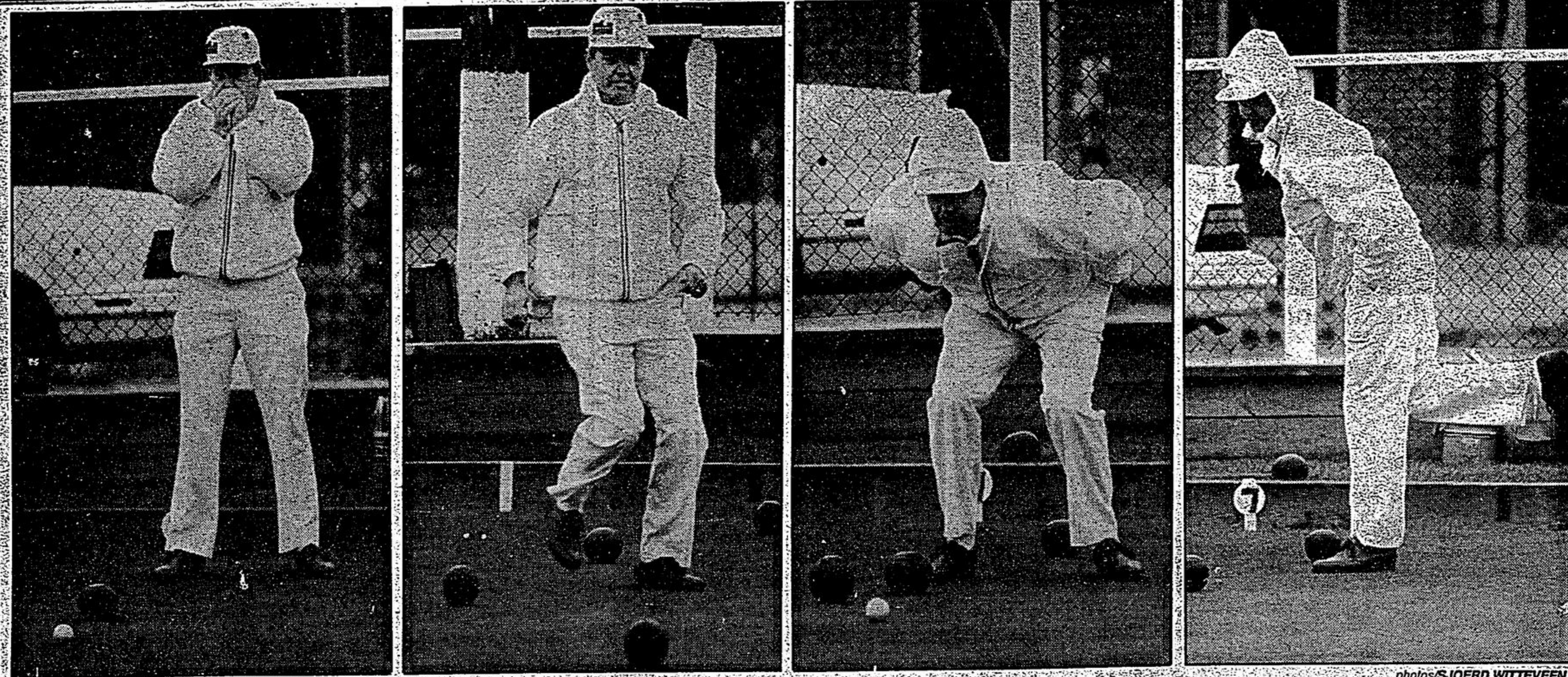


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photos SJOERD WITTEVEN

Body language at its best

The Stouffville Lawn Bowling green was buzzing with activity last Saturday morning during the Schell Lumber tournament. Lawn bowling enthusiasts took to the green with eager anticipation and tried their best to land their bowls nearest the jack. And the event brought out the animation in people as witnessed here by competitor Murray Ferguson. Here, a sequence of photos show Mr. Ferguson's

reactions during the tournament. In the first photo, he battles the chilling weather by warming his hands. Next, he awaits the arrival of the ball. In the third photo, he monitors the collection of bowls at his end, and finally, he offers a little kick to encourage the bowl into the best spot on the green. Lawn bowling is growing in popularity, as enthusiasts battle the image that it is just a game for senior citizens.

Industry needed to 'ease tax burden'

TRACY KIBBLE
Staff Reporter

Whitchurch-Stouffville needs industry to ease the burden on its taxpayers, Mayor Fran Sainsbury told York Region officials last week.

In light of losing McNeil Pharmaceuticals - which represents a six per cent loss of Whitchurch-Stouffville's tax base - and the more recent closure of Stouffville Machine Inc., the Town needs to get regional approval for a 1,300-acre industrial park in Gormley, she added.

And plans that have been in place since 1986 should not be undermined to fit current regional policies, Mayor Sainsbury said.

She urged the Region to exempt Gormley Industrial Park plans from an industry on private services restriction and said it's up to the Ontario Municipal Board - not the Region - to decide its fate.

Whitchurch-Stouffville has been studying lands in Gormley for a proposed

Mayor makes pitch to save plans for 1,300 acre Gormley Industrial Park

industrial park for four years, which would need an Official Plan amendment, and Mayor Sainsbury said these documents "cannot be challenged" by the region to fit 1990 restrictions.

But regional officials say further industry in rural communities is a "significant shift in the urban pattern of the Region," and add that a policy to screen plans on private services should be in place until York has an Official Plan.

But both East Gwillimbury and Whitchurch-Stouffville say the Region's job should end at ensuring industrial plans are not detrimental to the environment. They say further study intrudes on local planning initiatives.

But "New concentration of employment (in rural communities) will generate new

commuting patterns as well as potentially significant truck traffic. The location and scale of such industrial developments is therefore a legitimate regional concern," states a Planning Committee report.

Mayor Sainsbury said York "must consider tax increases and debt to taxpayers of Whitchurch-Stouffville," and added the Town has already lost McNeil Pharmaceutical, "the largest and most prestigious industry in Whitchurch-Stouffville."

"We have to survive too and pay our own way," Mayor Sainsbury said.

She also voiced concern that the Town has lost and will continue to lose industry to Newmarket and parts of Durham Region with such strict regional planning policies in place.

"Telling us how much industry we need does not solve the problem. Exempt (Gormley Industrial Park) from the restriction so we can get on with it," she urged officials.

But York's Planning Commissioner Hershel Weinberg said Gormley Industrial Park is "a difficult area to examine and is not suitable for industry," because of flowing wells that will have individual industries "punching wells through through the substream."

And Regional Chairman Eldred King said York "must form a policy" to restrict industry on private services that may need further regional funding because "we're confronted with economic conditions."

"It must be nice to have the pipe," Mayor Sainsbury said when her request to exempt Gormley Industrial Park from the proposed policy as it relates to the area was voted down.

The Region will continue to study the matter.

OPINION

The immediate impact of the Ontario Municipal Board's decision to exempt Gormley Industrial Park from the industry on private services restriction is a relief for Whitchurch-Stouffville.



SPORTS

Stouffville's softball team defeated the Gormley team 10-0 in a game played last night.



THE FAIR

