

S1 Orchard Park opens computer lab

KATE GILDERDALE
Correspondent

With the unveiling of the Barbara J. Wideman Computer Laboratory Tuesday evening, Orchard Park Public School became a pioneer in York Region.

The idea of establishing the laboratory originated with Grade 8 teacher John Sandham, who approached the Home and School Association with a request for funds for the project in the fall of 1991.

A computer committee was established, and it was unanimously agreed that the proposed laboratory should be named for Mrs. Wideman, a highly respected teacher at the school who died suddenly in Oct., 1990.

The Home and School Association voted to donate 50 per cent of all money raised to the computer fund, and the computer committee also undertook a variety of fund-raising activities.

By Nov., 1992, more than \$20,000 had been raised. The computer committee then made a presentation to the board of education, requesting they match the next \$10,000 raised with a donation of \$10,000, to bring total donations to \$40,000.

Thus the Home and School Association would have donated \$30,000 with an additional \$10,000, or 25 per cent of the total, being contributed by the board.

At the unveiling of the laboratory Tuesday night, parents and staff learned that the board had agreed to make the donation.

"I should have known the town of Stouffville would come through and you really have," said Area F superintendent Wayne Houston, in confirming the donation.

"Getting the board to come

through with a share wasn't done easily" (former board chairman) Harry Bowes deserves a great deal of credit.

"I hope this will be the start of a lot of school communities doing the same. It's an excellent example of the community and the board working together for the betterment of our students."

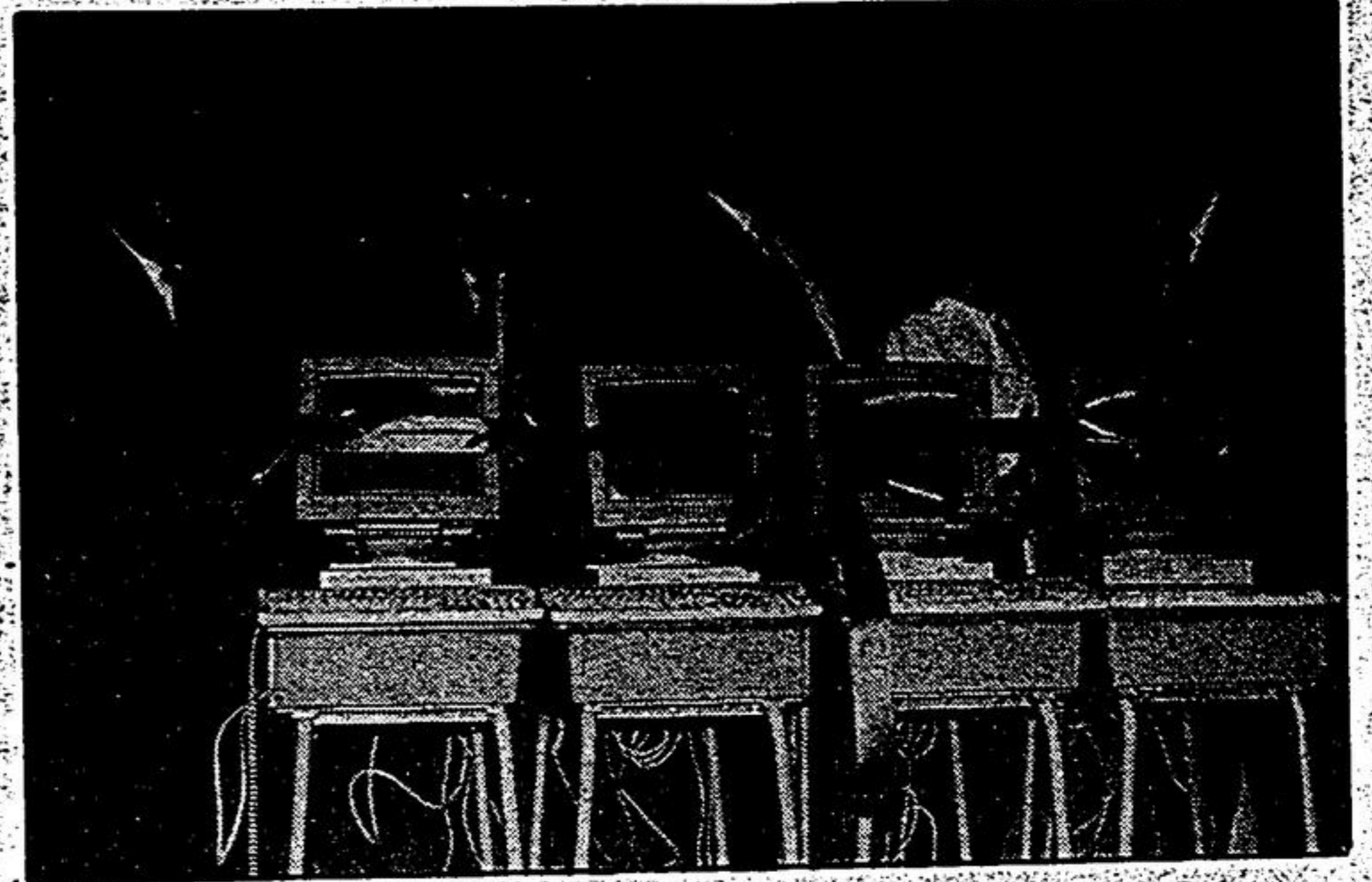
Mayor Fran Sainsbury presented a cheque for \$1,000 towards the laboratory on

behalf of the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville.

