

Software developer, gift shop named businesses of year

A downtown gift shop and a banking software development company are Stouffville's businesses of the year.

The honours were handed out Monday night during the Whitchurch-Stouffville Chamber of Commerce's annual Business Recognition Awards reception. More than 120 people attended the sold-out event at Sleepy Hollow Country Club.

Candlelight and Memories was named small business of the year. Strategic Information Technology Ltd. won in the large business category.

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Other award recipients were:

- Mandy Day of Global Pet Foods (employee of the year)
- Duncan and Lynda Giles of Giles Chevrolet Ltd. (lifetime achievement)
- Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 459 (non-profit of the year)
- Stouffville Free Press (community impact)
- Stouffville Toyota (environmental leadership)
- Brian Ripchensky of Stouffville Home and Comfort Ltd. (young entrepreneur of the year)
- Red Bulb Espresso Bar (new business of the year).

Mayor Wayne Emmerson assisted awards sponsors in making the presentations.

There were 25 nominations made for this year's awards.



STAFF PHOTO/JIM MASON

John Paulino, clad in a Portugese soccer scarf to tie in with the international theme, gets set to announce a winner at the Whitchurch-Stouffville Chamber of Commerc's business awards reception at Sleepy Hollow Country Club Monday. Looking are Mayor Wayne Emmerson (left) and Francis Calderola of TD Canada Trust.

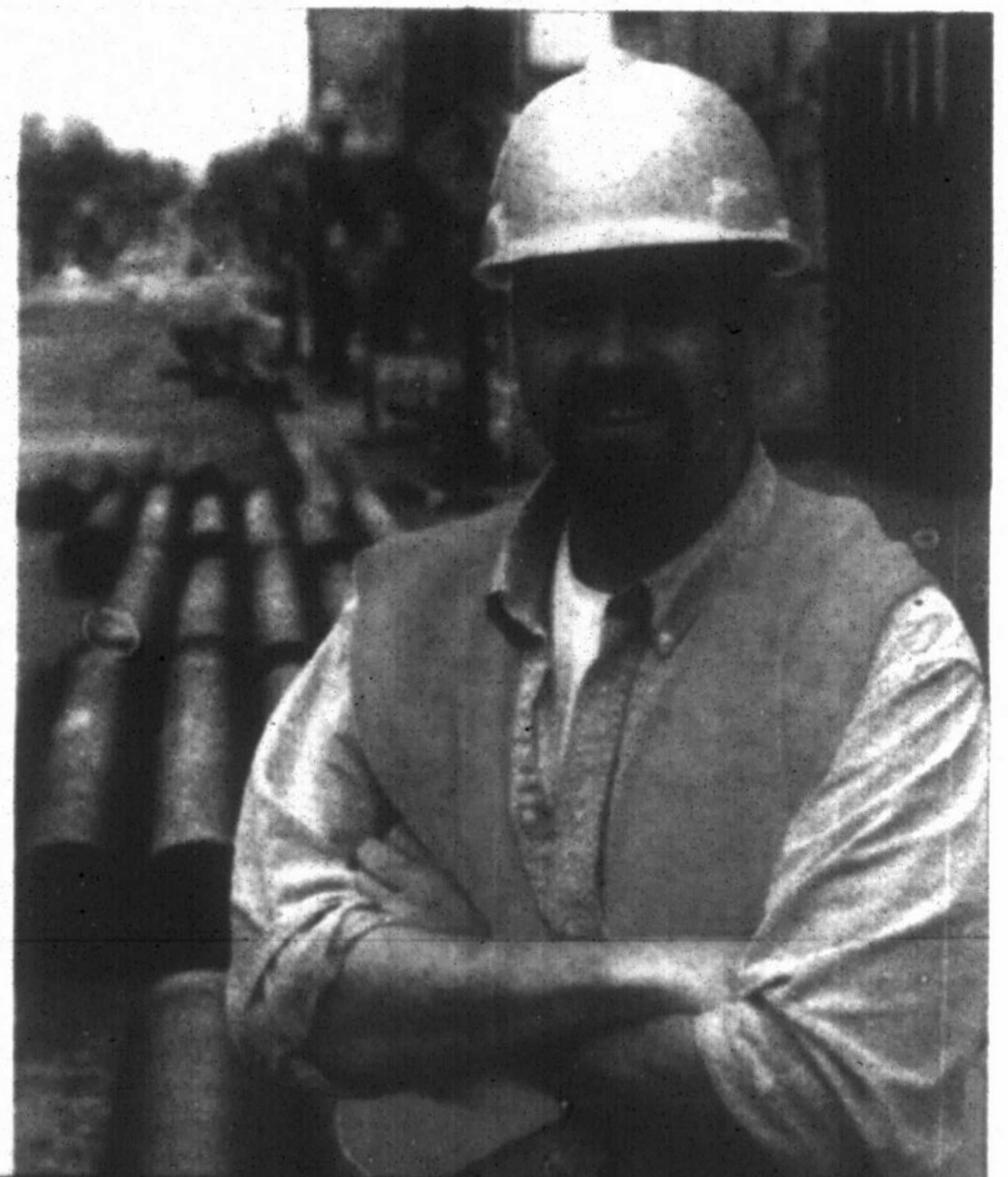
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