

People

Phil Anderson hopes to see Stouffville 'grow'

BRUCE STAPLEY
Correspondent

Phil Anderson is hoping to engage in a partnership with consumers who want to enjoy organically grown vegetables while sharing the joys and risks of farming.

Anderson is the local co-ordinator for Community Shared Agriculture (CSA), an organization which aims to match up farmers of organically grown food crops with consumers who pay a set amount for their summer and fall supply of vegetables.

The idea, which began in the United States, first came to Canada in 1992. There are currently 30 farm arrangements across the country, with five serving the Greater Toronto Area.

Member farmers attempt to line up enough participants, or "sharers", to guarantee a market for their crops, with an up-front payment of \$225 for a share of the harvest. Each week during the growing season, farmers deliver boxes of produce to a central point in a neighbourhood, with each box containing a variety of vegetables, herbs, and legumes. Sharers pick up their produce from this location, and are welcome to visit the farm at any time.

Anderson, a retired music industry entrepreneur, has had an interest in organic farming since 1965.

Along with his wife Diane, he has operated a 100-acre buckwheat, soya bean, and spelt farm on the Durham-York Town Line for the past 14 years, devoting a portion of the land to the growing of organic vegetables and herbs.

A member of Canadian Organic Growers (CAG), Anderson is hopeful the communal program can help the small family farm, while enabling consumers to enjoy the benefits of organically grown food.

"It's a way for small vegetable farmers to make a living," said Anderson. "Small farms are labour intensive and costs are high, so it can be hard to compete. Organic farmers in this area who try to make a living at it must go to downtown Toronto to try to compete in a big market, and they are competing against California produce."

Anderson already has 70 sharers for his CSA program and is looking for 30 more. He said the price to the consumer is less than they would pay at a health food store, and roughly the same as at a regular grocery store.

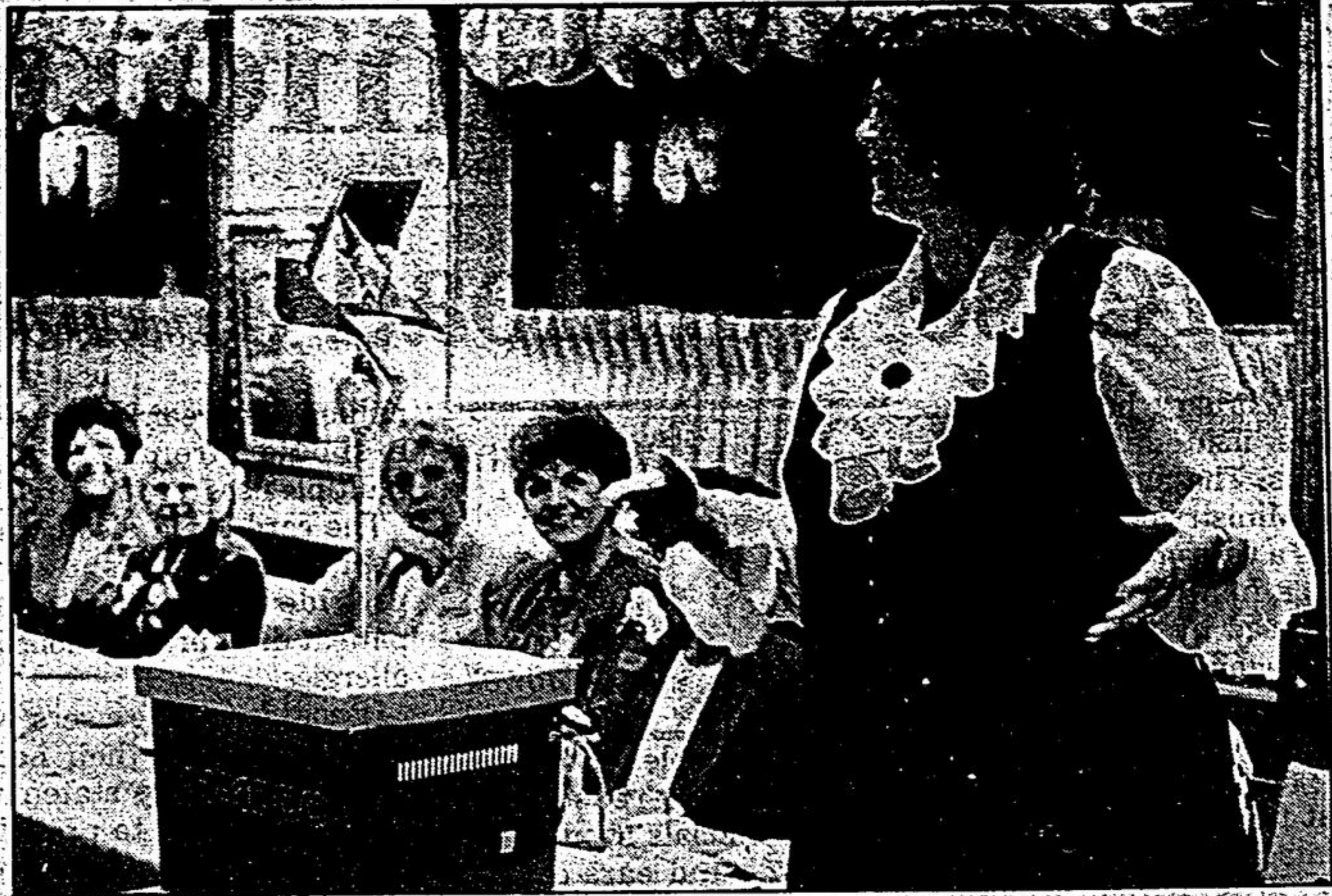
His produce consists of such items as lettuce, carrots, beans, tomatoes, cauliflower, broccoli, corn, and squash, along with fruits such as strawberries and raspberries.

