

Stouffville Sun-Tribune

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Citizen, sports awards open for your nominations

Who will be Whitchurch-Stouffville's citizen and sports people of the year?

That's up to you, and our panel of judges.

For more than 30 years, the community has annually paid tribute to two of its best residents. Both awards will be handed out July 1 during the opening of the Strawberry Festival.

The Sun-Tribune sponsors and organizes the program.

Nominations are open until June 11.

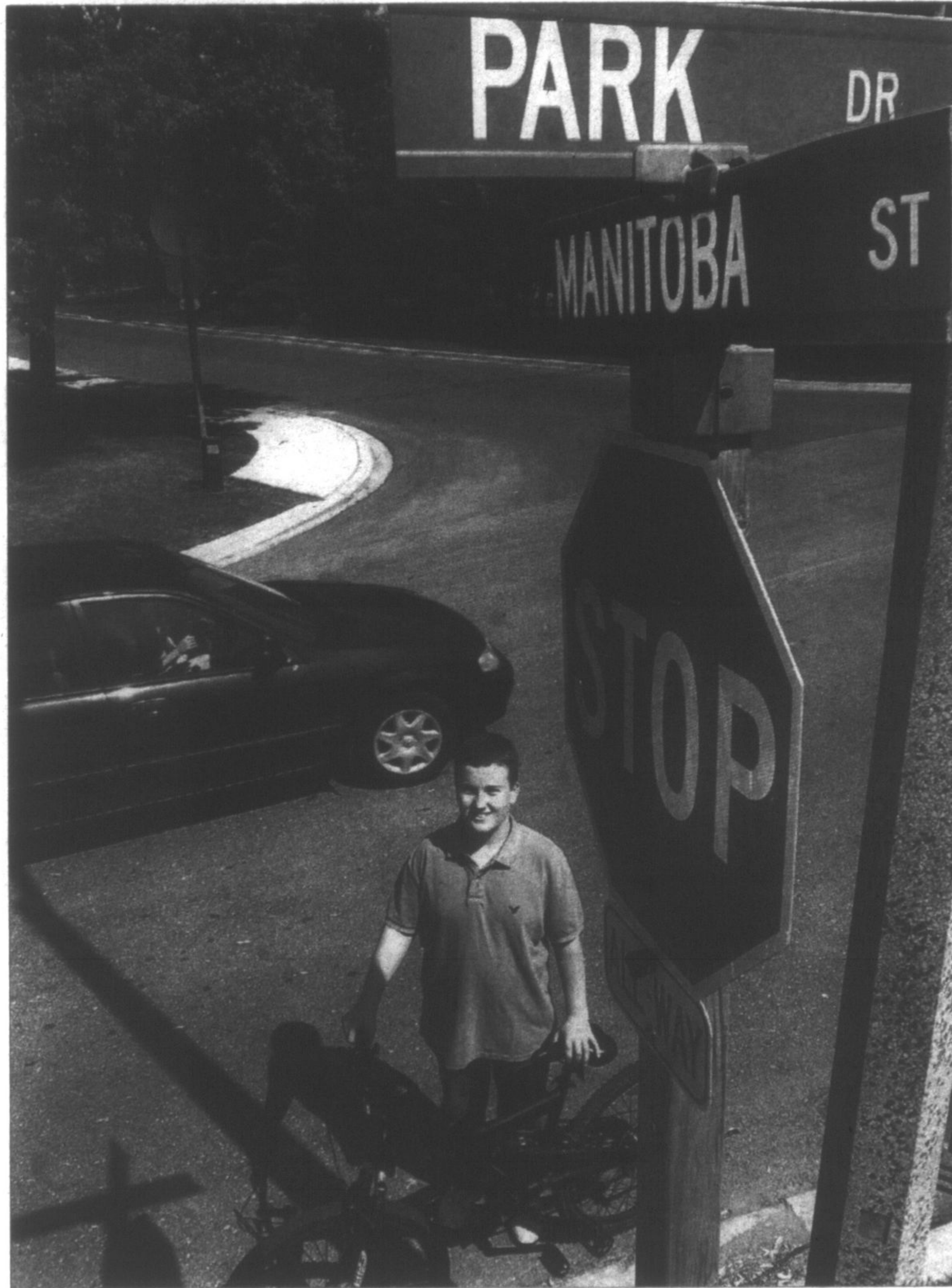
A committee will then review the submitted resumes and the recipients will be selected and announced in the newspaper.

"This isn't a vote," said Sun-Tribune editor Jim Mason. "One fact-filled folder with letters of reference and a strong resume is better than 100 one-line e-mails."

"And it's not just about what the nominee did during the last year in the sports world or community at large. It should be a culmination of their life's work. And the less self-serving the better. Judges appreciate residents who got involved, not to benefit their family or business, but to serve their neighbours."

Nominations should be e-mailed to jmason@yrmg.com or dropped/mailed to 6290 Main St.

For more information, call Mr. Mason at 905-640-2612 ext. 23.



STAFF PHOTO/STEVE SOMERVILLE

John Pehar, a 16-year-old Brother Andre student, successfully lobbied at Whitchurch-Stouffville council for a four-way stop at Manitoba Street and Park Drive this spring.

WEEKEND FOCUS

Teen fights city hall and wins

Grade 10 assignment turns intersection into all-way stop

BY SANDRA BOLAN
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What started as a high school project has resulted in a pair of new stop signs.

"I know more stop signs are not what people want," said 16-year-old John Pehar who started lobbying his councillor, Richard Bartley, five months ago to turn Park Drive and Manitoba Street into a four-way stop.

The intersection was previously a two-way stop at Park Drive only.

"I knew there was an issue here from what I've seen," said the student at Brother Andre Catholic High School in Markham.

So when his Grade 10 civics class teacher gave her class the choice to either write a letter to a family in Haiti and donate money or do something locally that would better the community, John knew exactly what he wanted to do - lobby his local government for a safer intersection.

"I wanted to do something, not too complicated, simple, but something that would affect people everyday," John said. "A stop sign is logical, it makes sense. ... It's going to make the intersection safer."

He started his four-way stop crusade at the end of January when he sent a letter to Mr. Bartley outlining his case for the east-west stop signs on Manitoba Street.

See **STUDENT**, page 7.

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