

# Weekender

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## One-way granted for Blake Street

TRACY KIBBLE  
Staff Reporter

Blake Street in Stouffville will become a temporary one-way route running north, banning motorists from using the street as a Main Street bypass, Town officials decided Tuesday.

More than 10 Blake Street residents, who waited out a 2-1/2 hour meeting to hear the decision, applauded Council after the vote.

But it may only be for the time being. Council decided to consider other alternatives if the one-way route poses any problems.

Resident spokesman Rita Thomas, who wrote to Council last October, was not happy with Council's previous solution to have the road widened. The road runs parallel to the CNR tracks south of Main Street in Stouffville.

"Widening Blake Street would be a disaster. Making it one-way is the only way to go," Mrs. Thomas told local officials Tuesday.

"Many of our houses are two to four feet from the road and it is not made to accommodate the excessive traffic," she added. "I can sit on my front yard and tap cars as they go by."

But Mayor Fran Sainsbury, the only member of Council to vote against the residents' request, said making the street a one-way would

set a precedent for similar requests.

"We don't have any one-ways in Stouffville. Once we do one, we'll have many more requests. I'd like to see the street better-lit, widened, and fenced. (Council could) build sidewalks to make it safe, but a one-way is confusing. Signage is wonderful but some people don't pay attention. Strangers won't know," the mayor said.

Mayor Sainsbury and Public Works Director Paul Whitehouse also stressed a one-way could cause problems for snow plowing and would direct traffic onto Lloyd Street.

But Mrs. Thomas said the move would not cause more traffic on Lloyd Street. She said Blake Street is "enticing" to motorists because they can bypass Main Street, but Lloyd would not be used for the same purpose.

If people could not use Blake Street, they will be forced to travel up Main Street to their direct turning point, Mrs. Thomas insisted.

"No other side street has nearly the traffic we have and on the weekends it's especially dangerous - hundreds of cars whiz by our houses," Mrs. Thomas said.

