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## O'Connor takes health ministry post

TRACY KIBBLE  
 Staff Reporter

Durham/York MPP Larry O'Connor, who last week resigned as parliamentary assistant to Environment Minister Ruth Grier, has been given a new portfolio, he told *The Weekender* Thursday.

O'Connor will be sworn in next week as parliamentary assistant to Health Minister Frances Lankin.

"Considering the move I just made (out of the Environment Ministry) this is a vote of confidence," from Ontario Premier Bob Rae, O'Connor said.

O'Connor added his entrance into the Health Ministry will be an interesting challenge, although a difficult post in light of upcoming changes in many of the ministry's current policies.

"The Health Ministry is the largest in the provincial government which



O'CONNOR

absorbs one-third of its budget," O'Connor said.

However, Environment Not Economics spokesman Ken Jobe said O'Connor's move places him in the same situation as he faced in the environment ministry.

"We have a toxic contaminates problem in Musselman's Lake, and all kettle lakes and it's getting worse. Larry O'Connor has again compromised his ability to deal with the public in local health issues. We have lost a voice," Jobe said.

Jobe added that O'Connor's new post will likely keep him from his recent promise to help local citizen groups in their on-going fight against the dumps.

## GO to spend \$60 million on station

GO Transit wants to spend \$238 million to improve a 28-kilometre passenger train service ending in Vandorf.

The public-funded program is currently undertaking an Environment Assessment (EA) study to add five new stations stretching from York Mills Road to Bloomington Sideroad.

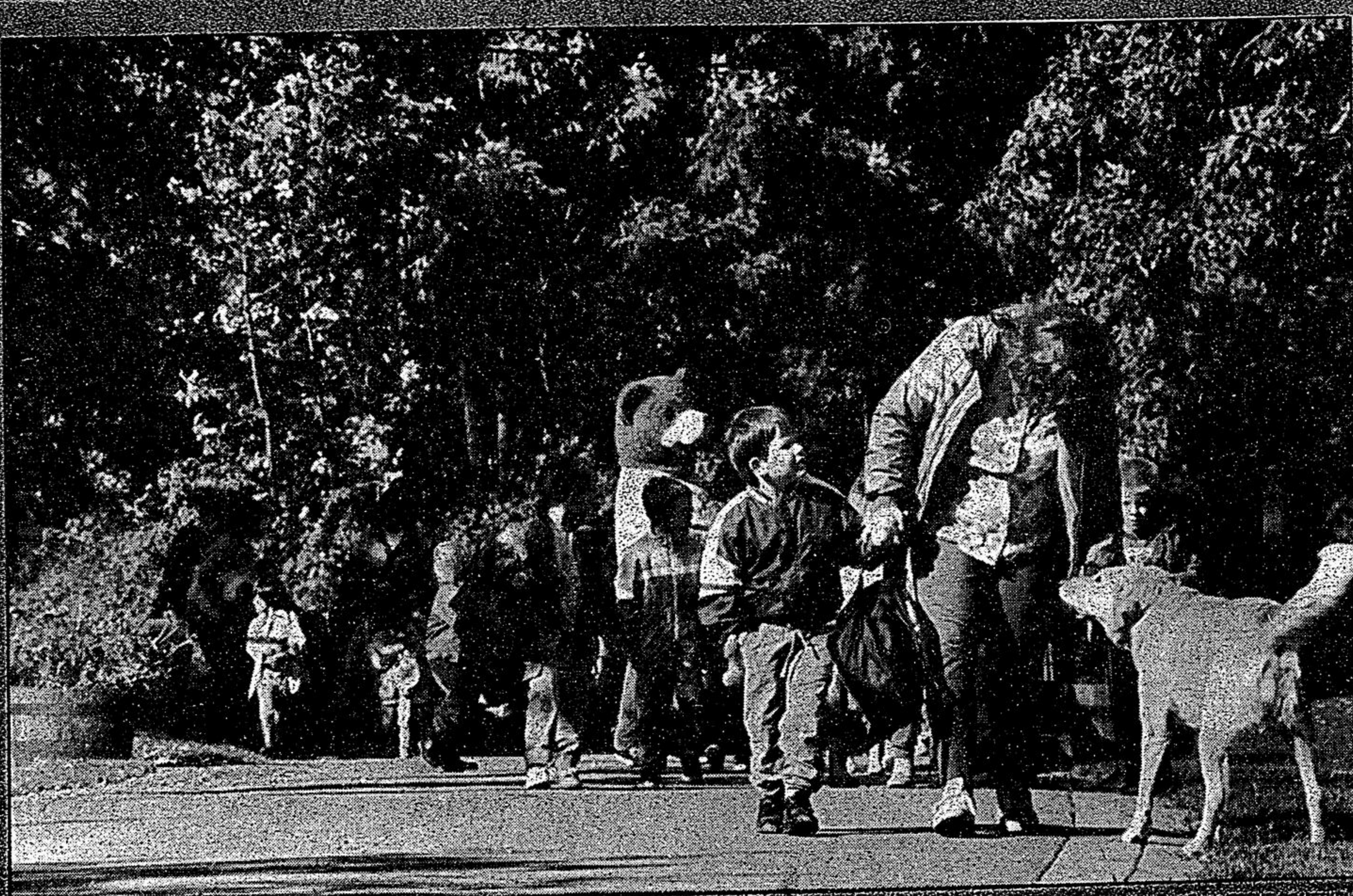
GO's engineering firm, Fenco Engineers Inc., told local politicians Tuesday that the expanded service to Vandorf will cost \$60 million and depending on study and construction schedules, could be completed by 1997.

Hugh Clelland said the EA should be complete by 1993 to allow "two-way traffic" on the 28-kilometre run.

GO said the improved service will mean 600 Vandorf-area residents can benefit from the new Bloomington Sideroad/Hwy. 404 station by 1996. Officials forecast 1,000 Vandorf riders will ditch their cars and use the train by the year 2011.

GO officials said about 5,200 riders in total currently use the Oriole Junction system into Union Station each day. That figure is expected to double to 7,000 in 1996, and nearly triple in 2022 to 14,000 riders a day.

The all-day service is expected to nearly double from four trains during morning and afternoon rush hours to seven trains running southbound from Vandorf to Union Station. The off-peak service will consist of trains running every 90 minutes (34 trains a day) between the two stations.



## Teddy bears picnic

Sandra Bonner leads her son Matthew and the rest of the Whitechurch (Highland) Public School kindergarten class through a Woodbine forest on the Waino property near the school where they are met by the Walker dog Sandy. The group later had a picnic with the century 21 bear.

## OFA to march in protest

The Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA) will march in protest of the dumps at a Queen's Park rally planned for Wednesday, Sept. 30.

Environment Not Economics (ENE) - an umbrella organization representing citizens' groups from Durham, Peel and York

Regions - promotes better waste management in Ontario. ENE organized the rally on Wednesday to target politicians as they return to work after summer break.

The rally is to protest against the Interim Waste Authority's (IWA) lack of credibility in its site

search process of landfill sites, as well as incompetent research and the delay of the short list of candidate sites.

Participants are asked to gather at 11:30 a.m. at the bandshell north Queen's Park. A demonstration, featuring key speakers will follow at 12:30 p.m.

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