

# It's the ward of little lakes and big veggies

JOAN RANSBERRY  
Staff Reporter

Ward 2 is in the land of little lakes, big vegetables, the world's best chocolate and a very unique lifestyle.

About 4,000 people call the northern ward home.

People live on farms, along country roads, in hamlets and in subdivisions. They live in tiny cottages, in single family homes and in large country estates.

Ward 2 runs to McCowan Road to the west, the York-Durham Line to the east, Davis Drive to the north and to Vandorf Sideroad and Hillsdale to the south.

The ward has a rural flavour made up of dairy, beef and cash crop farming. As well, part of Whitchurch-Stouffville's equestrian community is in Ward 2. Plus, two local farmers are putting Whitchurch-Stouffville on the map for growing the world's largest pumpkins and squash.

With Erie Manufacturing about to shut down, Ward 2 is void of industry. The ward does, however, house Charline's Chocolate, a Belgium specialty. Each of the hamlets, Ballantrae, Musselman's Lake and Lemonville is unique.

Ward 2 has a place to worship, a place to buy a few groceries and a place to gather. Ballantrae Community Centre is the focal point for much of the ward.

Meanwhile, everyone is proud of Ballantrae Public School, the ward's only school.

Local residents are keeping their fingers crossed that a new fire hall will be in place in the ward within a year.

Area residents, keen on keeping warm in the winter, recently welcomed Consumers Gas. Meanwhile, an \$8-million communal water system has just been introduced to Mussel-

## POLITICS

■ *This is another in a series of Stouffville Ward profiles*

### WARD 2

man's Lake and Ballantrae.

While not welcomed by everyone, the new water service opens up the door to development.

A 900-home subdivision, complete with an 18-hole golf course and country club, is in the works for Hwy. 48. Designed for people over 50 years, about 60 homes a year will be built over the next 15 years.

Musselman's Lake, Shadow Lake and Island Lake, along with a regional forest, do much to make the ward a very special place, indeed.

Ward 2 candidate Helene Johnson is taking an aggressive, no-nonsense approach in her quest for votes.

"It's working," said Johnson. "Voters appreciate that I'll not make promises I can't keep. I'll not take stands based on impulse. Instead, I'll explore the issue, including the financial aspects and social impact. Ward 2 deserves nothing less."

Johnson and her husband Ralph live in downtown Stouffville.

Born on a farm in Musselman's Lake 69 years ago, she was educated in Bloomington.

"My roots are in Ward 2," she says.

Going door-to-door in the large northern ward, Johnson is finding out



Willowgrove Farm day camp in Stouffville opened doors this week to provide programs for kids stranded by the closure of schools. On the first day more than 30 children were registered, enjoying outdoor education, pony rides and academics.

Photo by SJOERD WITTEVEEN

## Strike camp proving popular with parents

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driver training, to take first aid training and to do the fall cleaning.

"Our drivers are cleaning their buses. It's spring cleaning in the fall," said Jackson.

A "strike camp" set up at Stouffville's Willowgrove Farm had 30 school-age children registered

on Day One of the teachers' strike.

For about \$30 a day, Willowgrove's strike camp provides a full child care program, including farm activities, outdoor education, pony rides, sports and such academics as math and English.

Willowgrove Farm director Kyle Barber said parents continue to call to register their children.

# It's Johnson versus Carroll in Ward 2



JOHNSON

what's on the voters' minds.

"People feel left out. Ward 2 will no longer be left out of the loop. I'm a team player. I know how to lobby. I'll come to the council table informed and because of it, be able to get my colleagues on side."

Ward 2 residents are not convinced that the new communal water system is the ticket

"Yes, people worry. They deserve answers. This water issue has been a thorn in their sides for far too long."

Concerned about the new \$8 million water system, Johnson recently visited a similar communal water system in Alliston.

"And, I'm checking out a two others. When I'm told it'll work, I want proof."

Johnson comes to the campaign with community experience. She's president of the Whitchurch-Stouffville Chamber of Commerce, a member of the Stouffer Vision Fund, the Heritage Railway Association, the local historical society, the Triple E Program at the Stouffville District Secondary School and she's a former Guide leader.

"As a community leader, a business woman and a mother of six, I've learned to listen. I know the meaning of balance, the merits of compromise and the need for team work," said Johnson.

### NOT ANOTHER MARKHAM

Environmental concerns, protecting a chosen lifestyle and the isolation of the town's northern communities are the driving force behind Mark Carroll's candidacy in Ward 2.

Carroll is adamant: "I don't want Ward 2 to turn into another Markham," he said. "I'm concerned about Ward 2 losing its rural integrity."

As a landscaper, Carroll, 35, works hand-in-hand with Mother Nature.

"I'm worried about the natural environment, about the lifestyle in our area, about the lake (Musselman's) and about the fact that we're cut off from the town," he said.

The next local council should be responsible to the area and its residents and not to developers.

"Developers come and go," said Carroll.

