

# Dunkeld seeks re-election

JORDAN H. GREEN  
Correspondent

Cliff Dunkeld is off and running again — he filed for re-election of his council seat last Wednesday.

Dunkeld has held the Whitchurch-Stouffville Ward 4 position for the past six years, and currently faces no challengers in the Nov. 10 election.

"This has been my home town all my life," the Stouffville resident said in an interview.

Dunkeld has been a hydro commissioner and on the advisory board for the parks and recreation department for six years.

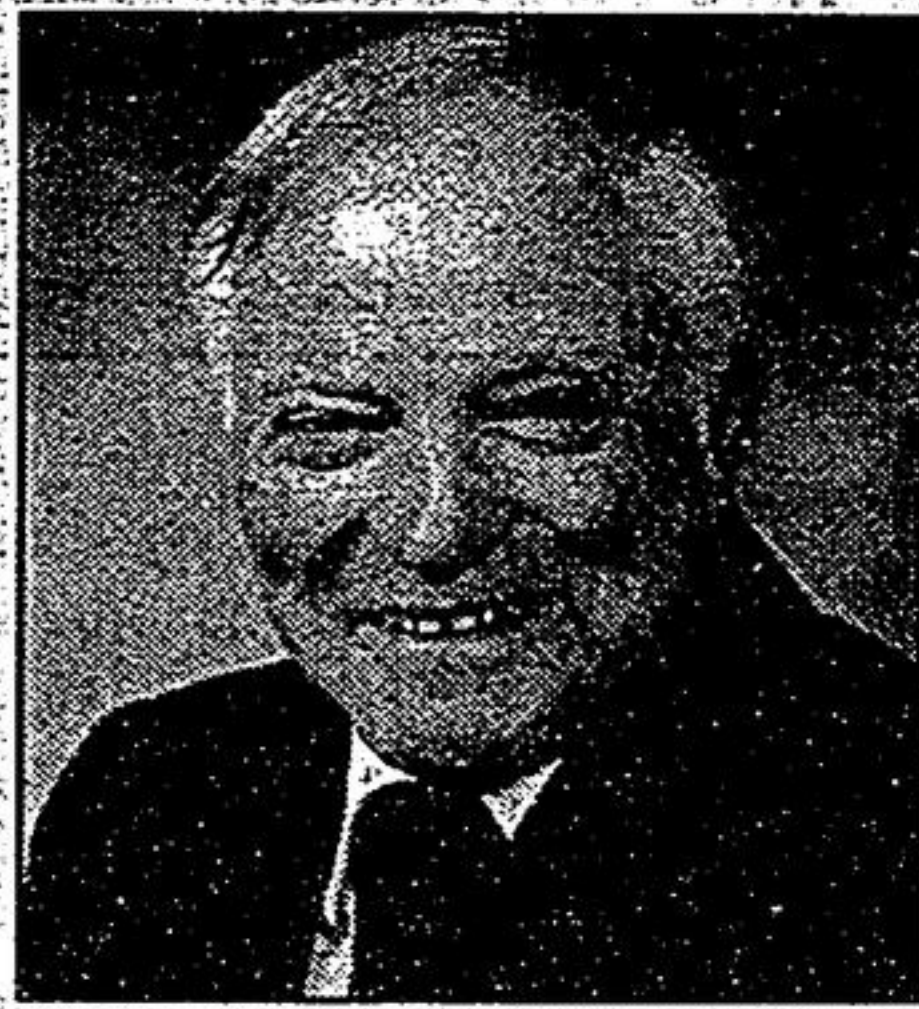
He has also been the town's representative on the board of Markham Stouffville Hospital for the last five years.

Dunkeld wants to keep taxes as low as possible.

"We've cut back, we don't have the staff we used to have, but we get things done," he said.

However, lower taxes may spell the start of user fees for recreational activities.

"There's a possibility that



CLIFF DUNKELD

there could be user fees in some areas," Dunkeld said.

Dunkeld is still unsure how to balance the books, as user fees could deter people from using the services.

"You can't charge enough dollars to cover the operating costs, because you might not get the users," he said.

