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Mayor urges input at Vision 2021 meeting

TRACY KIBBLE
Staff Reporter

Stouffville residents had better "wake up" and smell the future if they value their community today and for their children, urged Mayor Fran Sainsbury this week.

The mayor is lobbying widespread public support for the up-coming, June 15 public information meeting which will outline York Region's vision for the future.

Vision 2021 will be presented by region-hired Intersol Consultants at 7:30 p.m. on Tues., June 15 at Latham Hall, giving Stouffvillites an opportunity to speak up about the way they want York Region and their town shaped in the next 30 years.

"The town needs public support to tell York Region about the future of the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville," the mayor stressed this week.

"This is your one chance to say it like it is. This Vision 2021 document should really wake everyone up. We need input now," Sainsbury said.

The region's strategic plan will be used as a planning guide for the next three decades, focusing on quality of life as opposed to the official plan, which looks at land use and hard services.

York politicians have already seen some residents' suggestions after responses from about 125 people were documented from workshops

held in April and May.

York Region residents have been criticized by the province so far for showing a lack of enthusiasm for the document and the mayor said she wants Stouffville to be different.

"The future of Whitchurch-Stouffville should be defined by us and not shoved down our throats by outside politicians. We need to tell them how we feel and what we want," she said.

The mayor expects group representatives from every facet of the community, including farmers, real estate agents, volunteer groups, charity organizations, teacher/parent associations and youth to attend on June 15. She has had staff busy phoning various groups to confirm their presence at the meeting.

Sainsbury said she can't stress enough the importance of this meeting, stating Stouffville will get left behind in every area by the greedier, urbanized towns if someone doesn't put their foot down.

The mayor criticizes the way York's future plans are being put together, stating it should be certified, experts, not politicians, who sculpt the region's future.

"I'm very discouraged this (Vision) plan wasn't done by the appropriate planners," said Sainsbury.

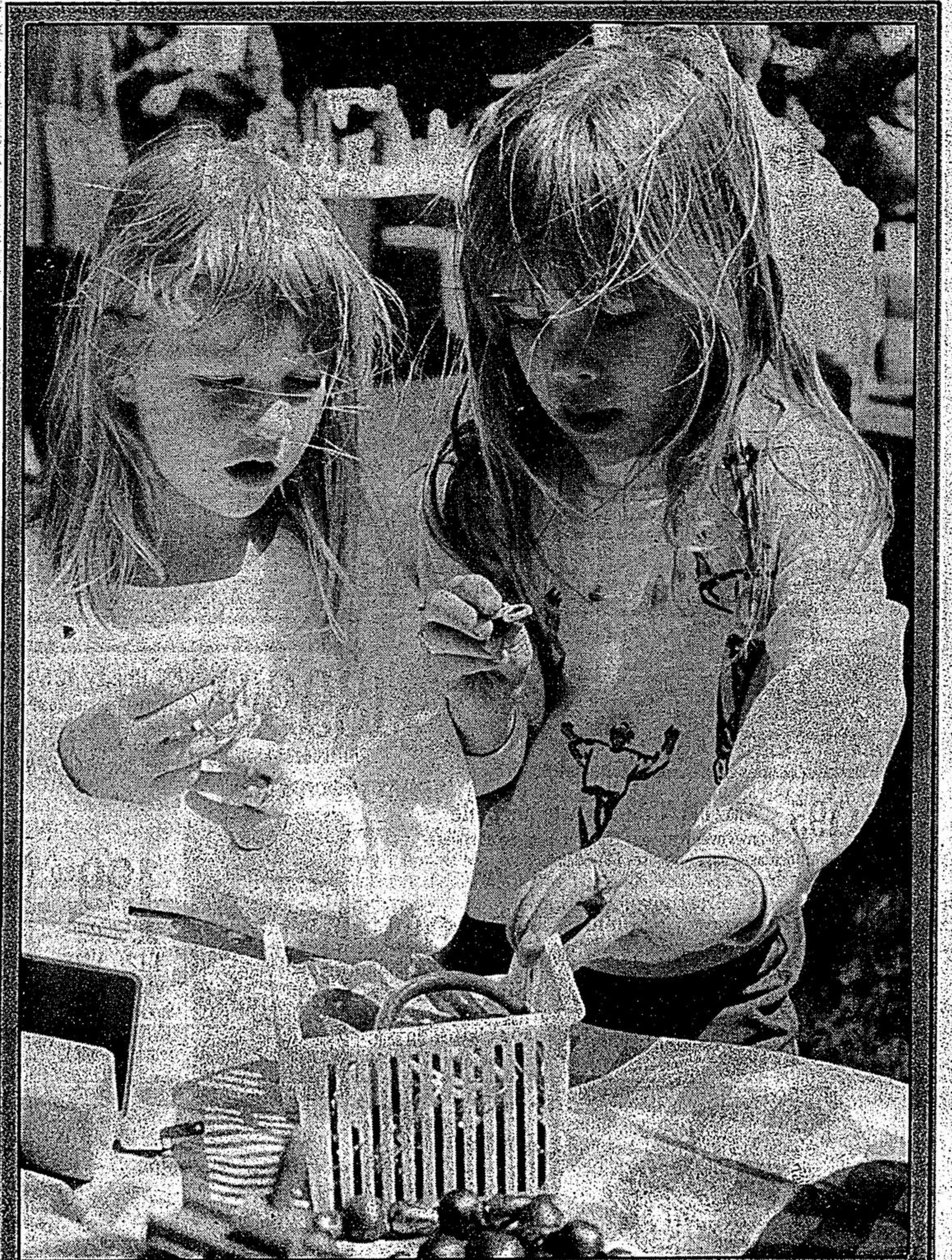
"Politicians should leave the technical part to the experts and keep their butts out of

this, quite frankly."

"If (past mayors of Whitchurch-Stouffville) had

foresight long ago, we would not be in the trouble we're in today," Sainsbury added.

"This is your one chance, please attend," the mayor urged residents this week.



RCMP set to lay charges in wake of Stouffville raid

The RCMP is set to lay charges in the next two weeks after a five month investigation involving a black market cigarette and liquor ring based in Whitchurch-Stouffville.

RCMP Constable Karen Zytynsky is readying the final paperwork this week that will result in numerous illegal possession and conspiracy charges against at least two people, she said.

Nearly \$1 million in illegal cigarettes and booze was confiscated from cube-vans and parked trailers last January after a 16-hour RCMP stake-out in rural Whitchurch-Stouffville.

The bust, the biggest in the RCMP Newmarket customs detachment's history, netted the police \$750,000 retail value of contraband cigarettes and booze.

Officers seized 1,250 cases of booze, or 7,500 bottles and 199 cases, 10,000 packages of cigarettes and \$65,000 cash last Jan-

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What to buy?
Lisa Smith, left, and Amber Hoermann look through some of the many items for sale at the Kinnettes Garage Sale held last Saturday in Stouffville. Looks like the two youngsters were having a tough time deciding exactly what to buy.

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