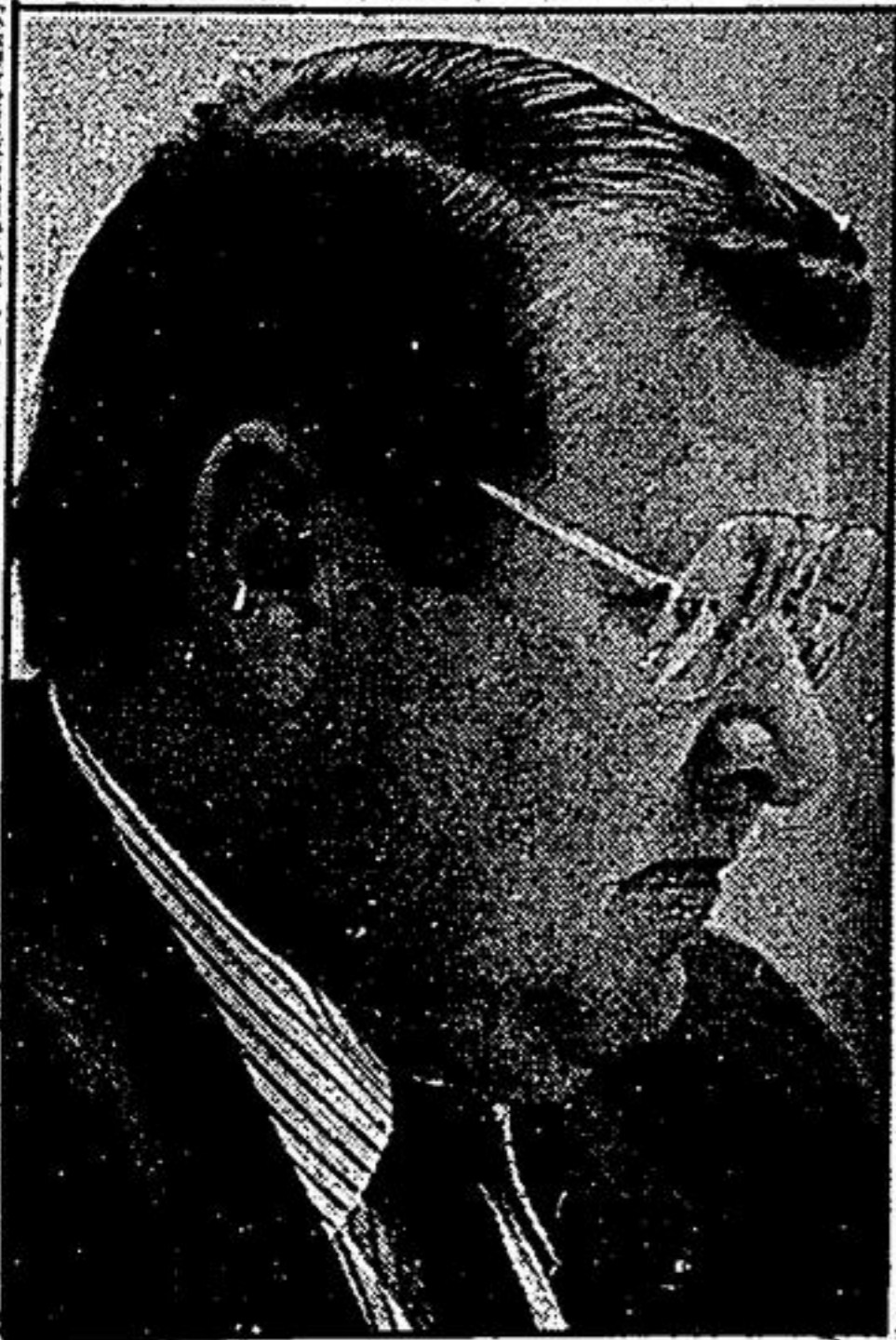
The one-way would make it illegal for motorists to sidestep Main Street going south, but vehicles from Burkholder, Rose and Lloyd Streets could still travel north onto Main.

Ward 6 Councillor Jim Sanders, who represents the residents, said it would not be precedent-setting, because Blake is "completely different" than any other street in Whitchurch-Stouffville.

"It acts as a collector road to the south end of town. The cost of widening the road would be much more costly," Councillor Sanders said.

And residents applauded Ward 2 Councillor Ron Robb when he said, "this is done all the time in Metro Toronto," adding, "we should not be afraid to make changes."

Ward 5 Councillor Doug Alles said Council could deal with similar future requests "one at a time," and agreed with Councillor Robb that Council should not be afraid to make the street a one-way route.



