

Stouffville Sun-Tribune

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WHITCHURCH-STOUFFVILLE'S NEWSMAKERS OF 2010



MARION DEACON: Boyfriend faces murder charge in connection to Gormley woman's death.



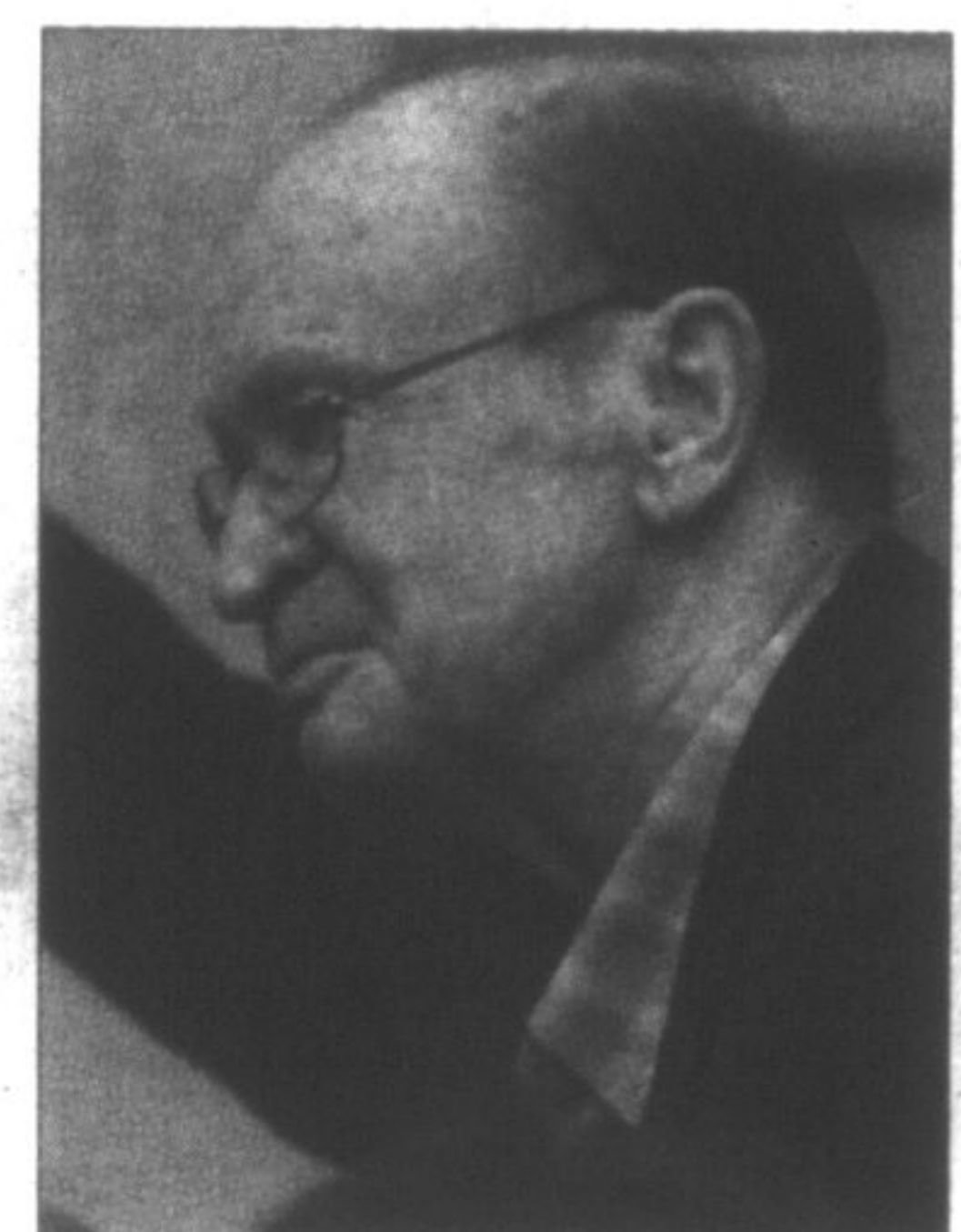
JOHN PEHAR: High school student lobbied town council for more stop signs, and got them.



