

Stouffville Sun-Tribune

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AGRICULTURE

All-local rule out at farmers market

Mixed reaction to Ontario-wide produce

BY SANDRA BOLAN
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Downtown Stouffville Farmers Market vendors can now sell anything from Ontario, including items purchased for re-sale, which does not please some of its customers and vendors.

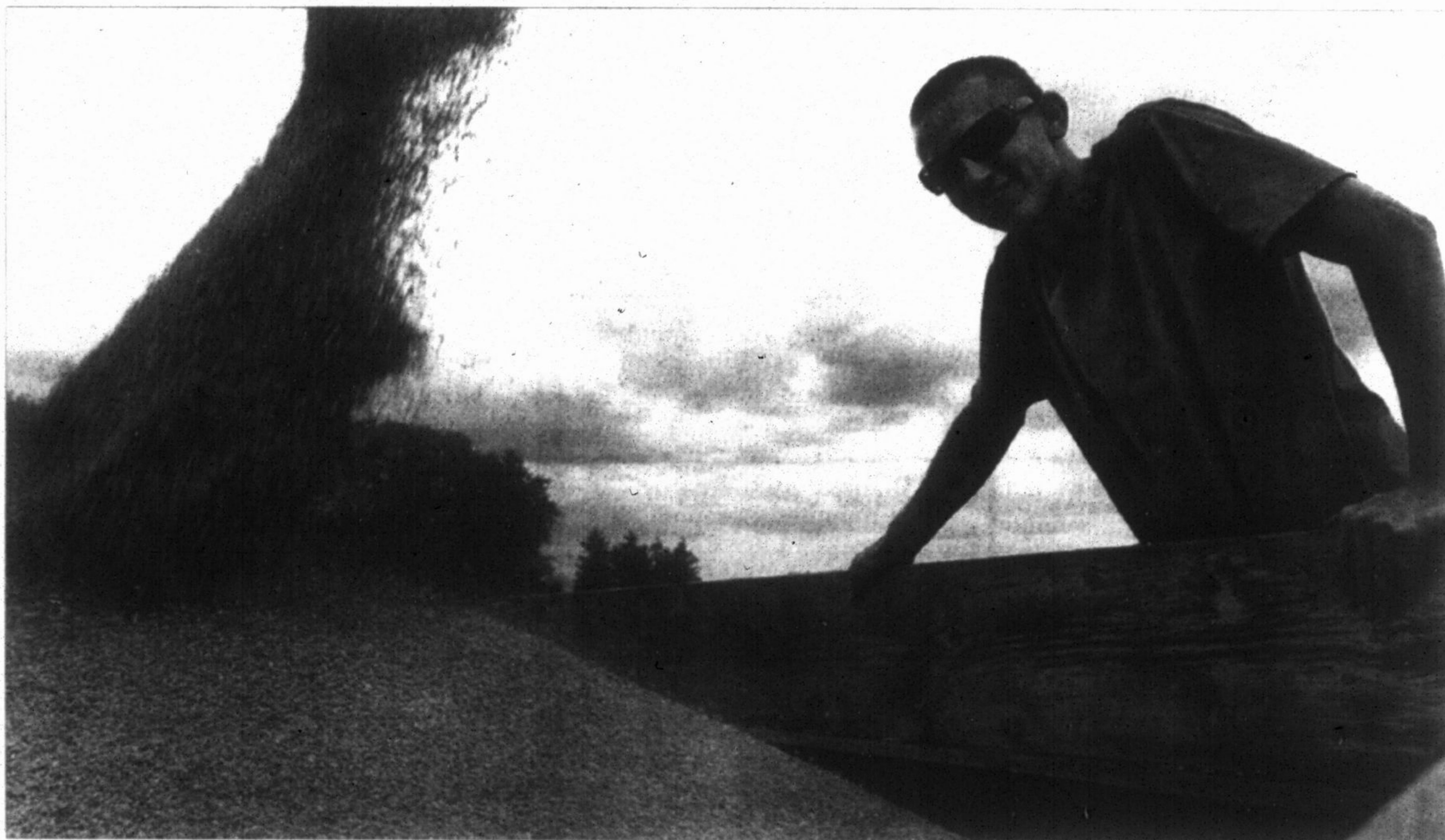
When the market started three years ago, part of its vision was to provide a "venue for farmers to sell their locally Ontario grown, with 100 miles or approximately 160 km radius produce, in season and for the community to buy fresh produce and interact with the people who grow the food they eat."

"I'm getting sick of answering questions (like) 'Where do the carrots come from, where do the potatoes come from...'" said Councillor Richard Bartley, who put forward the amendment to the market's mid-year status report passed by council July 19.

Mr. Bartley was also a member of the now-disbanded market committee.

The rules as of July 19 are: "Effective immediately local produce and products shall include

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STAFF PHOTO/SJOERD WITTEVEEN

Andrew Oldfield watches grain move into a mobile bin from a combine in a grain field on Stouffville Road near Warden Avenue. Grains are harvested for the Canadian Foodgrains Bank from fields in the region, this one owned by Galten Farms in Markham.

