

Stouffville resident William 'Bill' Benson celebrates 95 years

By **KIMBERLY HICKS**
Special to The Tribune

It's not every day a local resident turns 95, but what makes the occasion more special is the grand man who will celebrate his birthday this Saturday.

William James Benson is far from old, in fact, he's probably the most young-spirited man I know.

Although I am somewhat prejudiced, being his granddaughter, I am sure that every person who knows him would agree that he is one in a million.

Bill Benson, as he is more commonly known, is everything I have ever wanted to be. Bill was born in a farmhouse in Claremont on May 20, 1900 to parents Mary and Milton Benson.



He attended school at Claremont Public School and worked on the farm doing everything from milking cows to helping his mom churn butter and transport it to Stouffville to sell. After 11 years in the painting business he married Claremont native Isabel Cooper in 1940. Together they worked on Frank and Mary Cooper's farm until they could afford to purchase it. For the next 26 years they farmed with their daughters Enid and June until 1966 when they sold the farm and moved to Stouffville.

"We worked hard on a farm on those days. We got up at half past five and milked eight or nine cows by hand, in the early years." Today he lives in Parkview Village, where he and Isabel moved to in February 1992. Bill never really packed in his farming days. He drove a tractor at the Buttonville Golf Course until 1979. And in the backyard of his Frederick St. home he kept the best dam garden I have ever seen and did so well into his 91st year. I have

often wondered how he has retained his health, vitality and zest for life, but I do know it has a lot to do with his healthy eating habits, positive out-

look on life and his daily walks. "It's just one of those things. It happens to some people...I never expected to live to 95," the birthday boy says with

his bright signature smile. Isabel, June, Enid and their families would like to wish him a very happy 95th birthday with many more to come.

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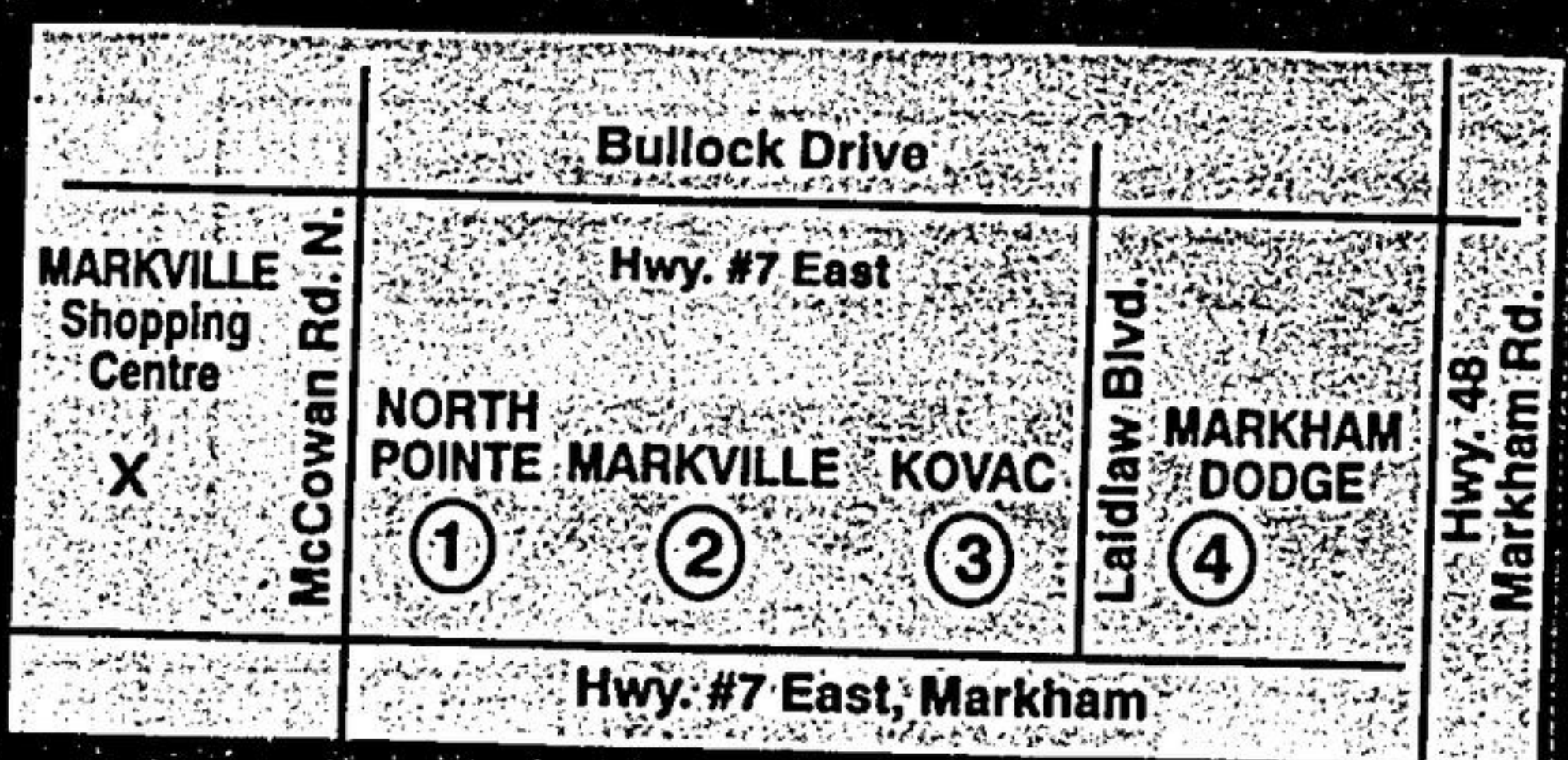
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