

# Weekender

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## Tackle pollution

By STEVE HOUSTON  
Staff Reporter

Musselman's Lake residents concerned about well water contamination have been urged to clean septic systems regularly to curb the presence of nitrates and bacteria in groundwater supplies.

This was one of the recommendations made Wednesday evening during a meeting at the Whitchurch Centennial Centre.

Representatives from Ontario's Environment Ministry, Whitchurch-Stouffville Town Council and the York Region Health Department provided information for a group of about 75 residents.

According to a summary report of the 1982 ministry study, the water quality in Musselman's Lake was 'generally suitable' for swimming and posed no health hazard.

However, in a 1984 study on private sewage disposal, the report stated that septic tanks were located too close together, possibly seeping septic chemicals into the aquifer.

"The tile beds (in septic tanks) seep, as they are designed to but because there are so many of them in such a small area, there is an accumulative build-up," Alex Giffen of the Ontario Environment Ministry said in an interview.

As a result, released trace chemicals don't dissolve naturally in the ground. Mr. Giffen added that because of development in the area, he didn't believe the problem would improve.

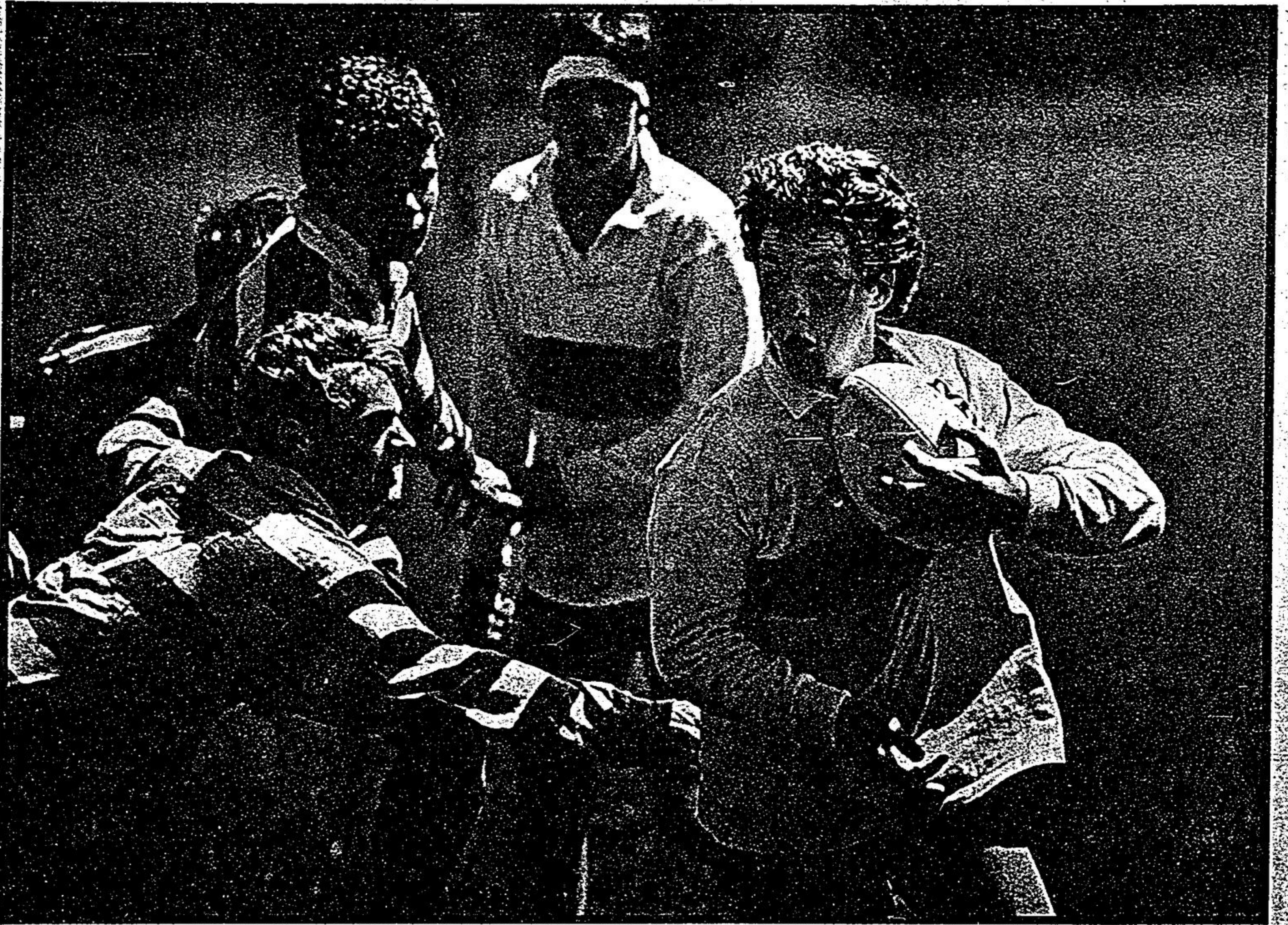
Ward 2 Councillor Ron Robb suggested residents have septic systems cleaned regularly and report unlawful dumping to the regional health department.

