

George Ross remembered fondly by his family and many friends

By Kate Gilderdale
Stouffville This Month

George Ross, who was killed in a car crash June 11, was a staunch family man, whose exuberance and wholehearted enjoyment of the world around him made him a much-loved figure in the community.

In 1994, Mr. Ross and his wife, Joy, moved from their home in Stouffville to a beautiful property in Goodwood following his retirement from a long and distinguished career in photography. Giving up work was out of the question for him, however, since he was always looking for new challenges to master. "When we were first married he was in the navy," said Mrs. Ross.

"Then he decided he wanted to go into electronics." She owned a beauty salon in Stouffville at the time, so she supported him through school until he earned his qualifications and found a job. After working in electronics for some time,

he began to dabble in photography, and when a local studio became available he suggested to his wife they should buy it.

"I said, 'George, I will be behind you if that's what you want, but it has to be long-term, not just a four or five-year thing'," she recalled telling him. George Ross Photography was a Stouffville landmark for many years and in 1993, Mr. Ross sold the business, but continued to work there until 1994.

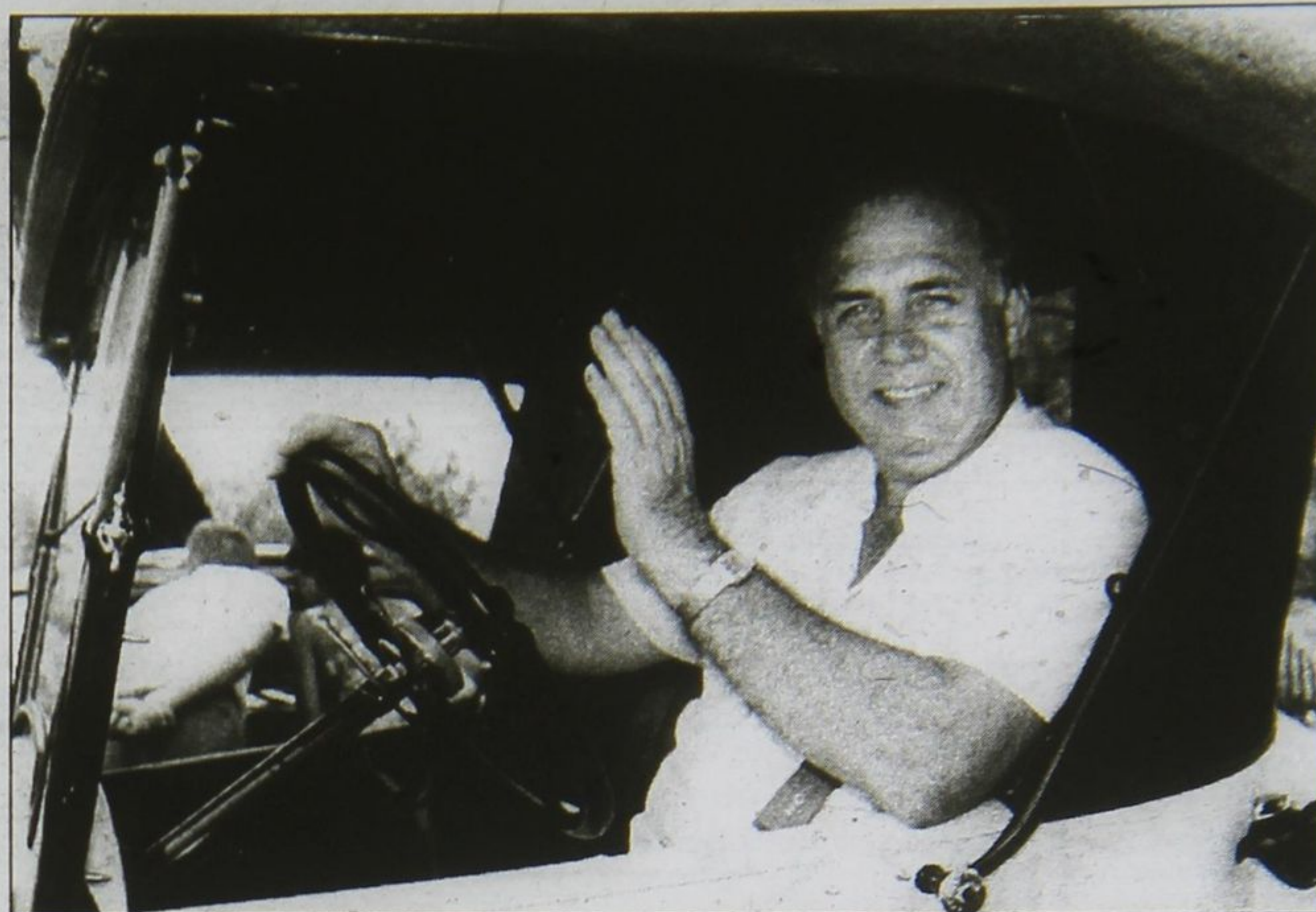
In the last few years he has worked in insurance and at the local office of H & R Block. He recently joined *Stouffville This Month* as a sales representative and also sold advertising space for the 2003 Strawberry Festival guide.

"He was a born salesman," said Mrs. Ross. "He just liked people. He was the type of person who, once he learned something or felt he knew as much as there was to know about it, would get bored and go on to something else."

