

Former city boy embraces country life

By Kate Gilderdale
Stouffville This Month

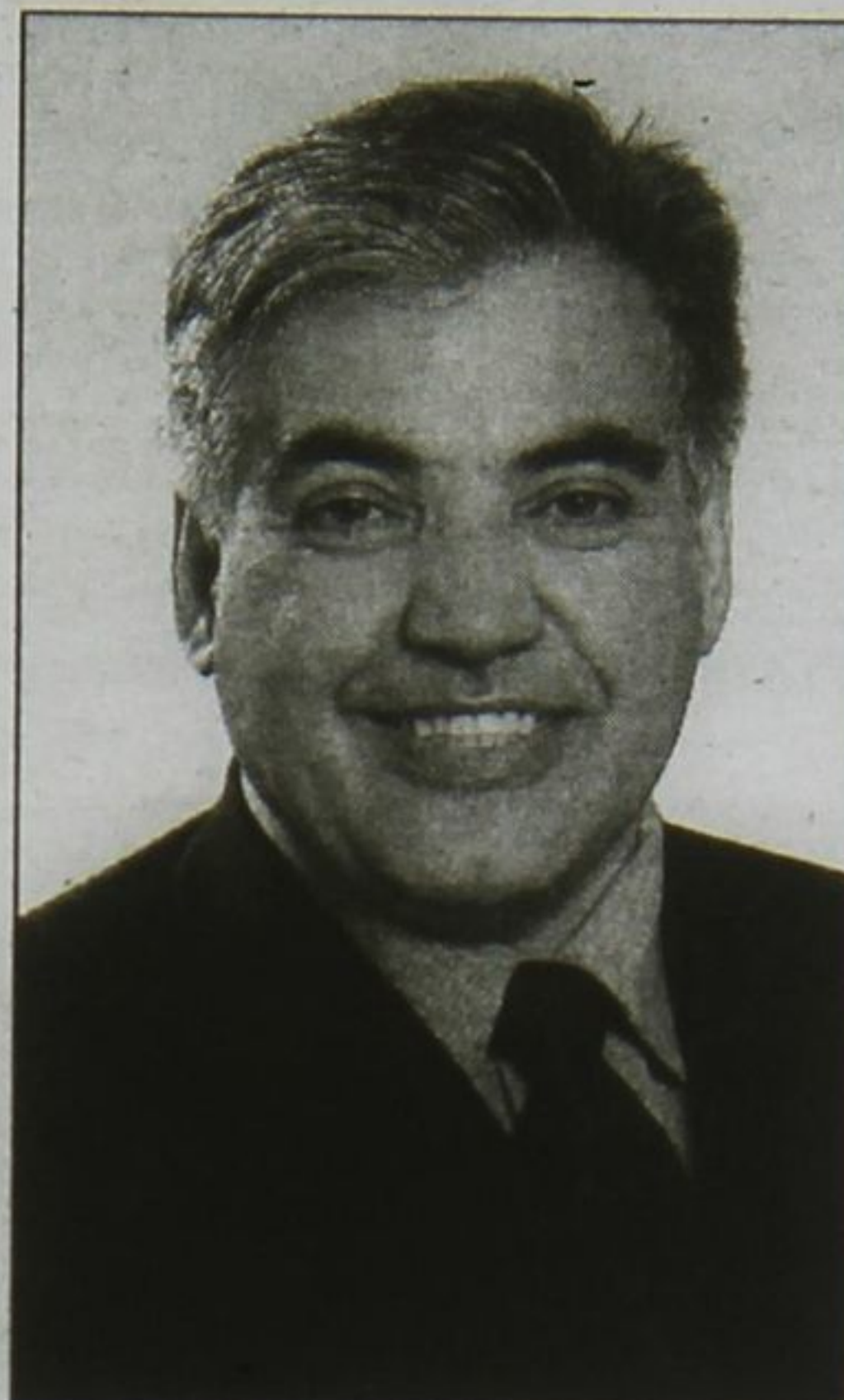
All his life, John Paulino has made the most of opportunities that have come his way, and has never stopped learning from experience.

The Ballantrae resident arrived in Montreal from his native Portugal in Feb. 1966 during a blizzard. "I was eight-and-a-half, and my father, who had been here a number of months, picked us up in a beaten up Aston Martin," he recalled. "It was snowing so hard you couldn't see the lines on the 401."

He grew up in downtown Toronto "under the neon signs of Honest Ed", and when high school teachers went on a three-month strike in his final year, he got a job at Ed's Warehouse to earn some extra money. Two weeks later, his boss offered him work at the Royal Alex, and he decided to quit school and pursue his dreams.

"The theatre is a different life," he said. "For the actors, it's home on the road." He applied for the hospitality and tourism program at Ryerson, working in the evenings to put himself through school. When he graduated from Ryerson, he was the first person to be hired into the Four Seasons' training program for managers.

"Carol Burnett and Elizabeth Taylor were making a made for TV



movie and stayed at the hotel for three months." It was in the early 80s, and he recalls one occasion when he was hooking up Carol Burnett's VCR. "John Ritter came up asked if we had a facsimile machine. I thought he was speaking another language, because they were very new at the time."

After two years working in Jasper, Alta., he returned to Toronto with a different view of city life. "I never wanted to live in the city again. I came back as catering manager at the Elmwood Club. Then I opened Markham Suites." Because of his background in the hotel industry, he was invited to

teach at George Brown College and his career took a completely different turn as a result.

"I became more fascinated with the computer aspect than the hotel aspect. I ran training operations for Computer City Canada which involved training both customers and staff on computer applications." He ended up work-

ing in the States for a Canadian company, but the constant travelling began to wear him down.

Now he has found his niche as an investment representative at Edward Jones in Stouffville, a community he is happy to call home. "Everything has fallen into place and I'm doing the things I want to in an incredible community."

Student Music Scholarship Concert

Stouffville District Secondary School is the venue for the 2003 Student Music Scholarship Concert, taking place Nov. 7 at 7:30 p.m.

Choirs, bands, dancers and individual performers from the 'family of schools' in and around Stouffville will present an evening of beautiful music and dance. A freewill offering will be collected during the program, with all proceeds to the participating schools.

The event is sponsored by St. James Presbyterian Church to encourage young people to pursue their artistic endeavours.

Christmas Sale at Christian School

A sale of crafts, gifts and baked goods will be held at Stouffville Christian School Dec. 4, 5 and 6 to raise funds for the school.

The school is located at 565 Uxbridge-Pickering Townline, just five minutes from downtown Stouffville. The 'Christmas Store' will be open 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Dec. 4 and 5, and 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Dec. 6. Everyone is welcome to drop by and get an early start on Christmas shopping.

Correction

The dates Oct. 18, Nov. 15 and Dec. 20 were incorrectly listed in the October issue as Fall Forest Festival events offered by the York Regional Forest staff.

A 3 km guided nature walk will be held Nov. 15 from 9 a.m. to noon, and on Dec. 20, everyone is welcome to join a hike through the forest to learn about the effects of winter on our natural habitat. For more information visit www.region.york.on.ca.

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