Harvest feeds families around world

BY SANDRA BOLAN
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The York Region Foodgrains Project was started by four churches in 2001, with just 24 acres being cultivated to help feed the hungry in developing countries.

Today, there are 19 projects on 365 acres of farmland being harvested by all church denominations within the region.

"It's probably the best program we have in Canada, the best for delivering food to developing countries," said Whitchurch-Stouffville's Terry O'Connor, co-ordinator of the project, which is part of the Canadian Foodgrains Bank.

There are six projects within Whitchurch-Stouffville, including Galten Farms, at Stouffville Road and Warden Avenue, which has 50 acres being utilized by Bethesda

Lutheran Church of Unionville.

"We really are enthusiastic about this project because it is matched so well with federal money," said Lorne Smith, a member of the church's congregation and its co-ordinator with York Region Foodgrains.

Last year, Bethesda Lutheran sent about \$31,000 to the parent organization, which when matched by the Canadian Interna-

tional Developing Agency, totalled \$150,000 in food aid for developing countries.

For every \$200 raised, a family of five is fed for three months.

In York Region, wheat, soybeans, corn, barley and hay are harvested for sale on the open market. That money is sent to Canadian Foodgrains, which then buys the

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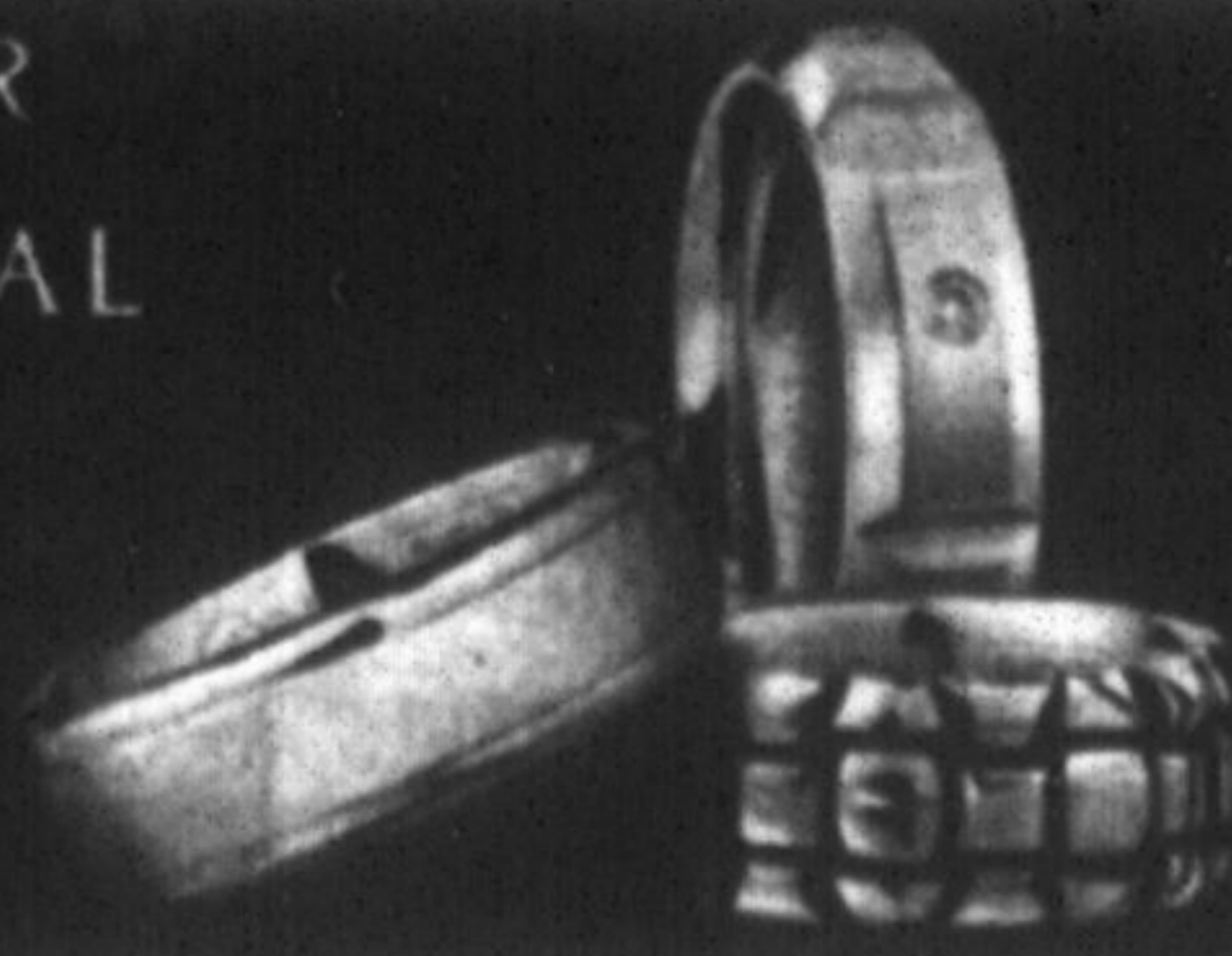
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