"They come for the money and go with it, with not much consideration of the impact they leave on both the residents and the environment. Whitchurch-Stouffville is a slow growth area. We have to keep it that way."

Carroll supports a northern-based fire hall and an indoor public pool, providing the price is right.

"A pool for Whitchurch-Stouffville is a great idea," said Carroll "... something that will benefit the whole community. All ages can use a facility like this. However, there is a but. This is a luxury for the town. We shouldn't raise taxes to make it work. Yet, if properly planned, this will work."

Carroll is dead set against building a new town hall. "How can we even consider such a project at this time? We don't even know if town staff or council will be around in the coming years. The money for such a project can be better spent on something everyone can use and be proud of."

Married to Kelley, Carroll is the father of Samantha and Jennifer and is a volunteer coach of local softball teams. Born in Markham, Carroll has lived in Musselman's Lake for 11 years.



CARROLL

Whitchurch-Stouffville Recycling Group is holding a Driveway Give-Away this Saturday. Just put items in your driveway you can't use any more, but someone else can, as the Drew family demonstrates. Scott Drew gets help from son Benjamin, 4, and daughter Helen, 10, picking up a discarded window.

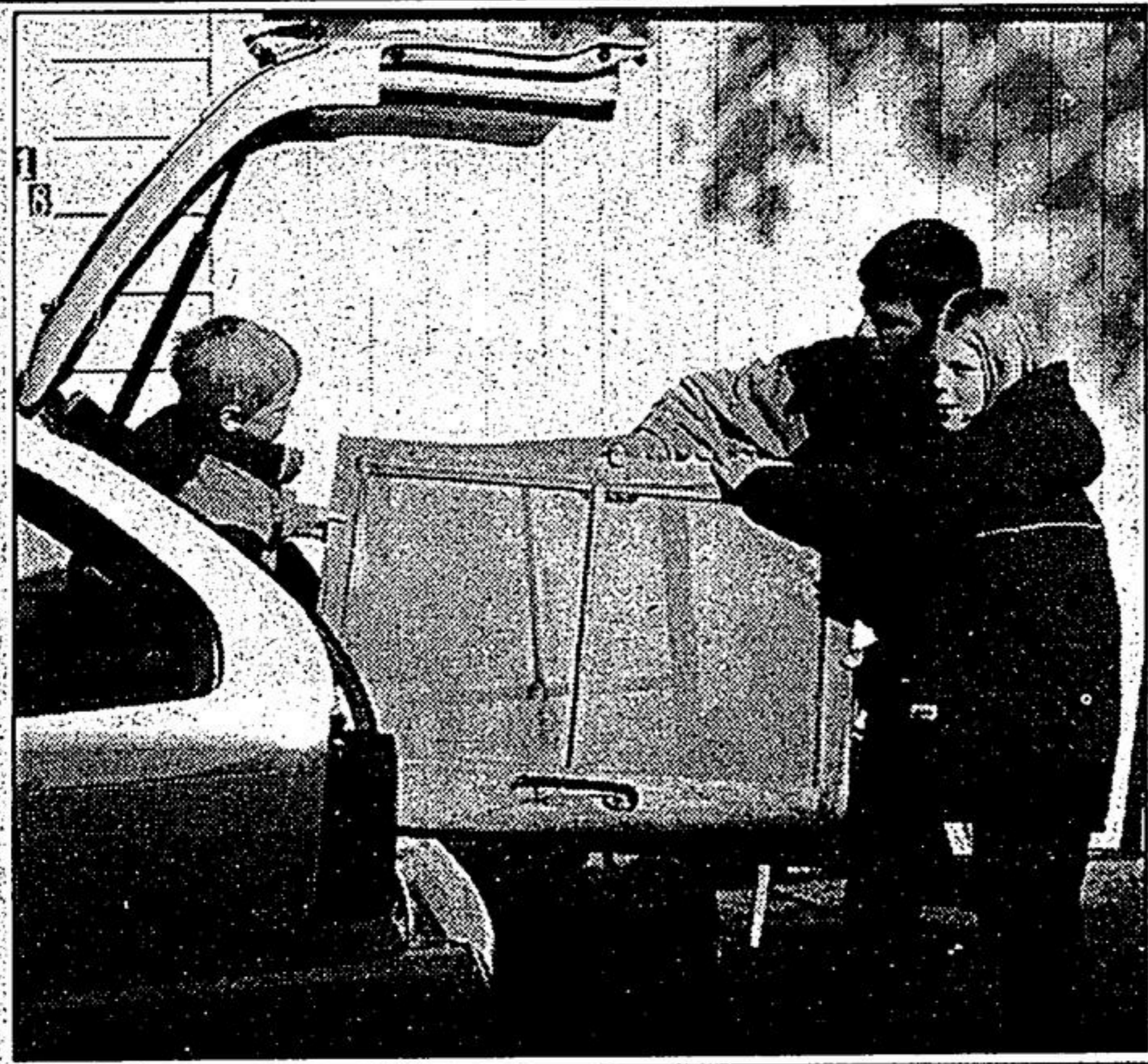


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