

# Library receives \$28,000 grant

It is a good news week for Whitchurch-Stouffville Public Library.

On Thursday, members of the library board joined staff in welcoming Durham-York MPP Julia Munro to the downtown library.

Munro came armed with cash in hand and presented library officials with a \$28,503 cheque on behalf of the provincial government.

The grant is part of a total of \$18.74 million in Ontario government operating grants being made to public libraries in 1998.

Citizenship and Culture and Recreation Minister Isabel Bassett said the government supports the public library system.

"Funding to libraries will be

maintained this year and libraries in some high-growth areas will receive an increase of as much as 7.66 per cent," said Bassett.

A year ago, the government announced funding for libraries would be maintained in 1998 and the best way to ensure strong growth of the provincial library network was through a continued provincial partnership with local libraries. A higher grant rate for rural households reflects the government's pledge to give support to smaller and more remote communities, Munro said.

"The government's decision to maintain funding levels is greater news for Whitchurch-Stouffville Public Library."

—Joan Ransberry

## COMMUNITY: Baseball gear donations help Cuban kids perfect their passion

# Giving kids a sporting chance

BY JOAN RANSBERRY  
STAFF WRITER

From the sugar canes of Cuba to the corn fields of Ontario, it's a long journey seldom traveled.

The government red tape was mind-boggling, it cost a bundle and the wait spanned close to three years. Finally, two weeks ago, Sylvia and Dan Barkey of Claremont welcomed their Cuban friend Carlos Gomez to Canada.

The Barkeys learned something from the experience — arranging a visitation permit between a democratic country and a communist country means jumping through a multitude of hoops.

"It was unbelievable. It was one hassle and one setback after another," said Sylvia Barkey.

But Gomez is here. And he's having the time of his life. "This is a good country," said Gomez. "It's very clean and there are so many trees."

Gomez has taken in the usual tourist spots, including Algonquin Park, the Skydome and the CN Tower. And, he's trying his hand at farming. The Barkeys run a large auction business as well as a cow-calf operation.

At home in Santiago, the 31-year-old is a manager at a sporting company working at a Cuban hotel. "We met him while staying at the hotel," said Barkey.

At the time, the Barkeys noticed that the Cuban children were shy of sporting goods equipment, especially baseball gear. It seemed ironic, considering many great baseball players have come from the Caribbean after developing their skills on the streets with little or no equipment.

As soon as the Barkeys returned to Claremont, they let it be known the kids in Cuba could use some help from Stouffville and Claremont. It didn't take long for the Barkeys to return to Cuba with the first load of goods, including clothing and medical supplies.

The project has grown over the years. "We go down about three times a year," she said.

Soon, it will be time to go again. "We're always accepting goods. People can call at 649-3718 (to help in the cause)," she said.

Gomez, meanwhile, plays a key role in the project. Fluent in English and university educated, Gomez acts as the liaison between the Barkeys, the distributors of the goods and the government.

"Carlos gets the baseball gear to where it's needed. The equipment now goes all over the Caribbean," Barkey said.

This is not only Gomez first trip to Canada, it's his

first time out of Cuba. National leader Fidel Castro was in power when Gomez was born. He's known no other political leader or any other type of government.

While cautious when speaking of Castro, Gomez is quick to point out that the long-serving national leader is an intelligent man.