Fifteen computers are already installed at the school, with a further ten to be purchased once the remainder of the money has been raised.

Dignitaries were on hand for the opening of Orchard Park Public School's Barbara J. Wideman Computer Laboratory last Tuesday at the school.

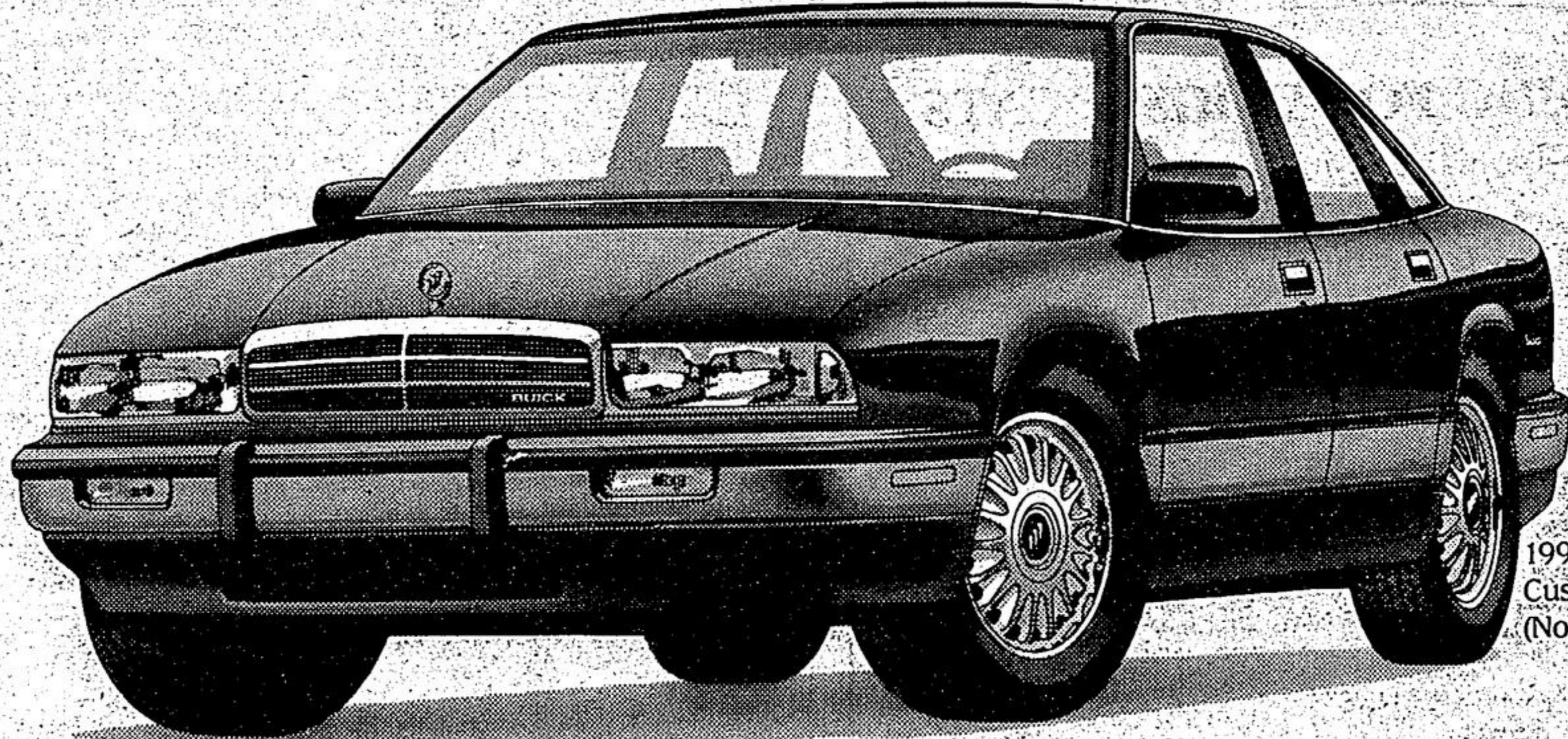
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Timothy Findley to visit John Lord's Books

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three workshops out of a total of 23. Among the topics offered were Mystery Challenges, where students took on the role of detective in attempting to solve various crimes; Flying Objects, in which students worked on creating their own flying machines and learned the basics of aerodynamics; and How to Design Your Own Solar System using solar electricity. Students and teachers were unanimous in praising the calibre of the workshops, and Orchard Park Vice Principal Norma Luks hopes to continue the tradition in years to come.

TIFF COMING TO TOWN

Renowned Canadian author Timothy Findley will be a guest at John Lord's Books this Saturday at 2 p.m. Findley's latest book, *Headhunter*, is currently at the top of the best-seller list. That book, along with a variety of other titles, will be available at the store for signing by the author. Refreshments will be served.