Anderson said his goal is to establish the CSA program in the Uxbridge-Stouffville area. "I'd like to get something started in this area so people know there's something like this where they can get fresh, organically grown produce, while supporting local farmers."

He said he is also prepared to help other farmers become a part of the program. Anderson is convinced of the benefits of produce grown without chemical fertilizers and pesticides. "Tests have shown there is a higher nutritional value in organically grown food."

He also supports the idea of small farms, arguing that the mega farms are damaging the land. "The concept of the 1,500-acre farm which has become so big in the United States isn't working out. It's ruining the land, as these farms are having all the nutrients taken out of the soil because they're being over farmed. The chemical fertilizers have rendered this land unable to produce properly."

Anderson said he hopes to eventually convert his entire farm to the growing of organic fruits and vegetables, but admits it is a slow process. "It's not easy, and there are lots of pitfalls. It takes at least five years to get the land turned around."



Photo/SJOERD WITTEVEEN

Stopping by for a CHAT

Penny Hubbert, a health planner with the York Region District Health Council, addresses the annual CHATS volunteer luncheon at Angie's Restaurant on Tuesday. Hubbert gave an update on the status of long-term care in York Region and answered concerns from the volunteers.

Remember D-Day next month

Take Time to Remember.

The Stouffville branch of the Royal Canadian Legion is celebrating the 50th anniversary of D-Day with a ceremony to honor the invasion of Normandy.

On Mon. June 6 local vet-

erans and residents will meet at 11 a.m. at the town square cenotaph to lay a wreath which will be followed by a service and flag-raising at the 9th Line legion hall. The 50th anniversary flag will be raised and

remain high on the pole until Nov. 11, 1995 - Remembrance Day.

Local veterans are inviting all Stouffville residents to join them for the celebration for veterans.

Tracy Kibble

Councillor questions tenders

If the town wants to cut corners and save money it shouldn't tender small jobs, said Ward 1 councillor Ivanka Bradley this week.

Bradley was questioning why the public works department tendered a \$4,400 catchbasin cleaning job when it would have been less costly to get several quotes and hire from there.

"Why are we going through a tender process for a \$4,400 job when we are trying to cut corners. This is just unnecessary hours of work," Bradley said.

Director Paul Whitehouse admitted Bradley was correct in stating the town's policy

does not require tendering jobs under \$20,000, but said it was the fastest route since papers were on file from previous years.

"It didn't have to be tendered but we already had the tender documents prepared. I just carried on as I have in the past," Whitehouse said.

And administrator Merlin Dewing said a tender document strengthens the agreement of what works are to be done for

the town.

"We can tie down the contractor more tightly with a tender and it was already on disk. We felt it was more appropriate to proceed."

Dewing asked that council leave the day to day business decisions up to the staff who have the expertise to make the best decisions.

"It would be better if you leave the administration up to administration," Dewing said.

Reservoir clean-up planned

Two Stouffville residents are asking for volunteers to help clean up the reservoir trails on Millard Street.

Stephen Buck told The Tribune this week that with the assistance of the town which will provide a Bob Cat and supply wood chips, residents will lay logs down through the mucky trails and spread wood chips on top to dry them.

The group is looking for people to provide their time, wheelbarrows, rakes and shovels to make the trails useable again.

Volunteers are asked to meet at the old Bird Sanctuary main gates on Millard Street at 9 a.m. on Sat., May 28 to help.

Call Buck at 640-6930 or Chris Bardecky at 640-8005 for more information.



Photo/SJOERD WITTEVEEN

Wagons, ho!

Jaymee MacKenzie, 11, pulls a wagon containing Emma Del Degan, 6, and Katie Del Degan, 3, along Greenwood Rd this week.

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