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# THE TRIBUNE

## Weekender

Saturday, June 28, 1997  
 Vol. 13, No. 26

28 Pages  
 50¢ (GST incl.)

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# The Big Pipe Cometh

Sewage capacity  
 expansion  
 good news for Stouffville.  
 See page 3.

## Cliff Aiken named Citizen of the Year

BRUCE STAPLEY  
 Correspondent

A senior citizen who has continually served the community since moving to Stouffville almost four decades ago has been named Stouffville's Citizen of the Year for 1997.

Cliff Aiken, a 79-year-old former Main St. pharmacist who has been a mainstay with two Stouffville service clubs, is the recipient of this year's *Tribune*-sponsored award.

Aiken insists he was taken totally by surprise by the honor, "I couldn't believe it," he said. "I never felt I was doing anything that deserved it."

Aiken has been a member of the Stouffville Lions Club for 36 years, and was club president in 1972. He was a Lions zone chairman, and was deputy district governor, the second highest position available to Lions in Canada. He's a former director of the club's Camp Kirk Foundation, which operates a summer camp for children with learning disabilities.

Aiken has been involved with the Stouffville Legion since 1962. Currently the Legion's Awards Chairman, he was given a lifetime Legion membership at that organization's recent 50th anniversary celebrations. Aiken, who played an active part in helping organize the Legion's golden event, is also a past chairman of the York Region Division Board of the CNB.

Aiken said service work has always come naturally to him. "It's just a way of life I guess," he said. "It gives me a feeling of being of some value to the community."

Aiken added that the philosophy of the Lions Club and the Legion is "to look after people who are less fortunate than we are."

He said the fact he was able to make a living in Stouffville for so long made it imperative for him to put something back in. "You don't want to take without giving."

Ivan Harris, who has been with the Lions since Aiken joined the club, said his fellow past-president has been the model of commitment and dependability.

"I don't think I've met a man with so much dedication, and with the integrity Cliff has," said Harris. "He'd get into everything he did with such depth, and he'd never take a step back after committing himself to a project. And he'd try anything." Harris called Aiken a "nice guy, a very generous, caring man."

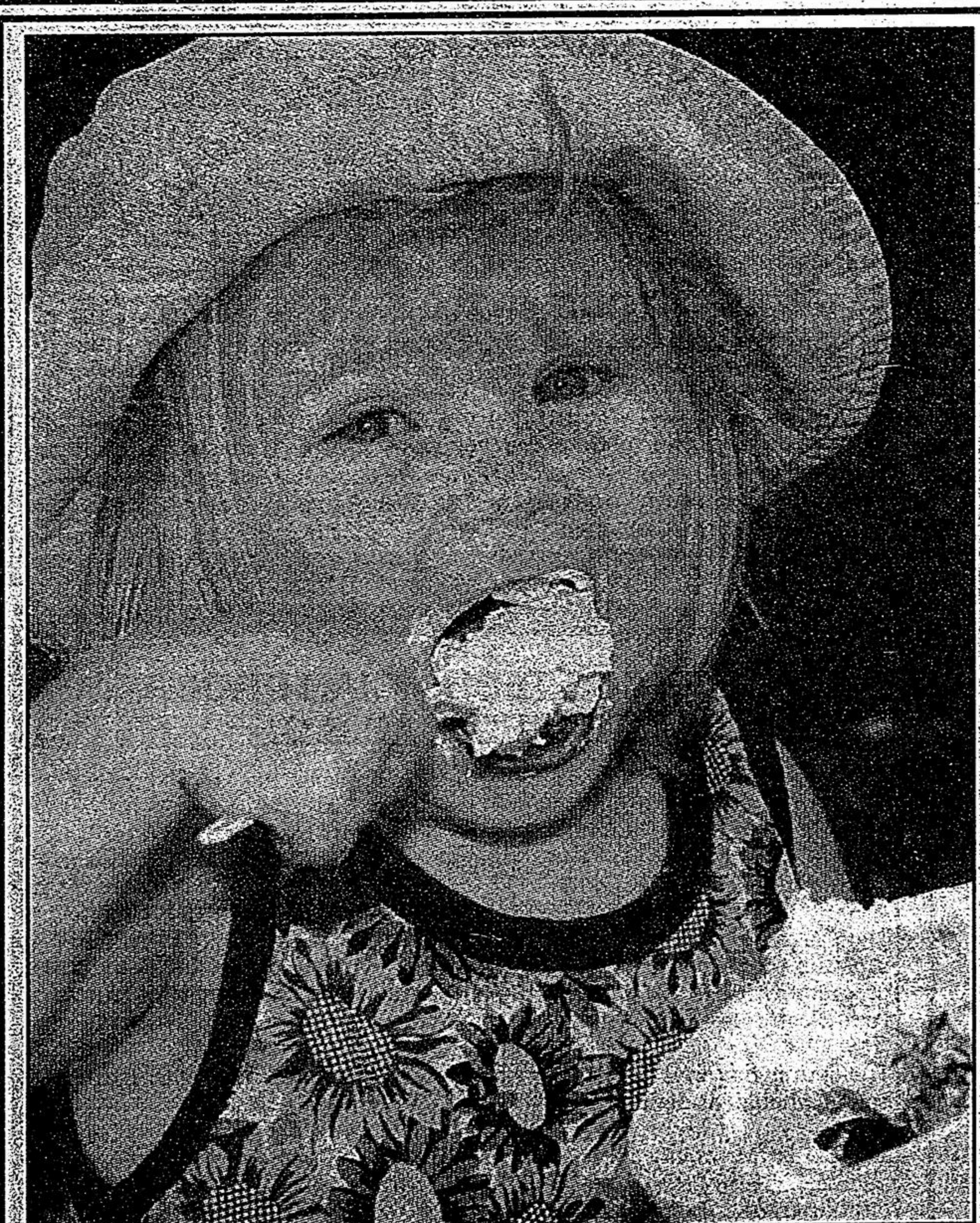
Aiken was born and raised in Toronto's west end, staving off the effects of the depression by working in gold, copper

and zinc mines in Northern Ontario and Manitoba in his late teens and early 20s. He joined the navy in 1941, serving as sick bay attendant on the Canadian Corvette Sackville. The ship, the last of its type still in existence, has been restored and is on display in the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic in Halifax N.S. Aiken,

■ Please see page 5 ■



CLIFF AIKEN



OPEN WIDE: Lindsay Ferguson, 2, enjoys a big mouthful of berries and whipped cream at the Stouffville Strawberry Festival on Thursday. The festivities are ongoing today and tomorrow, and continue Tuesday until dark when the festival is capped off with a laser fireworks display in Memorial Park. Today, residents can visit the berry craft show, attend a parade, make ice cream and bid on a pic or two. Among the events tomorrow are a Strawberry Festival run, pony rides, and a scavenger hunt.

Photo by SJOERD WITTEVEEN

## Decorate your bikes today

Children are invited to spruce up their bicycles today for the Stouffville Lions Strawberry Festival. The competition will be held at 1 p.m. at Franklin Park. This year's theme is Canada Day.

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