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Garbage contract still not open for tender

TRACY KIBBLE
Staff Reporter

Local politicians remained surprisingly tight-lipped last week regarding its \$2.3 million garbage collection contract after they were expected to publicly re-open the issue for debate.

During a meeting two weeks ago, it was revealed officials had secretly waived the town's tender policy for a five-year trash contract during March budget deliberations.

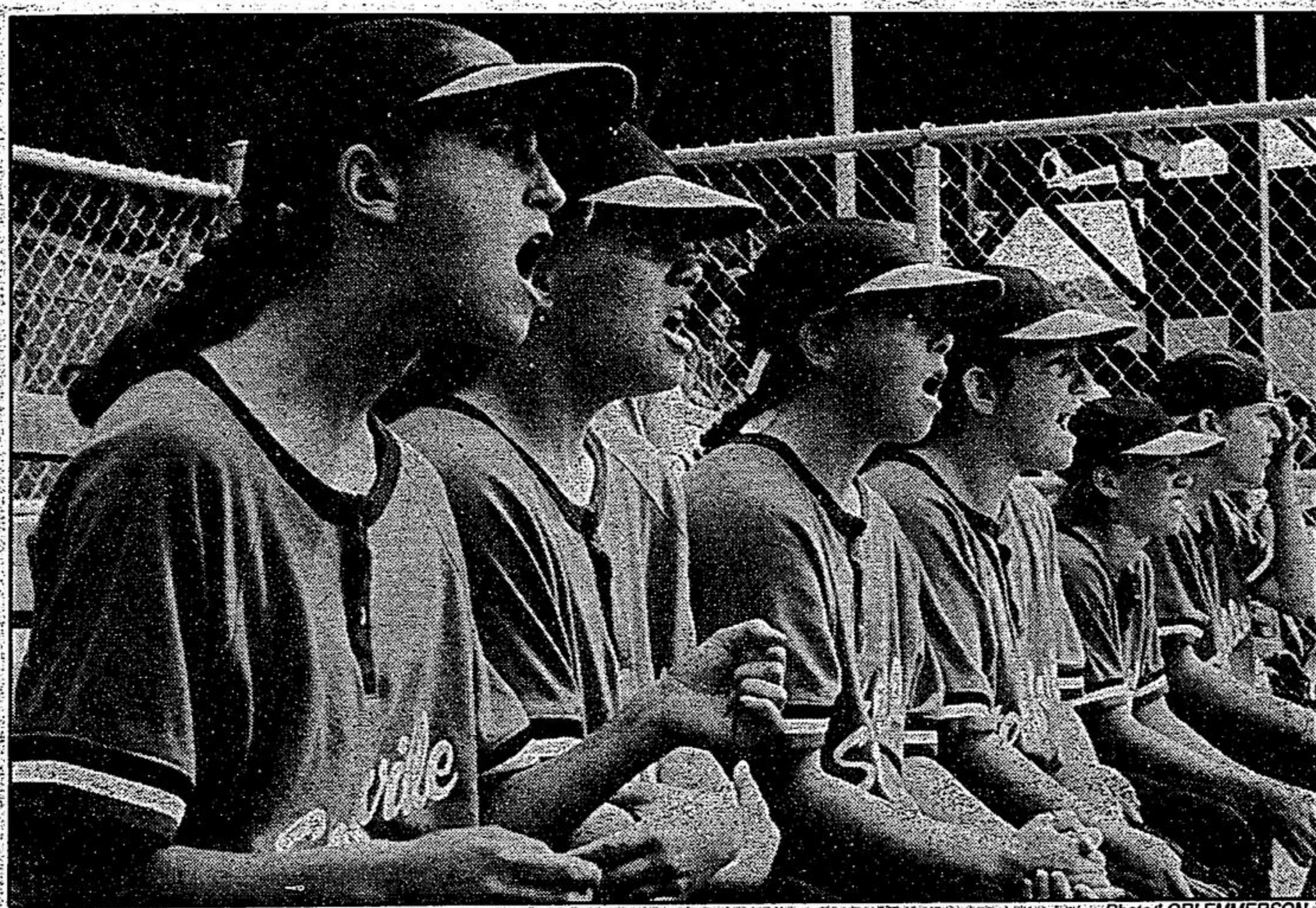
The decision squeaked by on a 4-3 vote to waive tendering the \$2.3 million contract and hand the job to Miller Waste Disposal Systems - a company which has handled the town's garbage pick-up and disposal for more than five years.

Majority council had voted to take Miller up on its offer to help the town shave \$100,000 from its \$516,500 yearly waste management budget, and are within their legal right to waive the tendering process.

