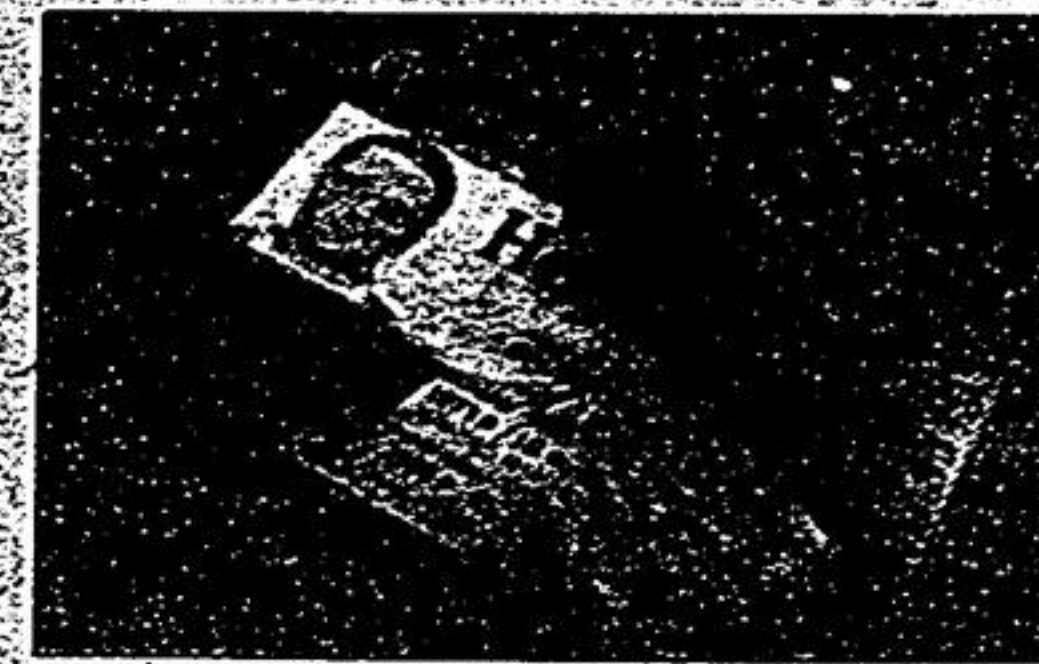


Stouffville Sun-Tribune

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Soft-spoken man of good deeds honoured

Watson earns region's character award

BY HANNELORE VOLPE
 Staff Writer

A quiet, soft-spoken man who has affected the lives of hundreds of people through his volunteer work received one of York Region's first Character Community Awards Thursday.

Stouffville's Trevor Watson brought home a Citizen of Character award from a ceremony in Markham. It recognizes a person whose actions demonstrate a commitment to York's character attributes.

Other awards were given out for business or organization of character, school of character and the Wendel Clark Pursuing Victory with Honour award, which is for teams or other organizations.

