

### Strawberry Festival

# Wild Things' colorful characters on display

Among the unique craft items available at this year's Strawberry Festival on Saturday, July 3 are Norman Collier's Wild Things.

The Pickering resident, a social worker with a special affinity for children, who ran his own daycare facility, carves his cast of colorful

characters out of the roots of fallen cedar trees.

From fairy tale favorites such as Miss Muffet and Goldilocks to purveyors of political pipe dreams, including Brian Mulroney, Robert Bourassa and George Bush, Collier creates his quirky and fascinating figures with skill

and a delicious sense of satire.

"With the fairy tales, I'm doing them from the animals' point-of-view, I've re-written them with that in mind," Collier noted.

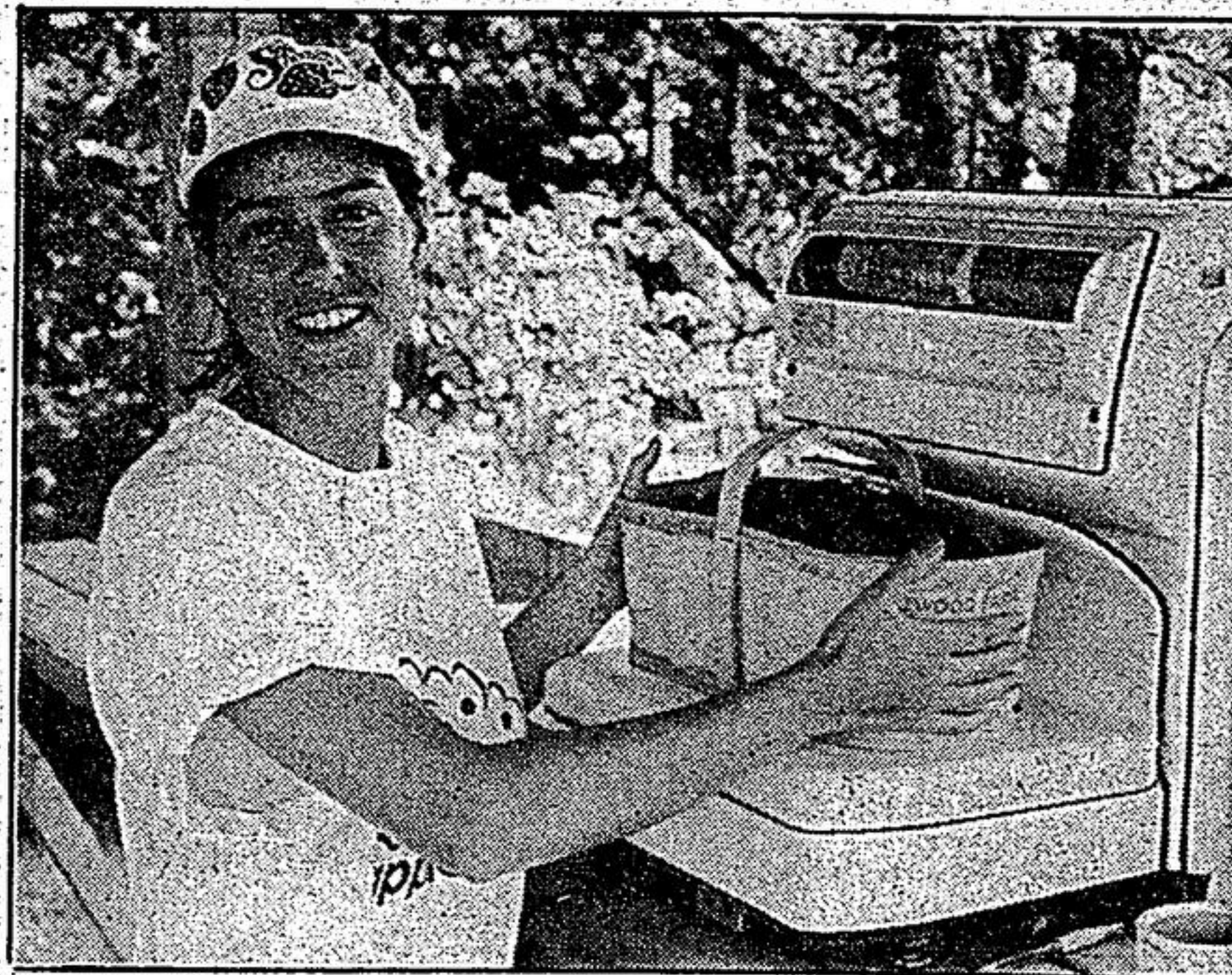
The tree roots form his characters' hair and he uses branches for arms and small trees for legs.

He strips and sands the wood before carving the features and uses a heavy-duty varnish to ensure longevity.

The life-size figures are dressed in costumes purchased from the Salvation

Army, and provided with appropriate props.

Collier and his 'wild things' will be located on the lawn in front of the Stouffville Baptist Church on the south side of Main Street.



PHOTO/LORI EMMERSON

## Harvest is in

Karen Hary weighs strawberries at Applewood Farm's Stouffville location. Strawberries are a little late this year, but local growers assure there'll be plenty for the upcoming Festival.

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