

Clippers, alumni have big year

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his big-league career with the New York Rangers this season.

DIANE WARD

For almost 40 years, Diane Ward has been lending a helping hand to whomever requested it and even to those who didn't.

"There are so many really nice people everywhere you go ... so I can't turn away from any one group," said the 70-year-old Whitchurch-Stouffville Citizen of the Year.

Many know the recipient of The Sun-Tribune award from her work with Markham Fair and the Stouffville Horticulture Society.

Mrs. Ward and her husband, John, moved from the city to a farm house at Bloomington and Kennedy roads in 1972.

A year later and after learning some urban children have never left the confines of Toronto, Mrs. Ward partnered with the East York school board and transformed her

peewee AE Clippers won Ontario Minor Hockey Association A titles. The hat trick is a best-ever for Stouffville.

The peewee Clippers would also compete at the Ontario Hockey Federation championships and settled for the silver medal.

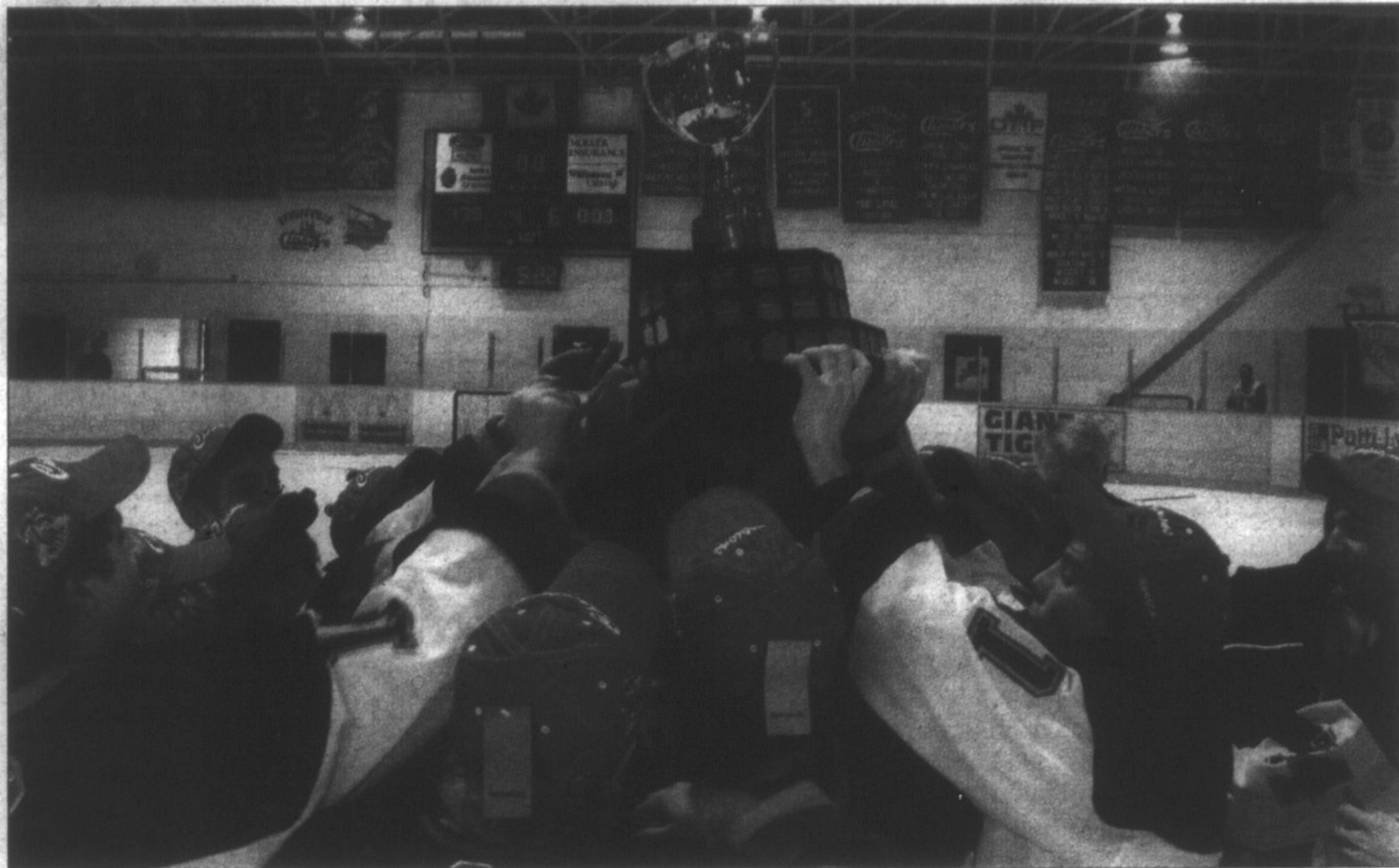
The Clippers midgets, minor peewees and tyke B entries skated off with York-Simcoe crowns.

