

# Two candidates vow to improve quality of life in scenic Ward 1

JOAN RANSBERRY  
Staff Reporter

Promoting the museum, reviewing garbage pickup, being on guard when it comes to provincial downloading and fixing potholes are all on Ward 1 candidate Frank Martino's agenda.

A resident of Vandorf for the last two years and a member of the Vandorf Ratepayers' Association, Martino said he'd like the next Whitchurch-Stouffville council to concern itself with preserving the quality of life in Ward 1.

When meeting the voters, Martino is stressing that Ward 1 deserves balanced and planned development.

Establishing a Secondary Plan for Vandorf and Preston Lake is a must, said Martino.

"We need to undertake a thorough secondary plan to promote the appropriate ratio of residential, commercial, industrial, farm, and business mix to maximize quality of life in our community," he said.

Martino wants to see a sound barrier built between Highway 404 and adjoining residential properties. As well, traffic problems need to be addressed and roads improvement are in order.

Potholes especially need to be eliminated, Martino added.

As well, the political hopeful's agenda includes improving snow plowing, garbage pickup, vision at intersections and developing policy and bylaws to promote sight lighting for streets, pedestrian crosswalks and parks.

Martino graduated from the University of Toronto in 1978. He's been a rehabilitationist for 20 years.

He's managing director of a national rehabilitation service provider. Married to Kathleen, the couple have two daughters.

### GOING DOOR-TO-DOOR

Promising to be a "full-time" councillor and to take a "team work" approach to the job, Ward 1 candidate Steve Pliakas is going door-to-door in his quest for votes.

Reaching about 3,000 voters is no easy job. Pliakas announced that he was a candidate more than a month ago.

"I've met wonderful people and I'm having a great time."

First and foremost, Ward 1 expects to elect an "open" government, said Pliakas.

"The people don't want any surprises. Especially when it comes to development. The residents certainly don't want development

that's not compatible with the area — I agree with them. We shouldn't be forced to alter our zoning areas just for the sake of bringing in more tax dollars."

Lower speed limits, especially in the ward's subdivisions and in school zones is on Pliakas' wish list.

As well, Pliakas said he'll push for more park land in Vandorf.

"We need more park space," said Pliakas. "Vandorf could use improvements. Let's start with fixing the outdoor rink. The walls looks ratty," he said.

Ward 1 residents feel alienated. "We're left out. We're at the end of the municipality and very little money comes our way. This must change."

Pliakas has lived in Ward 1 for 23 years. At one time, he owned a variety store in the ward. "This is home. I understand our needs," he said.

Married to Lilly, the couple has two children and four grandchildren.

The 56-year old is semi-retired. He served on the York Regional Police Service Board from 1994 to 1996.

"I've gained a lot from this area," said Pliakas. "Now, I'd like to give something back."

# Ward 1 boasts mixture of rural and urban housing and lifestyles

## POLITICS

■ This is another in a series of Stouffville Ward profiles

### WARD 1

Ward 1's got it all: forests, farming, a well-known equestrian community, residential, industry and commercial spots.

Together, it boasts both a rural and an urban lifestyle for about 4,000 people.

Bordering the town of Aurora to the west, the second-largest ward in Whitchurch-Stouffville extends east to McCowan Road, north to Davis Drive and south to Vandorf Sideroad.

Both a river and a creek run through Ward 1. Black River flows from the north, bordering East Gwillimbury; while Bogart Creek runs from the Aurora line to just west of Kennedy Road.

As well as free flowing water, Ward 1 boasts acres and acres of forest lands, including the Vivian Forest.

A number of quaint hamlets all add to the unique lifestyle in Ward 1: Vandorf, Wesley Corners, Pleasantville, Cedar Valley and Pine Orchard coupled with the farms are the roots of the ward. Some of the hamlet and rural area families have been here for generations, while others are new arrivals.

Ward 1 houses two good-sized subdivisions. Acres of York was built 12 years ago, while Blue Spruce Estates has been there for about 20 years.

The houses across the ward come in all shapes and sizes, ranging from century-old homesteads to new bungalows.

In Ward 1, you can find a place to worship, a place to dine, a place to buy a quart of milk and a place to play hockey.

Meanwhile, a visit to the Whitchurch-Stouffville Museum offers you a chance to appreciate historical artifacts and lets you acquaint yourself with the town's local history.

~ Joan Ransberry

# Teachers speak out against bill

■ From page 1 ■

port others," said Moul. "There are too many kids in the classroom. As for the teachers needing more preparation time, I don't buy that."

The phone at My First School, a private day care on Montreal Street, is ringing more than usual.

People desperate to find a safe place for kids are appealing to private day cares. My First School director Carmela Didone said she's providing all-day care to the usual after-school kids. "We take this a day at a time," said Didone.

While this is the first time St. Mark's Catholic School teachers Judy Alkin and Barb Seko have walked a picket line, they came prepared. Wearing winter gear and drinking hot coffee from a thermos, both teachers believe they're doing the right thing.

"I've been a teacher for 28 years," said Alkin.

"I've never had to do this before. But I fully disagree with the government's taking total control of education. Who knows more about education than teachers?"

Seko left a business career to enter education six years ago. "I came into this honorable profession. From what I'm hearing from the government, it's not being treated being honorable," said Seko.

