

Stouffville Sun-Tribune

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French girl finds hope, love in Stouffville

BY SANDRA BOLAN
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It took a family from Whitchurch-Stouffville and a physiotherapist from Vaughan to bring hope to a family from France.

At eight months old, Chiara Pinna's little body, without warning, began to writhe and convulse uncontrollably.

Once the seizure was over, what remained was a little girl with her intellectual and physical capabilities frozen in time.

Within hours of the seizure, doctors in France, where the family is from, diagnosed Chiara with West Syndrome, which is a rare form of epilepsy that occurs predominantly in a child's first year of life.

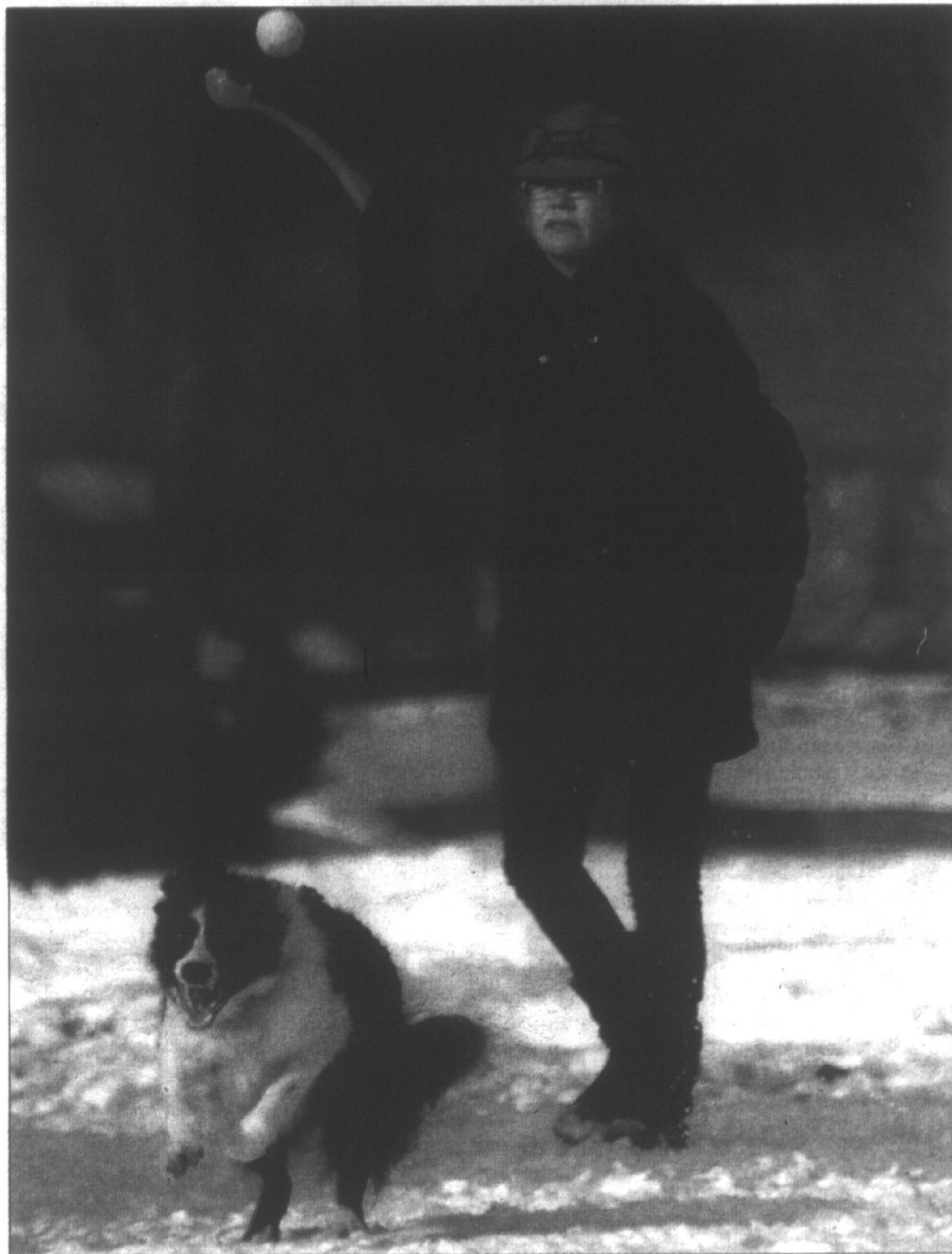
For a year-and-a-half, Chiara took anti-seizure medication and did physiotherapy once or twice a week to help re-awaken the connection between her brain and muscles.

Speech therapy was also experimented with, but like the other treatments, they did nothing to advance the now two-year-old beyond the eight-month-old mark.

By 2008, Jean-Pascal Pinna's wife and mother of Chiara and

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FOUR ON THE FLOOR



STAFF PHOTO/SJOERD WITTEVEEN

Mr. Joe the border collie makes like a retriever as he goes after a ball thrown by owner Liz McKay on the Tenth Line on Thursday. The warm weather continues through the weekend.

Mayor's to-do list: skate park, curling club

Emmerson seeks fifth term, puts off run at region

BY SANDRA BOLAN
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Feeling healthier than ever before and ready to go with a laundry list of things he wants to accomplish, Wayne Emmerson made his bid for a fifth term as Mayor of Whitchurch-Stouffville official Monday morning.

"I enjoy this job. This is my home and I love this municipality," he said. "We haven't completed everything."

During the current term, council has built a new fire hall and arena, Main Street has been widened and the Lebovic Centre for Arts and Entertainment - Nineteen on the Park was renovated. There is still a lot more Mr. Emmerson wants to do, including building a curling centre, better skateboard park and park in Musselman's Lake.

"I want to accomplish a lot," he said.

Prior to Monday's official registration, rumours swirled around Mr. Emmerson regarding his move up the political ranks.

"I did look at going one level up to the Region of York (chair, but) after the next term," he said. "This is (the level of government) that affects you the most. ... But I always leave the doors open."

Election day is Oct. 25.

Mr. Emmerson was the only declared candidate for council as of Friday morning.

Public school board trustee Lorelea Caruthers has also registered.

For updates on declared candidates, go to townofws.com/election.asp

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