However, chief administrative officer, Merlin Dewing said he had expected officials to re-open the issue, suggesting council might even "re-think its earlier decision" to waive the policy.

Dewing said officials may still decide to tender the contract

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Go team, go

Members of the Stouffville Kellington Gardens squad novice girls softball championships. Stouffville lost the game to St. Catharines. See page 12 for details.

Fatal crash

Markham man dies in hospital

A Markham man was killed in Whitchurch-Stouffville on Friday, Aug. 13 after a dump truck crossed an intersection on a red light, York Region Police reports stated this week.

According to police, a Ford dump truck was eastbound on Bloomington Sideroad at about 8:15 a.m. and approached the northbound off-ramp of Hwy 404. As the truck approached, the traffic signals turned red

for the east/west traffic and green for the northbound traffic. At this same time, two vehicles were approaching the intersection from the north bound off-ramp and entered the intersection properly on the green light, police said.

The truck proceeded into the intersection against the red light and struck both vehicles. A Toronto woman driving a red Toyota was transported to York

Central Hospital in Richmond Hill and released after treatment of minor injuries. The driver of the second car, David Fitzsimons of Markham was transported to New York County Hospital in Newmarket where he died of his injuries.

The Toronto dump truck driver was uninjured. Investigations are continuing and charges are pending, police said.

Four-car crash hurts one; snarls traffic

Whitchurch-Stouffville fire crews and the Aurora OPP were on the scene of a four-car crash last week at the intersection of Bloomington Sideroad and Hwy 48. The crash occurred on Tuesday, Aug. 10 at about 4:50 p.m. and involved motorists from Lindsay, Pefferlaw, Newmarket

and Aurora, according to the OPP. The accident slowed traffic from all directions at the intersection for nearly one hour as crews attempted to clear up the debris. One person was injured, police said. The incident is still under investigation, and charges are pending, police said.

Leachate collection triggers concern

TRACY KIBBLE
Staff Reporter

Leachate from an abandoned landfill site in rural Whitchurch-Stouffville may be getting worse over time, it was revealed last week.

Local politicians were discussing a five-year leachate monitoring program at the former York sanitation landfill site on Hwy 48 north of Bloomington Road, which will take place again this year.

Waste Management of Canada Incorporated (WMI), which owns the former site, is ordered to continue and report on-going surface and groundwater monitoring, under Environment Ministry guidelines and approval.

Last year, officials decided the town's consulting engineer geologists, Gartner Lee, should review WMI's final status report and recommend any necessary changes to the town.

In order for the former owners to receive a necessary Certificate of Approval for the abandoned site from the province, WMI has agreed to pay the \$20,000 revision cost by Gartner Lee.

Mayor Fran Sainsbury, who said the town has been receiving monitoring reports since 1974, stressed concerns that "something has changed" regarding surface and groundwater quality. Although nothing has been confirmed, Sainsbury said she is concerned that this year nearly four times the amount of "liquid leachate" will be pumped into steel tanks and trucked to the St. John's pumping station for testing.

Sainsbury said past monitoring program have required 31,500 gallons of groundwater to be pumped, removed from the site and tested, but is concerned because this year experts are calling for 117,000 gallons be "trucked across the byways."

The difference in the amount of collected leachate could mean "something has changed" in the status of quality of surrounding run-off, Sainsbury said. Gartner Lee is expected to have completed its review of the program by the end of the year.

Province 'hijacks' board's no-debt plan

Surplus cash from their pension fund has offset the need for unpaid days off as York Region Catholic teachers ratified a social contract deal Monday.

The York Region Roman Catholic Separate School Board has a \$7.43-million obligation to the province in each of the three years assigned to wipe out Ontario's deficit.

With the pension adjustment and pay scale freezes, "they've already met (their target) without any unpaid days off," said

board spokesperson Don O'Shaughnessy. "There will be no change in the schedule of the board."

He said the teacher union kicked in more than required under the social contract law which lessened the income loss of other union and non-union employee groups, some having previously agreed to wage freezes and rollbacks as part of the board's own deficit-reduction plan.

The board was required by the province to prepare a three-year budget to erase its

\$23-million shortfall, but the social contract directive "hijacked" any attempt by the separate board to climb out of debt, O'Shaughnessy said.

On average over the three years, employees of the board will be required to take five and a half unpaid days off. A hike in the pupil-teacher ratio will see less teachers hired as the projected hiring is cut by 4.75 per cent and non-classroom teachers will return to teaching.

Julie Caspersen