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21 Stouffville's golden girl speeds to Ontario titles

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Barber of Stouffville plays Elvis for festival

BY HANNELORE VOLPE
Staff Writer

He may not be the Barber of Seville, but like Rossini's colourful character, Danny Basciano has sung and snipped his way through life.

Most days, the Richmond Hill resident can be found in downtown Stouffville wielding sharp scissors at Fame for Men.

It doesn't take long for Mr. Basciano to start talking about his other passion — music. He's got nine CDs to his credit, all of them containing original music.

His 10th is in the works and will feature only Elvis songs.

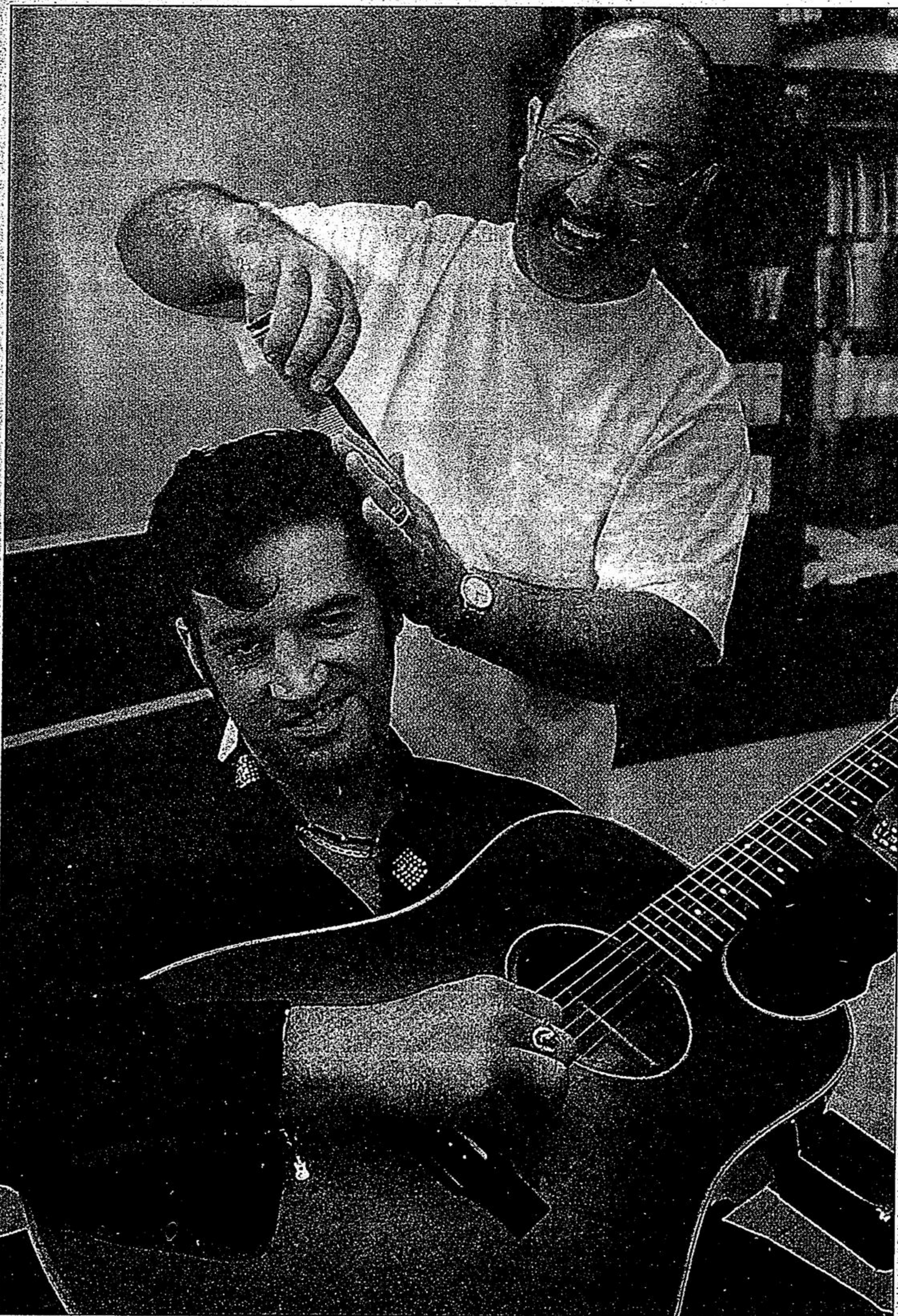
"They call me Elvis '56," Mr. Basciano said, explaining the songs and the Elvis of 1956 are his favourites.

He's hoping for his big break with this CD, being recorded at Pezmosis Productions in Oak Ridges. It should be completed in about a month.

One of the first people to hear it will be a friend in Las Vegas who is an entertainment promoter. If Vegas calls, Mr. Basciano is ready to "take my two weeks holiday and give it a try."

Mr. Basciano sports the neat sideburns and slicked-back hair of the King of Rock and Roll. Put him in a leather jacket and there's no doubt who he looks like. He'll bring that look and his lively personality to this weekend's Elvis Fest in downtown Stouffville.

He'll be among the Elvis tribute artists performing Friday night at the Stouffville Royal Canadian Legion, East Side Mario's and Mickey Rats.



STAFF PHOTO/SJOERD WITTEVEEN

Elvis, aka Danny Basciano, gets his pompadour fixed by barber Mario D'Addese, proprietor of Fame for Men on Main Street in Stouffville, in time for Elvis Fest this weekend.

See SINGING, page 13.

GOOD NEWS FOR ARTS, MUSIC, DANCE GROUPS

Town's cultural policy first in York

BY HANNELORE VOLPE
Staff Writer

It took almost 20 years, but culture has finally been formally recognized by the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville.

If you're part of Whitchurch-Stouffville's cultural scene, the future of your art, music, dance or theatre group should be more positive with the guidance of the municipal cultural policy.

Whitchurch-Stouffville's first cultural document "is worthy of celebrating," Mayor Sue Sherban said. "Culture has finally been recognized by the municipality."

The only regret she had is that the document was not stronger.

The policy is a first in York Region's nine municipalities, said Nancy Prout, acting director of economic development for the region.

Local cultural groups now have a "starting point" when coming to town to discuss what they do, Mrs. Sherban said.

That wasn't in place before and, in effect, tied the hands of the town in dealing with requests.

The document lays down the parameters of the town's role and responsibilities in planning and providing cultural services, aims to heighten the profile of local culture, assist local cultural groups and promote access to cultural opportunities to all residents.

It does not mean the town is taking over cultural activities,

See CULTURAL, page 19.

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