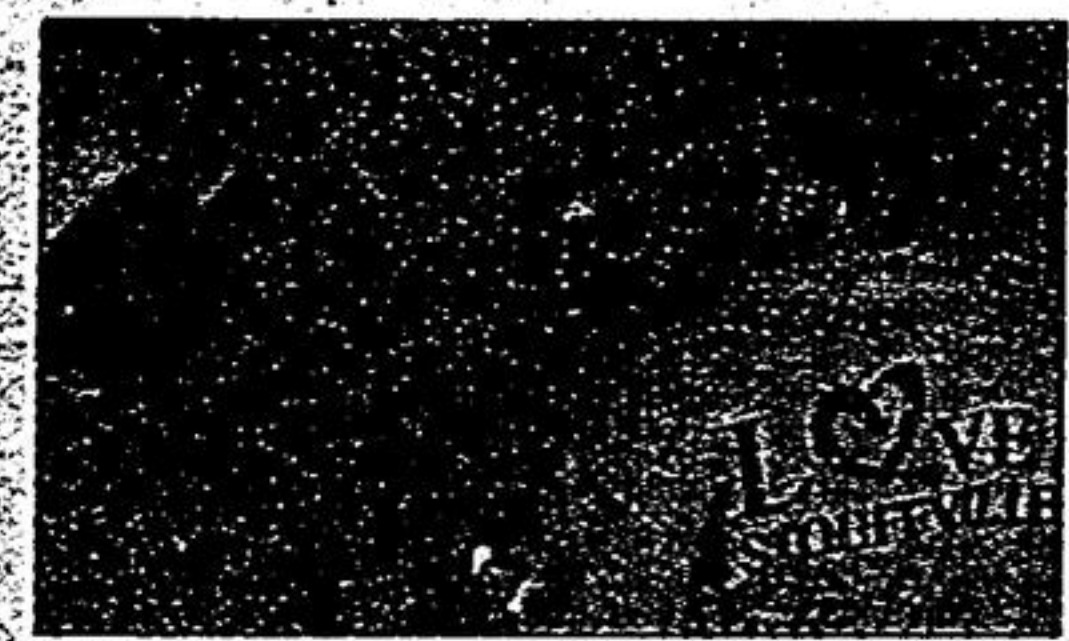


Stouffville Sun-Tribune

SATURDAY, JUNE 23, 2007 ■ SERVING THE COMMUNITY OF WHITCHURCH-STOUFFVILLE ■ 40 PAGES/\$1 INCLUDING GST



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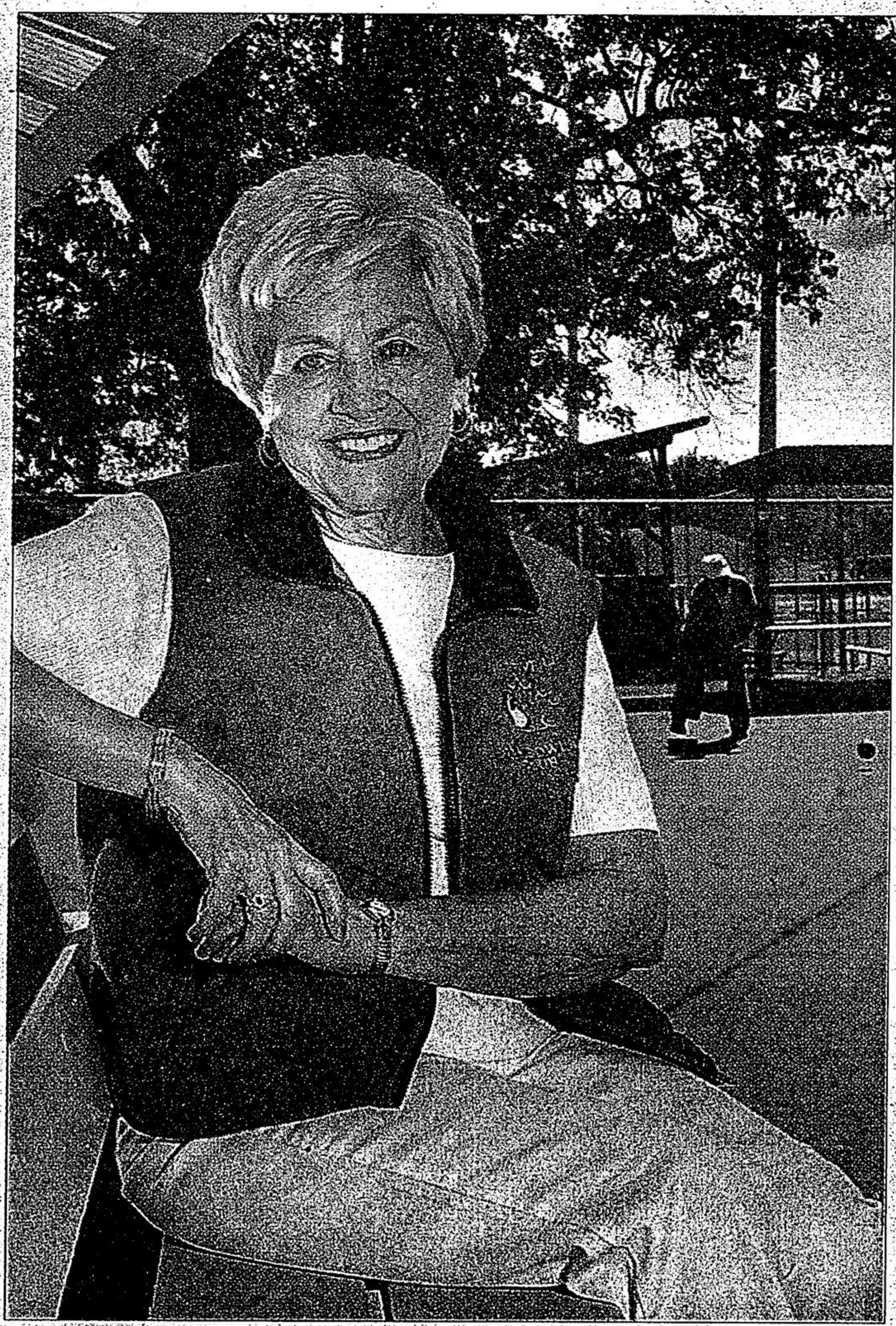
Centre a voice for those who can't speak