RON ROBB  
Time for changes

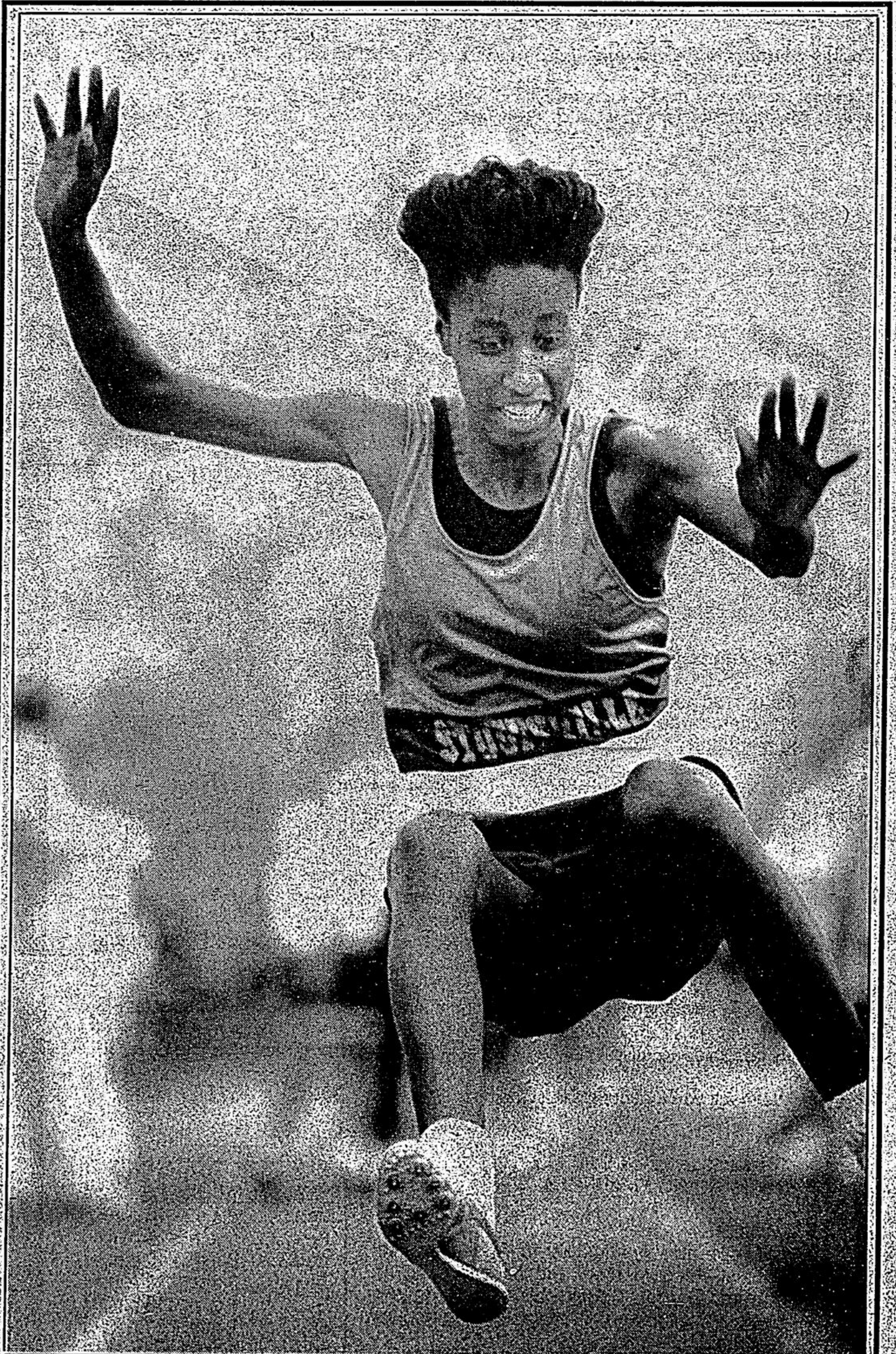


photo: SJOERD WITTEVEN

### Long jump launch

Stouffville District Secondary School track and field athlete Reaquel Beecher takes flight during the Senior girls long jump competition Wednesday at the York Region high school championships. The event was held at York

University in Toronto and featured competitors from schools across York Region. The championships ran Wednesday and Thursday. A report on the results of the SDSS effort at the competition will be carried next Wednesday.

### Bumpy rail crossing targeted for repair

Something has to be done to prevent the Main Street railway tracks from heaving every year, said Ward 4 Councillor Wayne Emmerson at a recent council in committee meeting.

He asked Public Works Director Paul Whitehouse if it is possible to get some subsidy "to keep the tracks from rising every year."

plaints regarding the bumpy railway crossing just south of the Stouffville Go Station, and requested a repair job be done.

Mr. Whitehouse told council there is some subsidy available and assured local officials his department is working on a report to get the tracks fixed under the yearly connecting-link funding from the province. A report on local roads is expected later this year.

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Looking for a best friend? So is Toby. See page 53 for more on this lovable pooch.

See our Women In Business section in today's Weekender.