WAYNE EMMERSON: Mayor won town-record fifth term during nasty fall election campaign.



JOAN DOBLE: Citizen of the year knows tough times mean more business for local food bank.



HARRY BOWES: Former Stouffville councillor and York Region school board chairperson died in August.

MURDER CHARGE, ELECTION SCARS STORIES OF YEAR

BY SANDRA BOLAN
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They were the biggest newsmakers of 2010 across Whitchurch-Stouffville.

They included some of the best known and, until their brushes with fame, least known residents of our community.

From the pages of the Stouffville Sun-Tribune during the last 12 months and 100 editions, they are:

Fifth, and probably final, term

Mayor Wayne Emmerson won a fifth term as the town's leader during October's municipal election.

Mr. Emmerson fought off three opponents to take 42 per cent of the vote.

During his election and inauguration night speeches, Mr. Emmerson stated this was the "worst election" campaign he has ever experienced.

"I and other members of council have scars to prove it," he said.

Accusations were levelled during the campaign, some by anonymous sources.

During his inauguration speech, Mr. Emmerson also noted this would "probably" be his last term.

Between his years as a councillor and mayor, come 2014, he will have spent 23 years in municipal politics.

Runner-up, again

Justin Altmann struck out for the second time in his bid for a seat on municipal council.

This time, Mr. Altmann finished second in his mayoral bid to Wayne Emmerson. Ex-mayor Sue Sherban was third.

In 2006, Mr. Altmann lost to Phil Bannon for Ward 2 council.

"The original intent was mayor," Mr. Altmann said. "We thought (in 2006), start lower then work up."

Feeding our hungry

Joan Doble, 72, is the longest-serving volunteer at the Whitchurch-Stouffville Food Bank - she's been the organization's treasurer since 1992 and is a self-described master of "Joe jobs".

Named Whitchurch-Stouffville Citizen of the Year by The Sun-Tribune, she was honoured at the Strawberry Festival in June.

"Joan has gone way beyond the call of duty with the food bank," said Mayor Wayne Emmerson, a judge on the selection panel. "She's just an outstanding volunteer in our town. People like Joan make our community what (it) is today."

Tough economic times have made the food bank busier.

"We have so much in this country," she said. "But it doesn't matter if you live in Canada or Africa, if you don't have money to feed your kids, it's tragic."

Future NHLer, Ontario titles

Whether it's hockey, baseball, softball or basketball, Don Easter brings passion to all of their benches.

He was named Whitchurch-Stouffville's Sports Person of the Year.

"It's always nice to be recognized for something others perceive you have accomplished," he said.

Mr. Easter, 62, began coaching in Whitchurch-Stouffville in 1994 when he assisted with his youngest son's house league hockey team.

He has also coached in the former Metro Toronto Hockey League and Markham. One of his charges was NHL superstar Steven Stamkos.

His teams won Ontario Minor Hockey Association A titles in 2008 and 2009.

Along with coaching, in 2002, Mr. Easter was chosen to be on the Whitchurch-Stouffville Minor

Hockey Association board. He was the treasurer for three years. He then moved up to vice-president. In 2009, he became the association's president.

Already helping in Haiti

In January, a 7.0-magnitude earthquake rocked Haiti.


Although the disaster took place thousands of miles away from Whitchurch-Stouffville, one local couple, David and Sonya Lock, were directly impacted as their organization Freedom House Haiti Christian Orphanages took a direct hit.

Freedom House Bethesda in Port-au-Prince, where most of the earthquake damage occurred, was about 75 per cent destroyed.

"The devastation here cannot be described. What you see on the news is nothing," wrote Toronto paramedic Andrew Lock in dis-

See **MARION**, page 3.

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