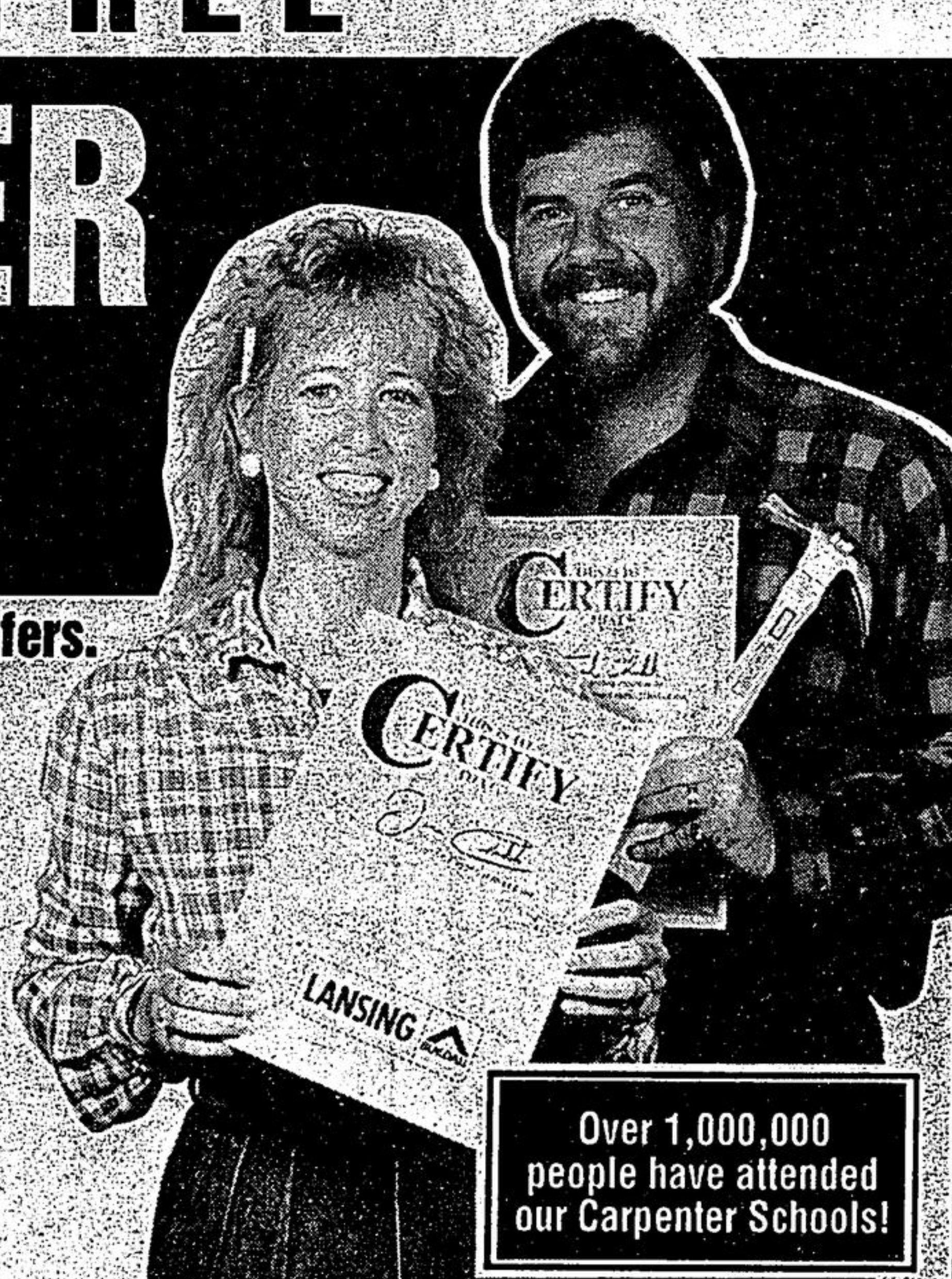
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