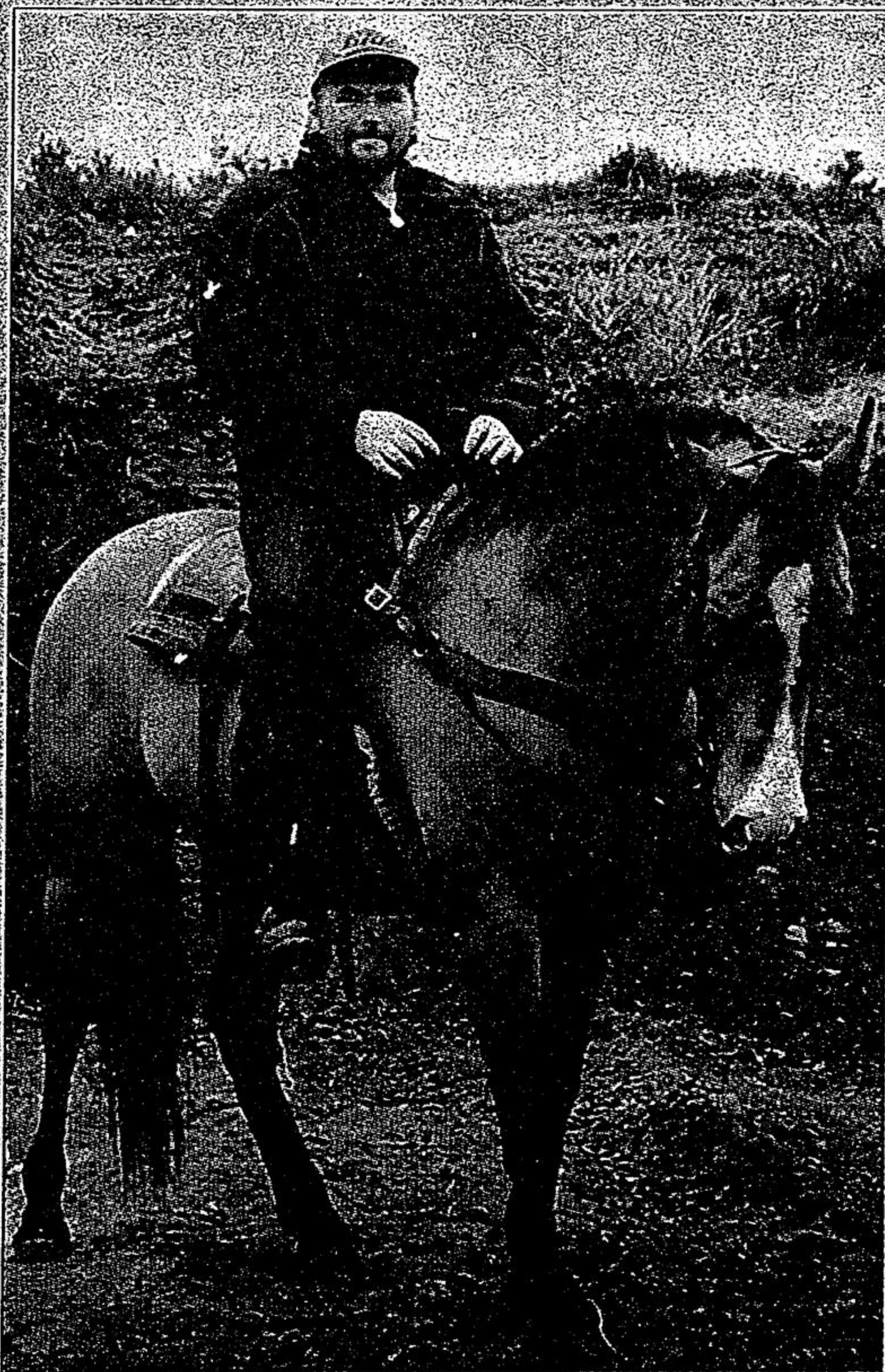
Politics aside, Gomez's heart belongs to Cuba — waiting for him to return home are two very special people — his wife, Kenia is anxious to see him and three-year-old Claudia misses her daddy.



STAFF PHOTO/SJOERD WITTEVEEN

Carlos Gomez visits Toad Hall Farm where he helps the Barkeys in their cause to bring sports equipment to Cuban kids.

## GIVING A HOOF



Stouffville resident Daniel Coates will Ride For Cancer this year to help raise money for research.

# Residents want Toronto's help to close dump

BY CHRISTOPHER DOURIS  
STAFF WRITER

After Toronto politicians ignored their pleas to close the Keele Valley dump by 2000, Maple residents will take their case directly to the people of the megacity.

Toronto council is expected to vote next month on the works committee's recommendation that the city ship more garbage to Michigan to keep the Maple dump open until 2002.

"We plan to be there," said Vaughan Councillor Mario Ferri, one of 80 residents who went to Toronto Wednesday.

"We plan to take some other actions before that to

make sure they haven't forgotten us. We're not gone, we're still very much involved."