"This isn't the big city where we get our water from one main source," the Musselman's Lake representative said. "We have a responsibility. This is our community and we want the best from it. When you see a neighbor doing something unlawful don't turn your heads — report it."

Despite residents' concern and the documented levels of water contaminants, Mr. Giffen claimed the lake and well water pose no serious health threat.

Ontario's Environment Ministry is expected to release a subsequent report in July with updated findings.

Mr. Giffen said ratepayers and Town Council must co-operate to find a solution.



## Markham in Ontario Finals

Markham District High School's Midget rugby team is battling it out in the Ontario high school championships this weekend, after capturing the Georgian Bay title Wednesday. Here Brad May scrambles around a Barrie Eastview player while teammate Greg Laycock (back-

ground) watches. May scored the winning try in overtime to give Markham a dramatic 14-10 win over Eastview. For details, see page 28.

— Sjoerd Witteveen

## Officer mum on shooting spree

A Metro Toronto policewoman says department officials imposed a gag rule on her after she received a conditional discharge on a weapons offence.

When contacted by telephone Thursday, Hillary Hogg declined to speak about the sentence or the incident in which she fired her service revolver four times following a 1985 dispute with her parents.

The R.R. 1, Claremont woman told The Weekender she has been instructed by the police department not to comment publically on the incident.

Hogg was placed on probation

for two years as Judge Norman Edmondson passed sentence in Oshawa Provincial Court May 26.

The 29-year-old constable pleaded guilty to a charge of careless use of a firearm, while another charge — dangerous use of a firearm — was dropped by the Crown.

Terms of her probation are that she undergo counselling for alcohol abuse, refrain from using a firearm except in the line of police duty and report regularly to a probation officer.

Hogg was arrested and charged on Aug. 5 of last year after holding

Durham Regional Police at bay for 12 hours on the grounds of her family's Positive Outlook Farm, located west of the Uxbridge Twp. hamlet of Coppins Corners. She was on sick leave at the time.

In passing sentence, Judge Edmondson attributed the policewoman's "careless" firing of her handgun to alcohol abuse stemming from a serious leg injury.

Hogg, who told court she is a member of Alcoholics Anonymous, began drinking heavily after hurting her knee in a work-related fall down Scarborough Bluffs in April of 1985.

"In the course of the medical

treatment, alcoholic consumption was prescribed and (Hogg) became addicted," the judge explained.

The 11-year force veteran claimed she has no recollection of the shooting incident due to her consumption of liquor.

Metro Police Chief Jack Marks said Constable Hogg is expected to first return to "light duty" at headquarters, then eventually resume a full shift, which will entail carrying a gun.

The Uxbridge Twp. resident could still be charged under the Police Act.

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