

Accountability priority for candidate

Don Barker challenging Mayor Sue Sherban

BY HANNELORE VOLPE
Staff Writer

Don Barker is the first mayoral candidate to challenge Mayor Sue Sherban in the Nov. 13 municipal election.

This isn't the Stouffville resident's first attempt at politics. He was set to run in the 1984 municipal elections, but had to give up the idea after his wife suffered a second stroke.

He's running for mayor because he's upset with the attitude of elected officials.

"It seems politicians aren't open and honest," he stated.

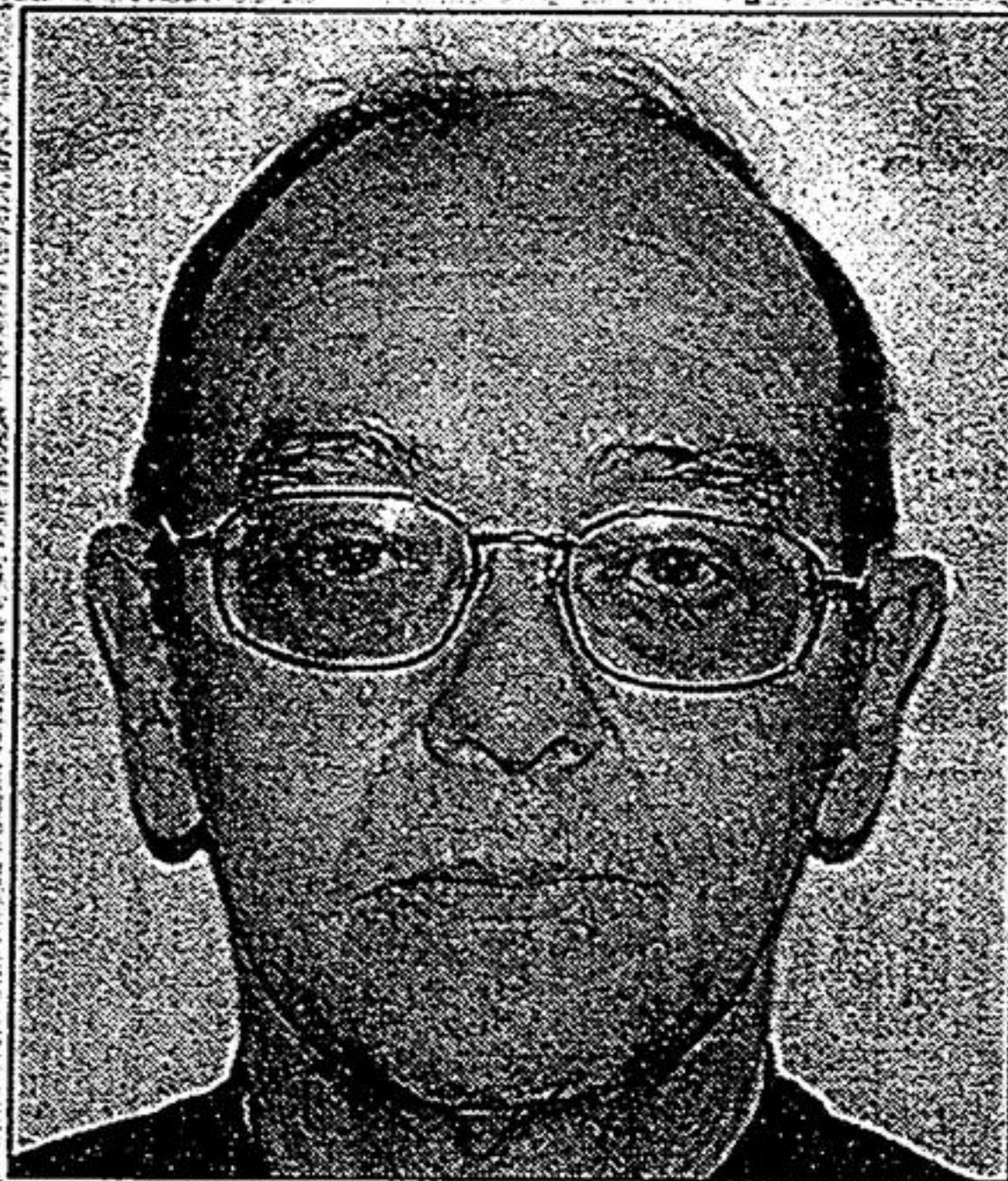
Politicians tend to solve a problem by "lawing it to death" and spending money, he said.

Problems must be solved without laws and more taxes if at all possible, Mr. Barker said.

"Politicians have to be accountable," he said. "If they are, there is no such thing as an embarrassing question."

