

Ford dealer remembers those who gave before him

BY JOAN RANSBERRY
Staff Writer

A soft spot for the community has earned the owner of Houston Ford the corporate citizen of the year award.

Bill Houston picked up the honour from the Whitchurch-Stouffville Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. Houston knows how to run an automotive business. With a staff of 24,

Business

Houston Ford, on Main Street, is a going concern.

What sets the business apart is how Mr. Houston relates to the community. From the first day of opening in 1995, Mr. Houston has given back to his home town.

"I got involved because when I was a kid growing up in Stouffville, I enjoyed all sports," Mr. Houston said. "At that time, the business people gave to the community so I could take part in sports. Now I give."

Mr. Houston has supported and sponsored many youth programs including bowling, baseball, swimming and gymnastics. He has a

special fondness for football and hockey.

The chamber of commerce has long been aware of Mr. Houston's interest in the community.

"Through Bill, football helmets appear as if by magic and after-school jobs are available for hockey players," chamber chairperson Garth Bell said.

As with any small com-

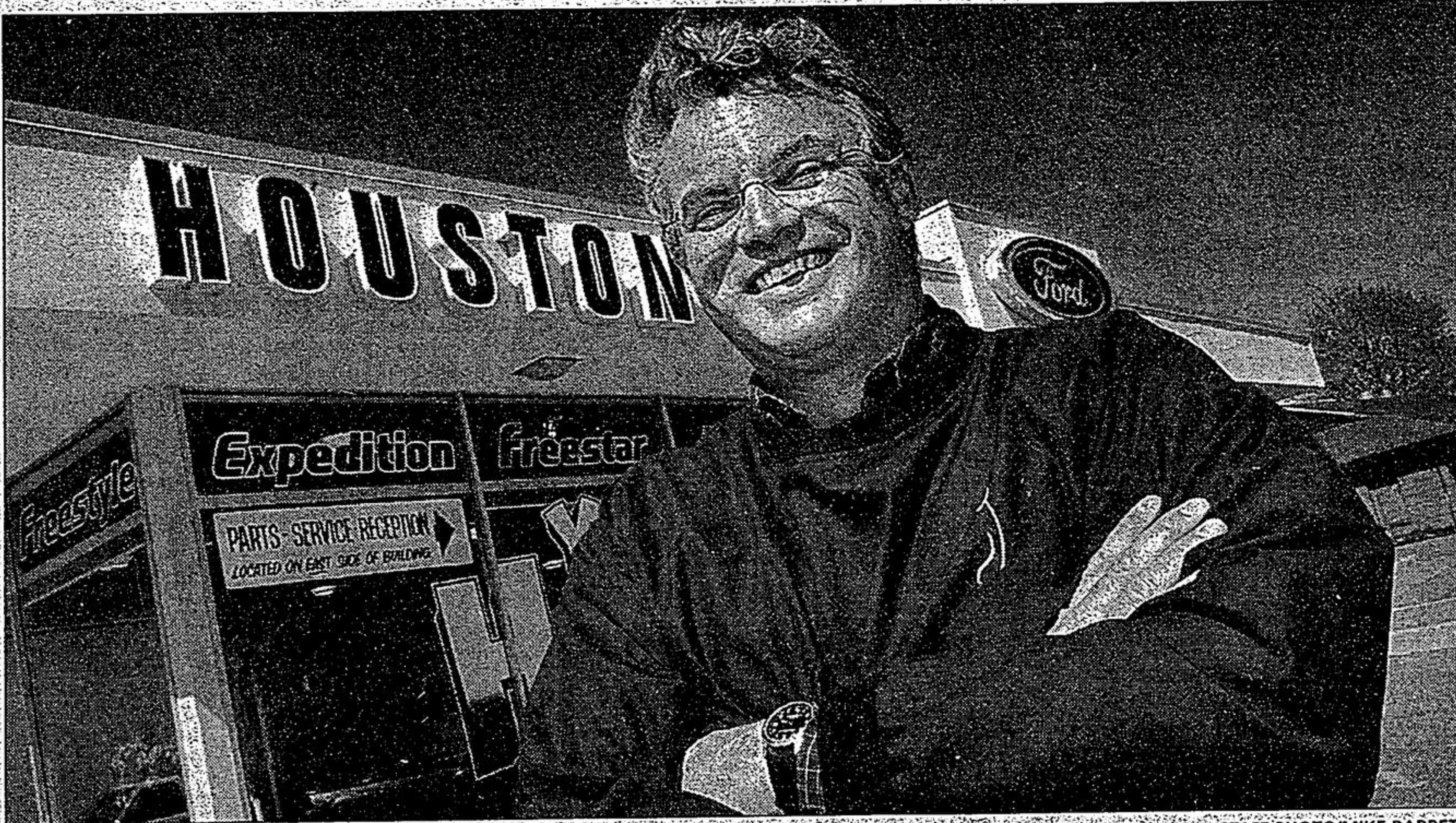
munity, sports/cultural groups and charities are constantly knocking on doors for sponsorships.

"Bill's door has always been open," Mr. Bell said. "He is always available to help when he can. Bill Houston has enhanced our community with his generosity."

Mr. Houston, 45, learned the automotive business from his father, Ben Houston.

After attending university in the late 1970s, Mr. Houston left Whitchurch-Stouffville to work on oil rigs in Western Canada. He enjoyed the experience, but after three years, returned to Stouffville to go into business with his father.

Mr. Houston is married to Teresa. The couple has three children: Connor, 14, Katie, 11, and Christopher, 9.



STAFF PHOTO/MIKE BARRETT

Car dealer Bill Houston was named Whitchurch-Stouffville's corporate citizen of the year by the chamber of commerce.

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- Bullying
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