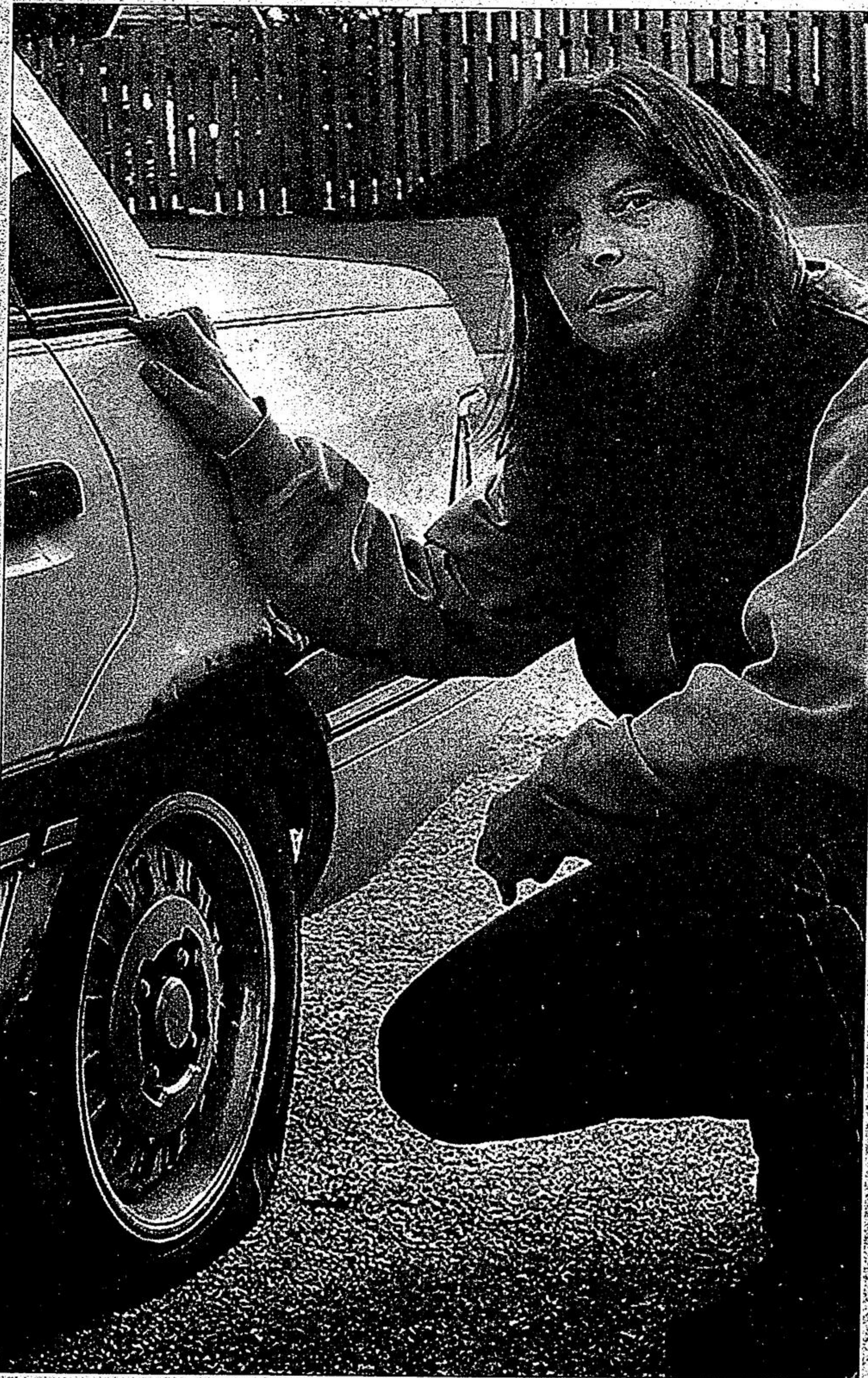
Stouffville resident Doris Harvey praised Mr. Watson's "compassion and initiative as a good neighbour."

Mr. Watson goes back to an old saying to gauge what a community is like: "If you look at the school, church and cemetery and they are well-kept, it must be a good community."

His volunteer efforts encompass two communities: he grew up on a farm in Markham and moved to Stouffville in 1991.

His most recent endeavour is helping at Stouffville's recycling depot. He recalls one winter day when it was so cold, volunteers finally capitulated and closed up

See WATSON, page 7.



STAFF PHOTO/JOE FANTAUZZI

Benny van Velsen checks out the damage after vandals slashed all the tires on her car. What kind of rage does it take to slash 40 tires?" she said, referring to the rash of slashings in the downtown core this week.

RESIDENTS FIND TIRES SLASHED

At least 6 vehicles vandalized in downtown

BY JOE FANTAUZZI
 Staff Writer

Neighbourhood morale is a little deflated in the Main and Lloyd street area of Stouffville.

A handful of residents of a downtown multi-residential building woke up Wednesday morning their tires had been slashed.

As she began her day around 5:30 a.m. Benny van Velsen got into her car and noticed things were a little askew.

"It was kind of weird because I got into my car and I thought 'This doesn't feel like my car', Ms van Velsen said.

"I put my car into reverse and it didn't want to go."

She noticed all four wheels of her vehicle were resting flat on their rims.

Looking around, she saw a couple of her neighbours' cars had suffered the same fate.

I put my car into reverse and it didn't want to go.

Ms van Velsen called York Regional Police, adding her name to a list of incidents.

Talking to neighbours, she believes as many as six vehicles were hit in a parking lot behind the building and another four further south on Lloyd.

She's angry. "What kind of rage does it take to slash 40 tires?" she said, adding if it had just been a case of the air being let out, she would have been able to deal with it. "But slashing my tires? Now you've crossed the line."

Joe Giralico spent Thursday evening repairing the tires on his Ford Explorer.

He had replaced them just four months ago.

See IT'S, page 7.

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