



STAFF PHOTO/STEVE SOMERVILLE

Ballantrae's Joan and Jim Doble receive the Citizens of Character - Senior award during the 10th annual York Region Character Community Foundation awards presentation in Richmond Hill Wednesday.

## Couple honoured for character

BY CHRIS TRABER  
ctraber@yrmg.com

The quality of our citizenry was celebrated and eloquently recognized by retired York Regional Police chief Armand La Barge at Wednesday's 10th annual Character Community Foundation of York Region awards.

Dignitaries, 115 nervous nominees vying for 16 award categories, along with friends, families and supporters packed the Richmond Hill Centre for the Performing Arts.

Ballantrae-area residents Joan and Jim Doble receive the Citizens of Character - Senior award.

They are best known for their work with the Whitchurch-Stouffville Food Bank.

Mr. Doble is former town councillor. Mrs. Doble was Whitchurch-Stouffville's citizen of the year in 2010.

This year's Character Champion, Mr. La Barge delivered an impassioned keynote speech, deflecting praise to his wife, Denise, colleagues, regional leaders and fellow award recipients.

"Attitude determines altitude

and young people need to make a positive attitude their best friend," he said. "The people here have helped make York Region the envy of Canada and the world."

Mr. La Barge was honoured for his long service to the York Region community through his commitment to character policing and volunteerism.

Reflecting on his police career, which began in 1973, Mr. La Barge attributed his climb up the ranks to supportive friends, fellow officers and his wife of 30 years.

"Despite her name not being on this award, I wouldn't be here without her," he said. "We walk this path together. Denise has been beside me through the highs and lows, never in the shadows. She's my best friend. We're a team."

Mrs. La Barge, an oft-honoured sergeant on leave before her retirement this month, was York Region's first female cadet. She pioneered on behalf of hundreds of female police officers, a smiling Mr. La Barge said.

A foundation board member, the former top cop said the growing character movement is rooted in

York. As a result, attributes, including integrity, compassion, courage and respect, have helped make York one of the most diverse and safest communities in Canada.

He shared his hopes for the future.

"Our children are living messages to a time we will not see," he said. "We must remember that we didn't inherit this world from our ancestors. We borrow it from our children."

Before receiving a standing ovation, Mr. La Barge appealed to politicians running in Monday's federal election, asking that they adopt the 11 character attributes to change the tone, tenor and behaviour on Parliament Hill, adding team work could be the 12th attribute.

Individual and organizational nominees were called to the stage by master of ceremonies Eric Tappenden. Each received a plaque prior to naming the category award recipient.

For a listing of all nominees and award recipients, visit [charactercommunity.com](http://charactercommunity.com)

SPORTS: You can sign banner this weekend

## Family delivering greetings to Canucks

BY JIM MASON  
jmason@yrmg.com

There are hockey fans and then there is the Wu family.

Make that certified Vancouver Canucks fanatics.

The Ballantrae family is driving the 2,600-kilometre round trip to Nashville this week to watch its beloved team play the hometown Predators in the second round of the Stanley Cup playoffs.

And they want you to send greetings to the lone Canadian team left in the NHL postseason. The Wus plan to hoist a banner from their seats.

You can sign and write a message to the Canucks on the banner this weekend at the Lebovic Leisure Centre in Stouffville "to show the rest of Canada Stouffville's passion for hockey and to be a part of the road to the Stanley Cup," said Tammy Wu.

Ballantrae Public School, where the Wu boys, Riley, 6, and Ben, 4, attend, is getting in on the action. Teacher Jennifer Blake Frost is assembling a wish book of Canuck greetings dedicated to injured Canucks forward Manny Malhotra. The Wus hope to present the book to the Mississauga

native in Tennessee.

Ben plays in the Whitchurch-Stouffville Minor Hockey Association. Riley is into martial arts. Both are getting ready for the trip south, sporting Canucks jerseys.

Tammy grew up a Leafs fan in Scarborough, but also adopted the Canucks during her six years in Vancouver.

