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Stouffville input on plan may be lost: Mayor

ROGER BELGRAVE
Staff Reporter

The region's timing couldn't be worse, believes Whitchurch-Stouffville Mayor Fran Sainsbury. York Region has moved to send a preliminary official plan report to area municipalities for comment. But the report comes to Stouffville

at a time when local council has broken up for the summer and key planning officials have also scheduled vacation time.

"The timing is most inappropriate," Sainsbury said. "After waiting 20 years for an official plan, they (the region) want an answer right now?" she added. Local council isn't scheduled to

sit again until Aug. 13. On Thursday, the mayor was hastily trying to arrange a meeting between local and regional planning officials. She also mentioned the possibility of meeting with the region's chief administrative officer to go over the report.

Sainsbury wants portions of the report clarified before it is presented to the public.

As well as circulating the report to municipal officials, the region wants public meetings held in Vaughan, Markham and Newmarket in August. The meetings are intended to present the issues and five alternative development scenarios contained in the report for public comment. Sainsbury wants it made clear that the report does not indicate where future growth in Stouffville will be accommodated.

By the year 2011, Stouffville's population is expected to more than double.

"We have to make sure what we take to the public is an accurate representation of our growth."

Sainsbury is also anxious to know how growth in areas not on the York/Durham sewer line will be serviced. There has been much ado about placing more septic systems on the Oak Ridges Moraine.

The region's activities also come at a time when Stouffville is in the midst of its own secondary official plan studies. Results from studies should be an integral part of preparing the region's official plan, she noted.

But at its current pace, the region seems destined to proceed without that information.

It could mean the town's expensive undertaking could be academic. "If they don't wait for that, it would have been all for naught," Sainsbury

indicates. The town might end up having to go to Ontario Municipal Board to amend the region's plan. Sainsbury believes to some degree

Stouffville has been overlooked as unknown forces try to rush the process through before the current term ends.

Sainsbury calls for dumpsite review

ROGER BELGRAVE
Staff Reporter

Mayor Fran Sainsbury is among a number of other York Regional councillors who want the province to conduct an environmental review of the Keele Valley dumpsite.

Recently, the Ministry of Environment announced it would increase tonnage capacity at two metro landfill sites while searching for another long-term facility. Keele Valley, where York Region disposes of most of its garbage, was one of the two identified.

But the decision was made without studying the effects the increased tonnage would have on the environment. "It may be unable to handle the extra leachate," commented Sainsbury.

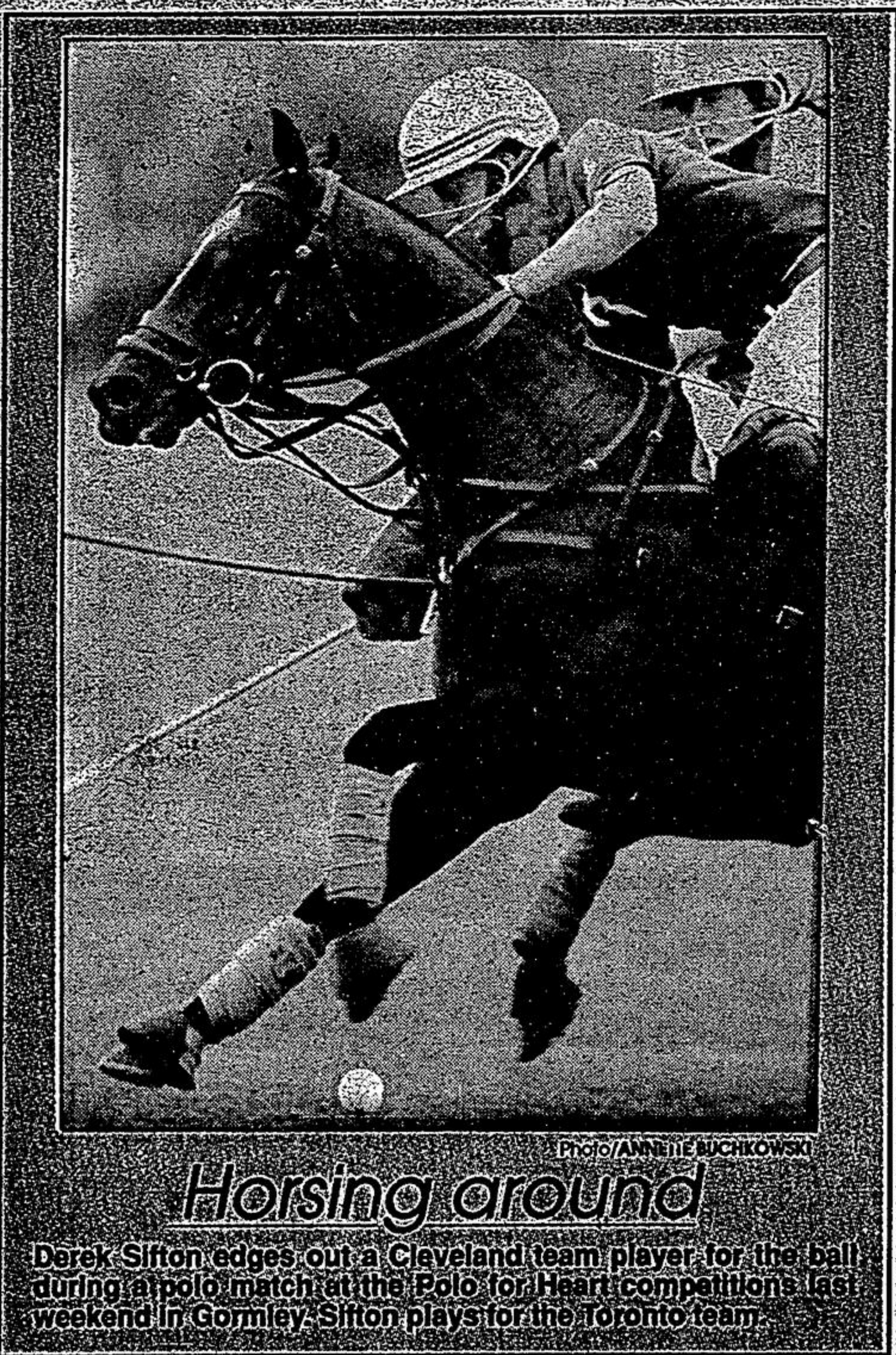
A full environmental assessment may not be possible, but there is time an environmental review, she believes. There may be even more time for a review since the amount of waste going to metro landfill sites is beginning to decline. Metro officials predict if the trend continues, one and a half years will be added to the life of metro's two dumpsites.