Stouffville program spawns offshoots

BY HANNELORE VOLPE
 Staff Writer

For most of us, talking is as automatic as breathing. We gab away, easily finding the words we need to express ourselves. That's not the case when you have aphasia. After a stroke or head injury, you might be able to think what you want to say, but you may not be able to say it. Or you might have trouble understanding what others are saying. Some people also have trouble reading after a stroke or head injury. Learning to cope with aphasia becomes a life-long effort. For help, people with aphasia can turn to the York Durham Aphasia Centre. It started as a grassroots volunteer initiative in Stouffville in 1989 and expanded to five municipalities throughout York Region, as well as Whitby and Peterborough. The centres serve more than 200 clients and their families annually from a variety of languages and cultures. About 40,000 people in Ontario have aphasia. Speech pathologist Ruth Patterson, a Stouffville resident, was one of the volunteers who started the aphasia program, along with Vera and John Hall and Anne Wells. Mrs. Patterson saw the need

See APHASIA, page 9.



STAFF PHOTO/SJOERD WITTEVEEN

Audrey Gibson is Whitchurch-Stouffville's Citizen of the Year. One of the founders of Meals on Wheels, she was photographed at the Stouffville Lawn Bowling Club. Her husband, Ron, practises in the background. She also volunteers at St. Mark's Church, the Silver Jubilee Club and with the Heart and Stroke Foundation and the Canadian Cancer Society.

Gibson town's finest citizen

30-plus years of volunteering recognized with award

BY JIM MASON
 Staff Writer

It was only right that it took three days to notify Whitchurch-Stouffville's new citizen of the year she had been honoured. And when she was tracked down, she was too busy with her volunteer duties to be interviewed. Audrey Gibson was about to lead a group from Stouffville's Silver Jubilee Club for seniors on a theatre outing to Georgina Thursday morning. Retiring high school legend Wayne Nugent to receive sports person of year award at Strawberry Festival page 7. She will receive the award next Thursday evening in Memorial Park during opening ceremonies of the Whitchurch-Stouffville Strawberry Festival. Also honoured will be Wayne Nugent, who was named sports person of the year this week. Both awards are sponsored by the Stouffville Sun-Tribune. The selection committee included 2006 citizen of the year Cliff Dunkeld, Mayor Wayne Emmerson and Sun-Tribune editor Jim Mason. Mrs. Gibson was nominated by regional health care officials and local seniors who benefit from her work. "I'm still amazed by this," Mrs. Gibson

See STOUFFVILLE'S, page 8.

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