He cites his strengths in business as being able to work well with people. If there's something he doesn't know, he'll do the research and pass the information along, he said.

A resident since 1977, Mr. Barker took early retirement from Bell Canada after a 33-year career as a specialist



DON BARKER

with the company.

"When you run for office," Mr. Barker said, "you have to be completely open and honest with people."

He describes himself as a people person and someone who owes nobody any favours and no one owes him any favours.

As the sole member of the Ferret Rescue Centre of Durham and York Region, he rescues ferrets who are no longer wanted by their owners. He often walks his furry charges in Stouffville's downtown parks.

He has studied geology, electronics and business and has run his own busi-

ness, Raydon, an engineering and design and consulting firm in Stouffville, since 1980.

Born and raised in Toronto, he moved to Stouffville, which he described as a small, rural and friendly town when he arrived.

One of his concerns is the youth of the area. He witnessed several episodes of vandalism last summer, which included flowers being pulled from containers along Main Street.

More surveillance and police crackdowns aren't the answer, he believes. Instead there should be a space for youth, such as a room in Latham Hall with an adult supervisor where young people can meet.

Young people should be asked their opinions, Mr. Barker said.

Young people have told him that Stouffville is a boring town for teenagers, especially if they don't play organized sports.

Leading up to the election, he wants to meet with residents, including those experiencing problems regarding the health of Musselman's Lake.

He also wants to meet with Ballantree homeowners to discuss the municipal water system. He will continue to talk to youth in town as well.

In the event of a major disaster, he's concerned about whether there would be enough water capacity for the town's fire and emergency services department to deal with it properly.

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<p>2005 Dodge SX 2.0</p> <p>Auto, Air, Power Windows, Keyless, Cruise, 60/40, folding Seats, CD, Fog Lamps, Fmr Rental</p> <p>\$12,900 or \$87 Bi Weekly</p>	<p>2005 Chrysler Sebring Sedan Touring</p> <p>2.7L V6, Auto, Air, Keyless, 16" Alloy Wheels, & Much More, Fmr Rental</p> <p>\$14,888 or \$110 Bi Weekly</p>
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<p>2005 Chrysler 300C</p> <p>HEMI pwr, Premium Leather, Heated Seats, 16" Chrome Wheels, MP3, ABS, ESP, Auto, Headlights, Memory Seats, Fmr Rental</p> <p>\$30,900 or \$227 Bi Weekly</p>	<p>2005 Jeep Grand Cherokee Laredo</p> <p>Top Computer, Quadra Drive, Electronic, Stability Prog, ABS, 4x4 Fmr Rental</p> <p>\$26,900 or \$195 Bi Weekly</p>
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<p>2005 Volkswagen Golf TDI</p> <p>Fantastic fuel economy, over 1000km per tank, Automatic, Cruise only 17500km</p> <p>\$23,900 or \$166 Bi Weekly</p>	<p>2005 Subaru Legacy Ltd. GT</p> <p>Top of the line AWD, 250 Horsepower, Leather, Heated Seats, One Owner trade</p> <p>\$32,900 or \$233 Bi Weekly</p>
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<p>2005 Dodge Durango SLT+</p> <p>Leather, Rear Heat and Air, 4.7L Automatic, Tinted Glass, ABS, Only 24000km Fmr Rental</p> <p>\$26,900 or \$195 Bi Weekly</p>	<p>2005 Jeep Liberty Limited</p> <p>3.7L Auto, Tinted Glass, 4 Wheel Drive, 16" Alloys, Keyless, Tons more, Fmr Rental</p> <p>\$23,900 or \$166 Bi Weekly</p>
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<p>2005 Chrysler Pacifica Touring</p> <p>3.5L V6, Leather Interior, 16 Passenger, Rear Back up Sensors, ABS, Disc Brakes, Fmr Rental</p> <p>\$24,900 or \$190 Bi Weekly</p>	<p>2003 Dodge Ram 1500 SLT Quad Cab 4x4</p> <p>Auto, Air, CD, Keyless, Chrome Wheels, Folding Hard Tonneau Cover, Chrome Side Steps</p> <p>\$22,900 or \$180 Bi Weekly</p>
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<p>2002 Chrysler Sebring Convertible Lxi</p> <p>Loaded leather, alloy wheels, heated seats, auto</p> <p>\$16,900 or \$144 Bi Weekly</p>	<p>2002 Jeep Liberty Sport</p> <p>Leather, Rear Heat and Air, 4.7L Automatic, Tinted Glass, ABS, Only 24000km Fmr Rental</p> <p>\$16,900 or \$148 Bi Weekly</p>
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