The six titles tied a Whitchurch-Stouffville record established in 2008.

Michael Humphreys, the outgoing president of Stouffville minor hockey, was named the town's sports person of the year.

Brad May, who started playing hockey in the Stouffville organization, marked his 1,000th NHL game with the Toronto Maple Leafs last spring. He's now with the Detroit Red Wings.

Michael Del Zotto, who also got his start with the Clippers, launched



STAFF PHOTO/JIM MASON

The Stouffville minor midgets and two other Clipper teams won OMHA titles last spring. It was a town record.

farm into an outdoor educational oasis for students.

The program focused on life skills.

That model has since been replicated at the Willowgrove Outdoor Education Centre and the Green Acres Outdoor Education Centre.

One would think Mrs. Ward has a background in education, however, she is actually a former negative re-toucher.

Mrs. Ward is also responsible for rejuvenating the Ontario Sheep Marketing Agency and is a livestock inspector, something she has been doing for more than 30 years.

18 inches of gravel, all at a cost of \$11 million.

Earlier this month, the widening and re-aligning of Stouffville Road at Hwy. 48 in Ringwood, along with the widening of the road west to McCowan Road, was completed.

The remainder of Stouffville Road to Hwy. 404 is expected to be widened to four lanes by the end of 2013, according to York Region.

dent had junior eligibility but made the New York Rangers last fall.

He isn't coming back down.

The 19-year-old earned the NHL's rookie of the month award for October.

He has 20 points in 38 games and was drawing rookie-of-the-year whispers early in the season.

A first-round pick of the Rangers in the 2008 entry draft, Del Zotto played junior in Oshawa and London after a starry minor hockey career in Stouffville, Richmond Hill and Markham.

STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL

What started as modest Canada Day festivities built around a softball tournament are all grown up.

The Whitchurch-Stouffville Strawberry Festival marked its 25th anniversary.

Now a multi-day event, it shuts down Main Street for a day and draws thousands of residents and visitors to the community every June.

The street sale and fireworks are crowd favourites.

OLYMPIC TORCH RELAY

Whitchurch-Stouffville residents showed their community and national spirit Dec. 17.

Main Street was lined with people of all ages, many wearing red and white, to honour the Olympic Torch Relay.

The torch stopped only momentarily, at Main and Church streets where residents stood three deep. The visit lasted less than an hour but left long-lasting memories.

Sun-Tribune columnist Jim Thomas, who has written for local newspapers for more than 50 years, hadn't seen anything like it.

with files from Jim Thomas and Michael Hayakawa

MAIN STREET

For 17 months, Main Street's west end from around Winona Drive to Hwy. 48 was dug up, widened, reduced to a single lane and re-aligned, all in an effort to widen and pretty-up the thoroughfare.

It finally all came to an end in October.

"I know it hasn't been easy," said Whitchurch-Stouffville Mayor Wayne Emmerson.

In order to extend the life of the road and for it to be able to handle the additional weight and traffic, three layers of asphalt were laid above six inches of limestone and



STAFF PHOTO/SJOERD WITTEVEEN

Large crowds greeted the Olympic Torch Relay on Main Street Dec. 17.

"It definitely makes me feel more informed about the community in which I reside."

"I enjoy receiving and reading each issue of the Stouffville Sun-Tribune. It definitely makes me feel more informed about the community in which I reside."

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