Although he will be

sorely missed by his family and friends, and the many people who knew him in the community, Mrs. Ross takes some comfort from the fact that he made the most of every minute of his life. "He lived a full life in the time he had, and he certainly was a wonderful husband and father. He touched so many people." George and Joy Ross were married for almost 44 years.

Mr. Ross also leaves his children, Kate and Greg.



Sacred Music Night at Stouffville United Church celebrates 14th anniversary

Wanda Stride, organist and choir director at Stouffville United Church, will be the recipient of the 2003 Music Town, Ontario award at the 14th annual Sacred Music Festival on June 27 at 8 p.m.

The concert, held at the church, is part of Strawberry Festival weekend, and the presentation to Ms. Stride will be made by last year's winners, David and Sharon Baxter.

Others honoured in previous years include Lorne Boadway and Jim Rehill; Clarion Baker and Jean Hammond; Alma Oldham and The Wright Family; Bertha Stouffer and Julia Topping; David Boyd; Lawnie Wallace; Jean Thomas; Kathi Phillips; Doris Harvey; Ann Gage;

Gary Burke and Vince Parry. The award recognizes those who, over a period of several years, have made extraordinary contributions to our town's musical heritage.

This year's concert will feature the 40-voice male chorus Men of Note, as well as the group Hickory Roots with Wanda Stride, Sharon Baxter and Gary Burke, and the duo of Kathi Phillips and Sharon Baxter, accompanied by Gary Burke and Tom Pullin. A free-will offering will be received, with net proceeds assisting the Student Music Scholarship Fund that furthers music programs in area schools.

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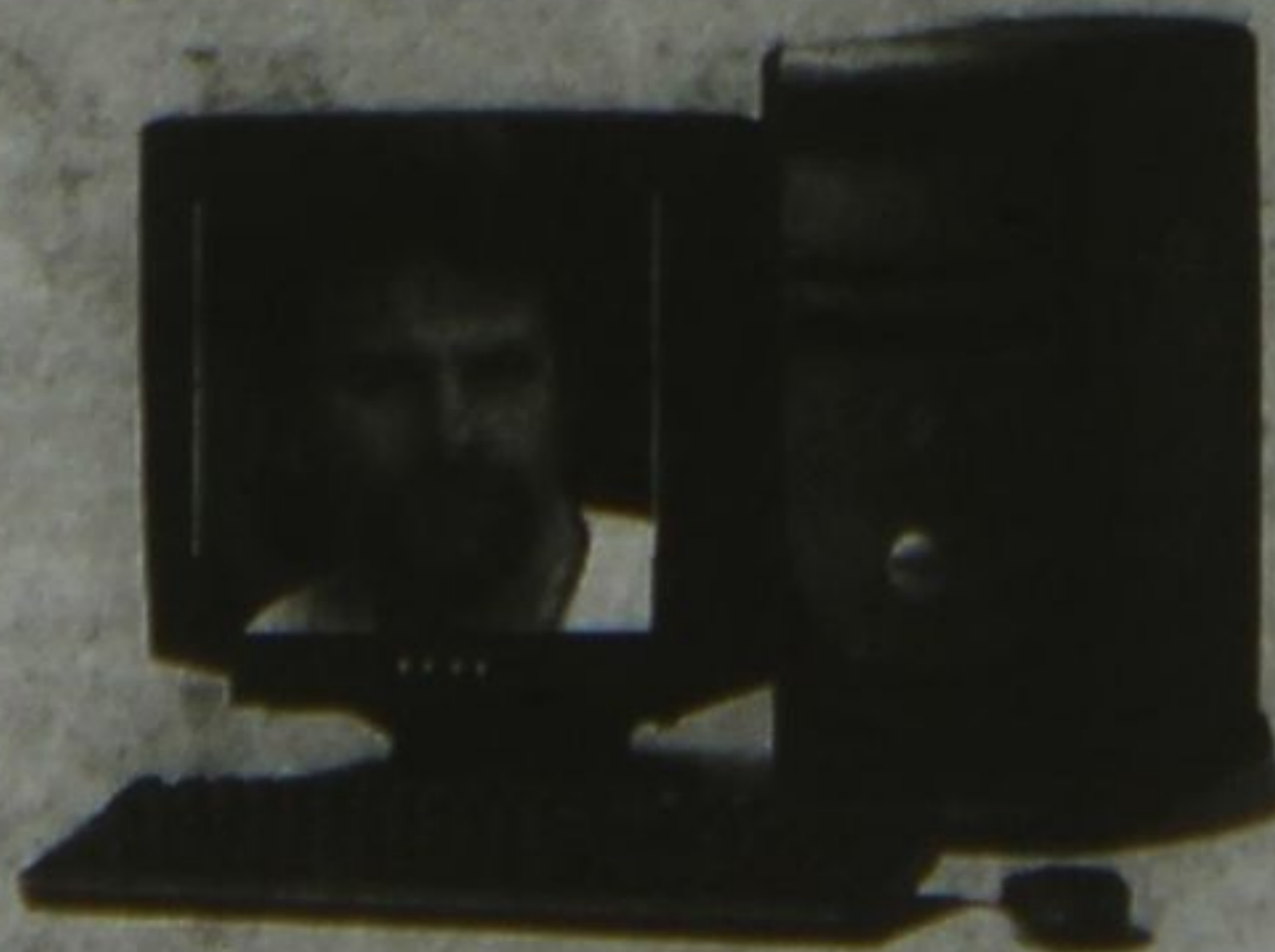
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