Grandparents across Ontario, including Karen Jennings, are pitching in to lessen the crisis. Jennings was spending yesterday with her six-year-old grand daughter. "I enjoy my time with her providing it's a day or so," said Jennings. "But, I don't want to do it for long."

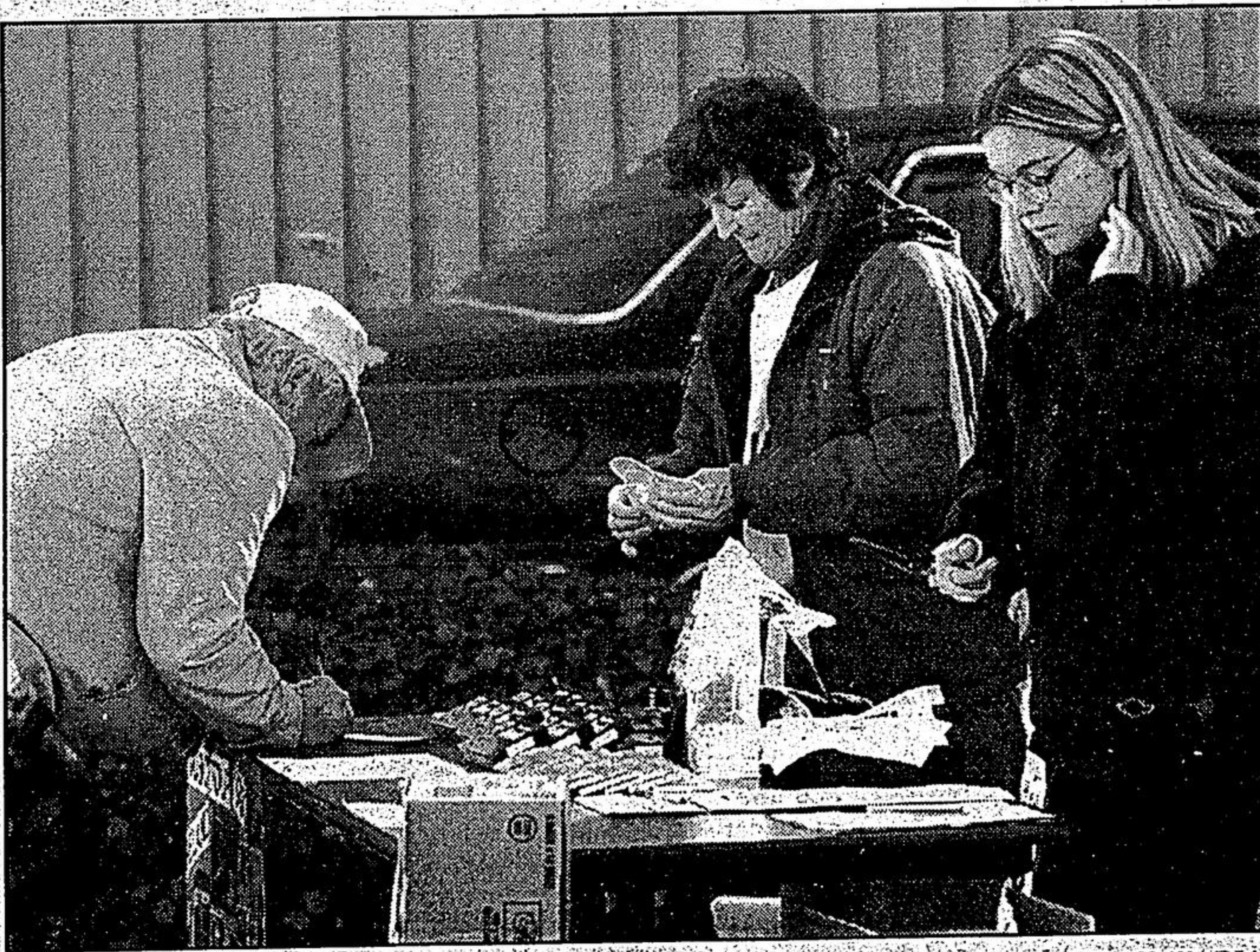
Glad Park Public School teacher Janet Manhire said the teachers had no choice but to walk out. "I don't think anyone wants to be out here. It's how we get our message across,"

said Manhire.

The walkout will last one week, predicts Glad Park Grade 3-4 teacher Ed Jackson. The issue now is the "control of power," added Jackson.

Strike or no strike, crossing guard Roxanne Williams was on the job. A few children were escorted at the crossing at Elm Street and Ninth Line. The strike will be short-lived if "parents and the students join the teachers" on the picket lines, said Williams. "That would bring needed pressure on the government."

The teachers' strike will be on the agenda at tonight's local council meeting. Whitchurch-Stouffville mayor Wayne Emmerson said if a strike lingers on beyond a few days, the town could step in to help with child care. "Staff will be directed to look into what's available. We'll see what we could do. It will go to full council," said Emmerson.



Pat Cashman (left) buys a raffle ticket from Arlene and Brooke Maddock during the Stouffville BIA giant garage sale Saturday Oct. 18 to help SDSS students on a trip to Ireland.

Photo by SJOERD WITTEVEEN



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