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New local MP Wilfert has long list on agenda

JOAN RANSBERRY
Staff Reporter

Marking Sir John A's birthday, herbal remedies, junk mail, protecting co-op housing, meeting with local mayors, and finding a secondary home in Ottawa while moving mom to Stouffville are just a few of the things on Bryon Wilfert's "Do Now" list.

The Oak Ridges MP's vows his plate in Ottawa will never be too full for the constituents in Oak Ridges.

"An MP's role is to listen, to try to assist where possible and to be as accessible as one can be," said Wilfert.

Armed with the philosophy that success hinges on the grass roots approach and that an MP is, indeed, a servant of the people, Wilfert has rolled up his sleeves, formulated an agenda, caught the prime minister's attention, set up two offices, got his mother settled in Stouffville and is finding a home away from home in Ottawa.

At a Monday morning press conference attended by The Tribune and sister papers The Markham Economist and Sun and The Richmond Hill Liberal, the new MP gave an overview of his plans for the new riding, which takes in all of Whitchurch-Stouffville and Richmond Hill and the northern part of Markham.

Wiltfert will meet individually with Whitchurch-

Stouffville Mayor Wayne Emmerson, Markham Mayor Don Cousens and Richmond Hill Mayor Bill Bell to discuss ways to improve the relationship between the federal and municipal governments.

"The municipal government is the backbone of a community," said Wilfert, a former municipal councillor in Richmond Hill.

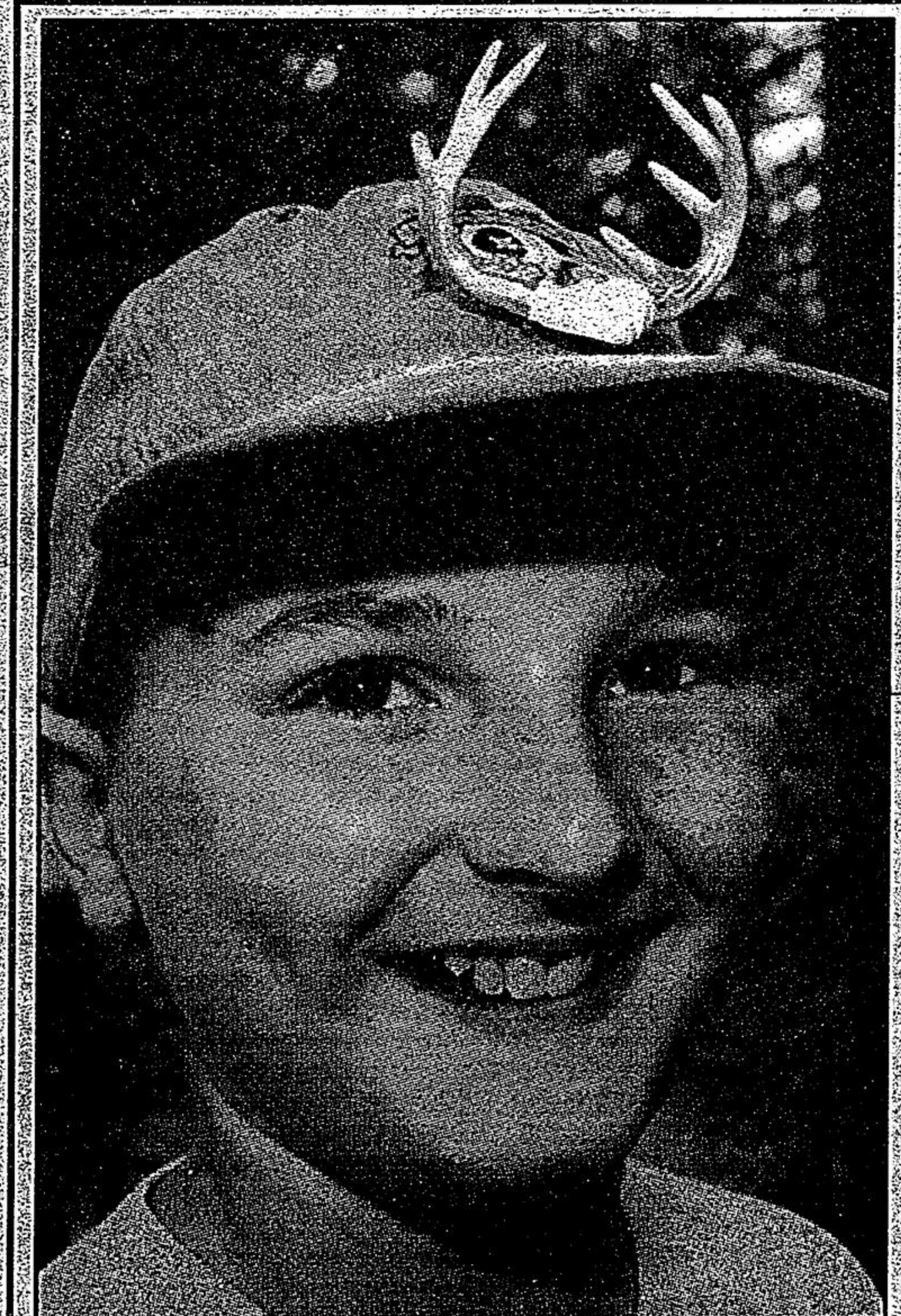
As well, the local MP has joined the Greater Toronto Area (GTA) mayors' group. A federal voice at this table is needed when the future of Whitchurch-Stouffville and Markham is being ironed out, Wilfert suggested.

A former history teacher, Wilfert sees a critical need to have Canadians know Canada. Wilfert has put the wheels in motion to have Sir John A. Macdonald's birthday celebrated Canada-wide. The birthday of this country's first prime minister is Jan. 11, a fact too few people know, stressed Wilfert.

Last week, while in the House of Commons, Prime Minister Jean Chretien complimented Wilfert for his nation-building interests.



BRYON WILFERT



WES MARKS: THE SPOT: Budding bowman Wes Marks, 11, shows off his sporting regalia at the York County Bowmen's Fifth Annual 3-D Canadian Classic this past weekend. Photo by STEVE SOMERVILLE

Golfers help charity

JORDAN H. GREEN
Staff Reporter

More than 100 golfers will be yelling "fore!" for the Canadian Spinal Research Organization's charity golf tournament this Thursday.

The organization's first annual golf tournament at Stouffville's Sleepy Hollow Golf Club tees off at 1 p.m.

"We just wanted to hold a golf tournament because golf interests a lot of people," said

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@Random

A town-owned 1982 tanker truck used by the local fire department needs a \$55,000-face lift, council will be told today.

The money to retrofit the GMC brigadier tanker truck

was included in the 1997 budget.

The purchase goes to Dependable Emergency Vehicles.

Stouffville's fire department responded to a three-alarm fire call in Richmond Hill Friday evening. Twelve fire vehicles, including Stouffville's tanker truck, spent 11 hours dousing a burning barn in Richmond Hill. Two Stouffville

firefighters responded, driving the water truck to the scene. Approximately \$100,000 worth of damage was done by the blaze.

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