Other issues to watch for in this election include the Stouffville Secondary Plan which will determine Stouffville's economic and social makeup until the year 2021 and whether or not the town should build a new town hall at an estimated cost of \$3.4 million, or repair the current hall at a cost of \$700,000.

Dunkeld is a strong supporter of the Secondary Plan, and believes a new town hall and live theatre complex would benefit the town.

"I'm in favor of building a new one (town hall)," he said. "We really need a downtown live theatre attraction."

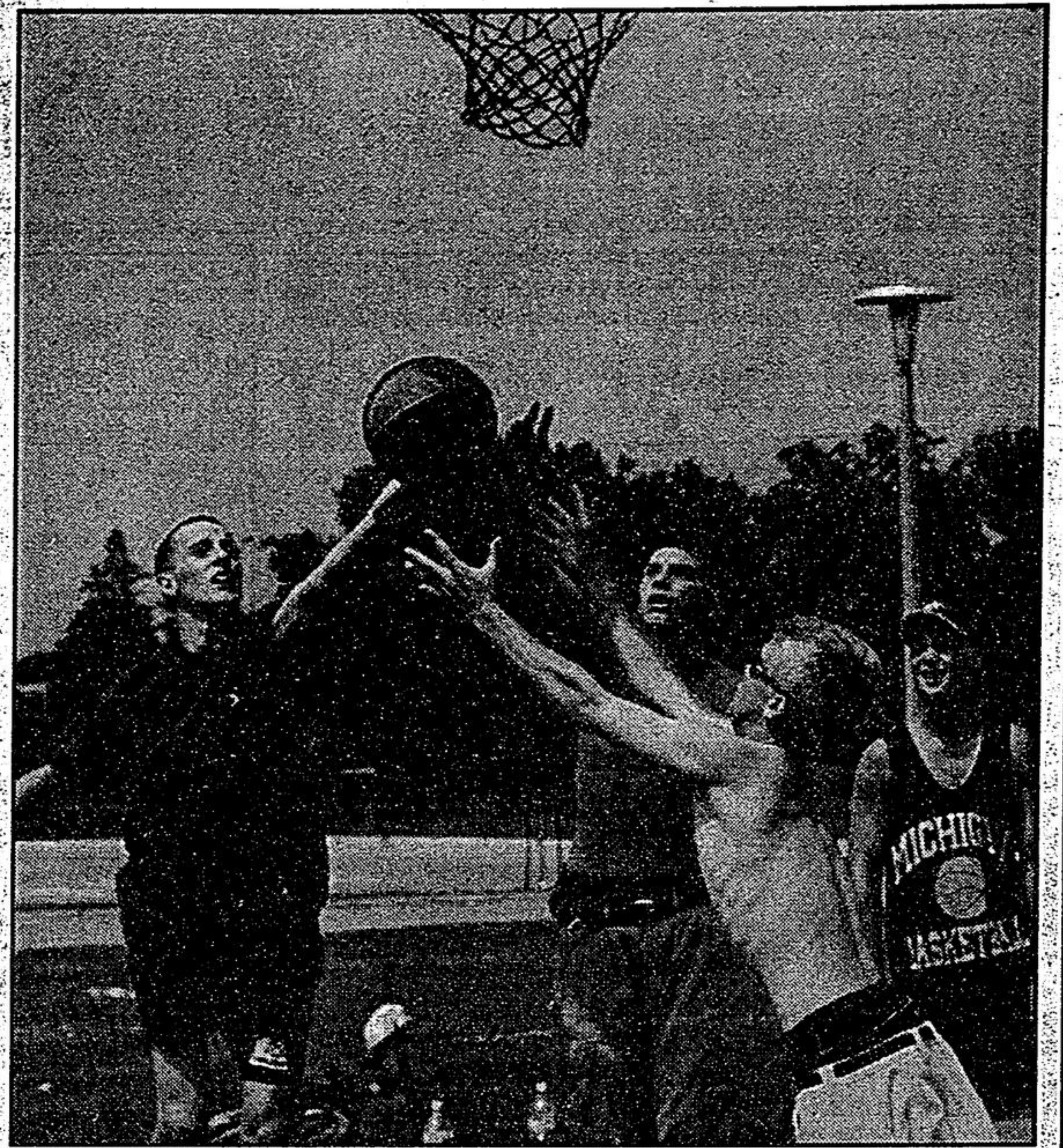
Dunkeld, a district clerk for the Region of Durham for 40 years, now is retired and has four daughters and two sons.