A recent report released by the Metropolitan Works Department indicated the total tonnage of disposal waste received at their waste management sites from Jan. 1 to May 31, 1991 has decreased by 29 per cent compared to the same time last year.

The report also projected 26 per cent less garbage (down to about 2,300,000 tonnes from 3,112,000) would go to metro's landfill sites this year than did in 1990.

The reduction can be attributed to the following factors according to the report:

- Progress in reduction, reuse and recycling of municipal, industrial, commercial and institutional waste
- Increased private sector waste export from metro because of high management fees and additional material bans
- Impact of current economic conditions on waste generation.



Horsing around

Derek Sifton edges out a Cleveland team player for the ball during a polo match at the Polo for Heart competition's last weekend in Gormley. Sifton plays for the Toronto team.

Bowes confronts year-round school opposition in TV debate

This week marks the start of public consultation on year-round schooling in York Region. Although the main thrust of the public information process will start in September with more than 100 meetings planned, York Region Board Chairman Harry Bowes and Thornhill Trustee Patti Grand appeared on a local cable television phone-in show Monday evening with all-year school opponents Ken Kallish and Janice Okada.

Kallish and Okada are Richmond Hill residents heading up the Anti-Modified School Year Coalition (AMSVC), an organization of parents united against the York Region Board of Education's plan for a pilot project in Markham where students would attend school on a 12-month basis without a common summer break.

The preferred model would have students divided into four tracks, each forming a separate school with each track in school for 45 days and off for 15 days in a continual 12-month cycle. One track would be on vacation at any given time, allowing a school to increase its population by 25 per cent. Students would receive the same number of instructional days as in the traditional 10-month school year.

"I just feel it's wrong," said Susan Ward, a Unionville parent. Her family shares a two-week vacation in the summer and she said this would be destroyed with the modified school year.

The development of children is also at stake, Ward said. "You're only a child once, then you have to work the rest of your life." She added valuable experience is gained through holding down a full-time job during the summer months.

The board's Modified School Year Committee selected Middlefield Collegiate Institute, slated to open in Milliken by Sept. 1992, and two feeder schools, Armadale and Parkland public schools, to test the plan. A vote at the January 1992 meeting will decide the fate of year-round schooling in York Region. If trustees approve the pilot, all-year school project will be set up for the following September.

Trustees passed a motion June 17 to seek community input on the concept, but Kallish is suspicious of soliciting public opinion just four months before the board votes to either go with the pilot project or trash it.

"I'm convinced consultation was never on their agenda," he said. "We really think they railroaded it down the throats of parents."

AMSVC will concentrate on raising the consciousness level of the region, especially before the municipal election in November when trustee seats are up for grabs, Kallish said. "We'll ensure the year-round school issue is raised at candidates' meetings."

Bowes said a group of 16 vice-principals will be trained in early September to host small community meetings to discuss year-round schools. These information-sharing forums will start in mid-September with each vice-principal holding about eight meetings at schools throughout the region, most of them on Tuesdays and Thursdays, with a concentration on the Markham area.

The committee is also working on an information handbook to be ready for its next meeting Aug. 20, to contain answers to the most commonly-asked questions.



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