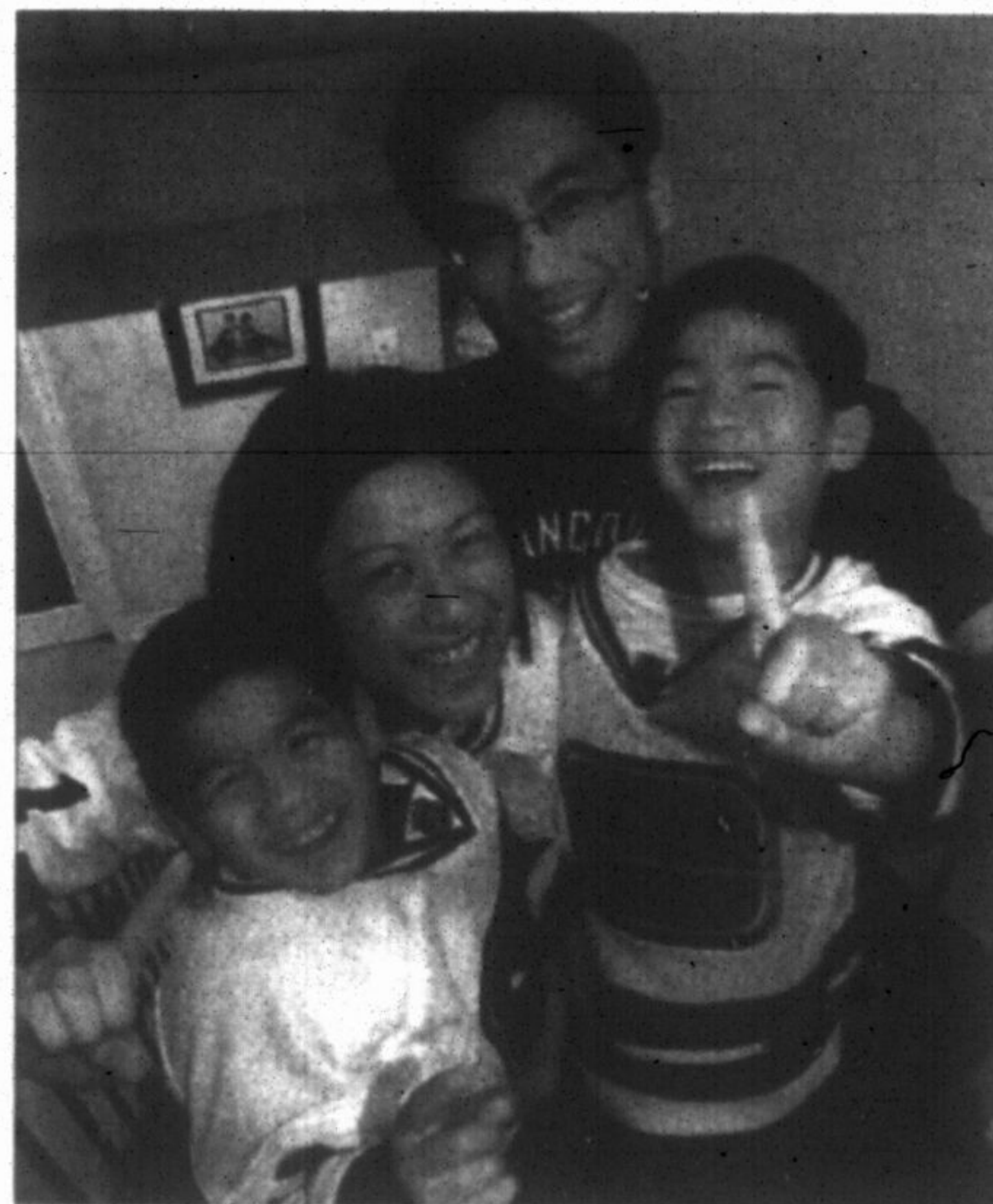
Her husband, Dr. Douglas Wu of the Stouffville Medical Centre, is from Vancouver.

"I'm still a Leafs fan," she said. "But this is (Vancouver's) time. This is it."

Just trying "to bring a piece of Leafs Nation and the passion of Stouffville hockey to the Canucks," she said.

Tickets were surprisingly easy to come by. The Wu foursome settled on \$114 seats in the back row of the lower bowl at the Bridgestone Arena - "so we could hold up the banner," Mrs. Wu said.

"Let's really put Stouffville on the hockey map of Canada and help bring the Stanley Cup back to Canada," she said. "Who knows? Maybe sometime soon, we can all cheer 'Go Leafs Go' in the playoffs, but until then, let's shout, 'Go Canucks!'"



STAFF PHOTO/JIM MASON

Douglas and Tammy Wu and sons Riley and Ben are pumped about their Vancouver Canucks. The Ballantrae family is driving to Nashville to see their team in action. You can sign a banner they'll take with them this weekend at the Lebovic Leisure Centre.

LET'S TRADE!

## What Do You Have?

I will trade Canada's #1 Landmark Location Resort Waterpark and Campground Property!

- 4 separate waterfalls, 1 is Ontario's 3rd largest, 2 rivers, lake
- Largest sandy beach in Muskoka plus a sandbar island & lake
- Voted most scenic location on Trans Canada Trail from east to west coasts
- 3 houses, 25 cottages, waterpark and RV park/campground
- Zoned tourism/com. Private paradise compound, retirement home, amusement park, church, restaurants, hotel, motel, resort, RV park

- Adjoining crownlands and Trans Canada Trail system
- Gross \$420,000/yr on only 3 of 33 acres
- 33 acres appraised at 8.1 mil. - will trade for 3.8 in value
- Don't miss out, first trade takes it all!

RE/MAX

GO SEE THE PROPERTY AT [www.HighFalls.ca](http://www.HighFalls.ca)

call Reine 905.640.8900