Ferri said his biggest concern is that Toronto council will opt for a third option, which would see the dump accepting garbage from Toronto, York and Durham until 2004.

"My fear is they may push it back more," he said. Ferri said the best hope of convincing the politicians is to get the support of Toronto residents.

"Their constituents have to recognize what they're doing is not right, not fair."

Dumping garbage in Detroit costs Toronto \$53 a tonne, while Toronto collects between \$50 and \$80 a tonne in tipping fees for trash dumped in Maple.

<b>MARKVILLE</b> LINCOLN MERCURY 4072 Hwy. #7 (east of Warden) 470-7044 Markham		<b>CANADA'S #1 WINDSTAR/VILLAGER DEALER 1994-1997</b> 0%* FINANCING AVAILABLE ON SELECT MODELS!		INTERNET www.markvilleford.com E MAIL ADDRESS MARKVILLE@COMPUSER.COM	
<b>BRAND NEW 1998 WINDSTAR GL</b> INCLUDES: 3578 PKG, FAMILY & SECURITY GROUP, CONVENIENCE GROUP, QUAD CAPTAINS CHAIRS, OVERFIELD CONSOLE, ALUMINUM WHEELS. (MSRP \$32,162) STK #80371 BEST PRICE \$24,388 OR 2 YEAR LEASE \$239/MO. OR NEW 1998 WINDSTAR 3.0L WITH P/GROUP, A/C & MORE (MSRP \$24,901) STK #85007 BEST PRICE \$19,448	<b>BRAND NEW 1998 MERCURY VILLAGER</b> INCLUDES: 915A PKG, QUAD CAPTAINS CHAIRS, ALUMINUM WHEELS, CUSTOM PAINT. (MSRP \$32,267) STK #81681 100 IN STOCK BEST PRICE \$23,988 OR 2 YEAR LEASE \$279/MO. OR 1998 VILLAGER NAUTICA 1985A PKG, CD, ANTI-THIEF, STK #75007 BEST PRICE \$21,988 OR 2 YEAR LEASE \$419/MO.	<b>BRAND NEW 1998 EXPLORER SPORT 4X4</b> INCLUDES: 4.0L SOHC V-6 PREMIUM SPORTS PKG., TILT & CRUISE, 17" WHEELS. (MSRP \$36,376) STK #85077 30 MTH. LEASE \$253/MO. BEST PRICE \$29,497 OR 1998 EXPLORER XLS 4X4 INCL. 686A PKG., AUTO, ALUM. WHEELS, P.W. PL., TILT, CRUISE, STK #80167 30 MTH. LEASE \$279/MO. BEST PRICE \$29,887	<b>BRAND NEW 1998 F150 SUPERCAB XLS</b> INCLUDES: 4.0L V-6, SPEED, A/C, TILT, SUNROOF, REAR WINDOW, 20" DOOR, CHROME WHEELS & BUMPERS & MORE (MSRP \$21,076) STK #85077 BEST PRICE \$15,988 OR NEW 1998 F150 REGULAR CAB INCLUDES: 15" WHEELS, A/C, 17" SPEED, MAKES A GREAT WORK TRUCK! (MSRP \$20,971) STK #85077 BEST PRICE \$13,999 OR 2 YEAR LEASE \$479/MO.	<b>BRAND NEW 1998 LINCOLN NAVIGATOR</b> INCLUDES: 17" WHEELS, AUXILIARY A/C, G.D. SHIFTER & MORE. STK #78333 BEST PRICE \$51,998 OR 3 YEAR LEASE \$699/MO. OR NEW 1998 EXPEDITION EDDIE BAUER 4X4, 17" CD, 3rd SEAT & MORE STK #80681 BEST PRICE \$39,999 OR 3 YEAR LEASE \$459/MO.	<b>BRAND NEW 1998 GRAND MARQUIS LS</b> INCLUDES: ULTIMATE PACKAGE, LEATHER, CD, 17" WHEELS, SPARE. (MSRP \$38,438) STK #80087 BEST PRICE \$33,999 OR NEW 1998 LINCOLN TOWN CAR, MOON ROOF, 17" WHEELS, SEATED SEATS & MORE (MSRP \$55,051) STK #74221 BEST PRICE \$45,880