Although the deadline for candidates to file for the municipal elections isn't until mid-October, several other candidates have already announced their intentions to run.

Vandorf resident Christopher Dymond is running for Councillor Ivanka Bradley's seat in Ward 1. Bradley has announced she will not be a candidate in Ward 1.

Also seeking office is Preston Lake resident Peter Dobrich for Ward 3, which is presently held by Councillor Margot Marshall.

Ward 5 Councillor Judy Scala, and Mayor Wayne Emmerson are both seeking re-election for their current positions.



FRIENDLY RIVALRY: Enjoying the warm weather recently and a friendly game of basketball were (l-r) Allan Reesor, Geoff Taylor and Jason Lindsay, with (foreground) Richard Lynn.

Photo by STEVE SOMERVILLE

# Coffee shop is a meeting place for local youth

KATE GILDERDALE  
Correspondent

For most people, a casual get-together with friends is the perfect way to wind down, alleviate stress and let off steam.

In this respect, teens are no different from adults. The difference is that most of them don't own or rent a home where they can gather in comfort, so they gravitate towards venues like Java Junction.

And while owners Jason Kilmartin and Elli Alevritis attract a wide range of age groups to the lively coffee house, they have won a special place in the hearts of their younger clientele.

Kilmartin spent his formative years in Stouffville, moving here from Scarborough with his family when he was 4. When he and Alevritis opened Java, "It was a business decision. We were trying to bring something to the town that wasn't here."

What they quickly discovered was that the town lacked more than a funky coffee house — it also lacked a safe and welcoming place for younger members of the community to gather.

Java's proximity to the high school, and the proprietors' relative youth, made it a popular hangout for many students.

"Seventy-five per cent of the kids that come in are regulars,"

and they are pleasant and well-behaved, he said.

Those who do have problems come by them honestly, added Kilmartin.

"You can tell just by seeing their parents' attitude towards them — I don't think some of the parents really care at all about their kids."

As a former daycare worker and camp counsellor, he has learned to recognize some of the signs of

neglect or abuse.

If parents don't want their kids to cause trouble, he said, they should treat them with respect and understanding, instead of yelling at them or hitting them.

He also believes that some adults don't know how to deal with the dramatic social changes that have taken place since they grew up, and tend to approach teenagers from the perspective of

the 1950s, rather than the '90s.

"I don't think enough people in this town are at a level where they can really connect with the kids."

Overall, he thinks fears of youth crime in the community are greatly exaggerated.

"I think this is a good, safe town and I love hanging out with the kids, talking to them and helping them out."

However, he thinks it's the

town's job to provide a place where teens can meet and feel comfortable without taking part in organized activities.

"(Java) isn't a recreation centre — people have to spend some money when they're here. Business is business, and if I can't make enough to pay my bills, I'm going to have to pack up and leave."

With the warmer weather and the advent of the tourist train, more people — many of them adults — are dropping by for coffee, food and ice cream.

"There's no reason why adults, youth and everyone in between can't be in the same building at the same time."

Charles Topping, a student and Java regular who helps out behind the counter, recalled the time a Toronto police officer came to Stouffville, got chatting with a number of young people and expressed his amazement at the lack of crime.

"He said, 'There's nothing for me to do here.' He talked to us for half an hour and he was a great guy and really friendly — people like that get respect from everyone."

Topping and Kilmartin are convinced that mutual respect could do a lot to heal divisions between young people and adults.

"And the kids, it seems, really are all right."



MEETING PLACE: Java Junction attracts a lot of youths, and one reason why is the attitude of owners Jason Kilmartin and Elli Alevritis, who think youths should be treated with respect.

Photo by SJOERD WITTEVEEN

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