

Syrup season is here



Lindsay Lanndon, 4, savors the taste of syrup-coated pancakes with mom Lisa.

Tribune photographer Steve Somerville snapped some syrupy shots at Bruce's Mill over the weekend.

Tanya Greenwald, right, downs a thimble of fresh syrup at Bruce's Mill last weekend during the height of the maple syrup season. Below, Vanessa Azzopardi, 7, waits for a taste test as she watches Wes Greg drizzle taffy on a bed of snow.



A boiling cauldron of sap is tended to by Crissy Rotenberg and mom Heather.

Loan sharks and morality cops not common at Ricci's East, council told

By JOAN RANSBERRY
Staff Reporter

Questions linked to loan sharks, morality and gambling into the wee hours were all directed to a spokesman for Stouffville's only off-track betting establishment.

The man on the hot seat at the Whitchurch-Stouffville Council meeting was Nick Eaves of The Ontario Jockey Club.

After Eaves gave council an outline of the off-track betting operation which runs seven days a week out of a teletheatre at Ricci's East, Ward 2 Councillor Ed Lyons delivered his first question.

He asked Eaves if there's been any trouble with loan sharks at the local establishment.

Lyons then asked if Ricci's East attracts the police morality squad. The councillor also wanted to know if Ricci's East featured a Hong Kong betting service running until 5 a.m.

A standing-room-only crowd, made up of hockey parents, made it very clear they were not impressed with Lyon's line of questioning.

Eaves told council that loan

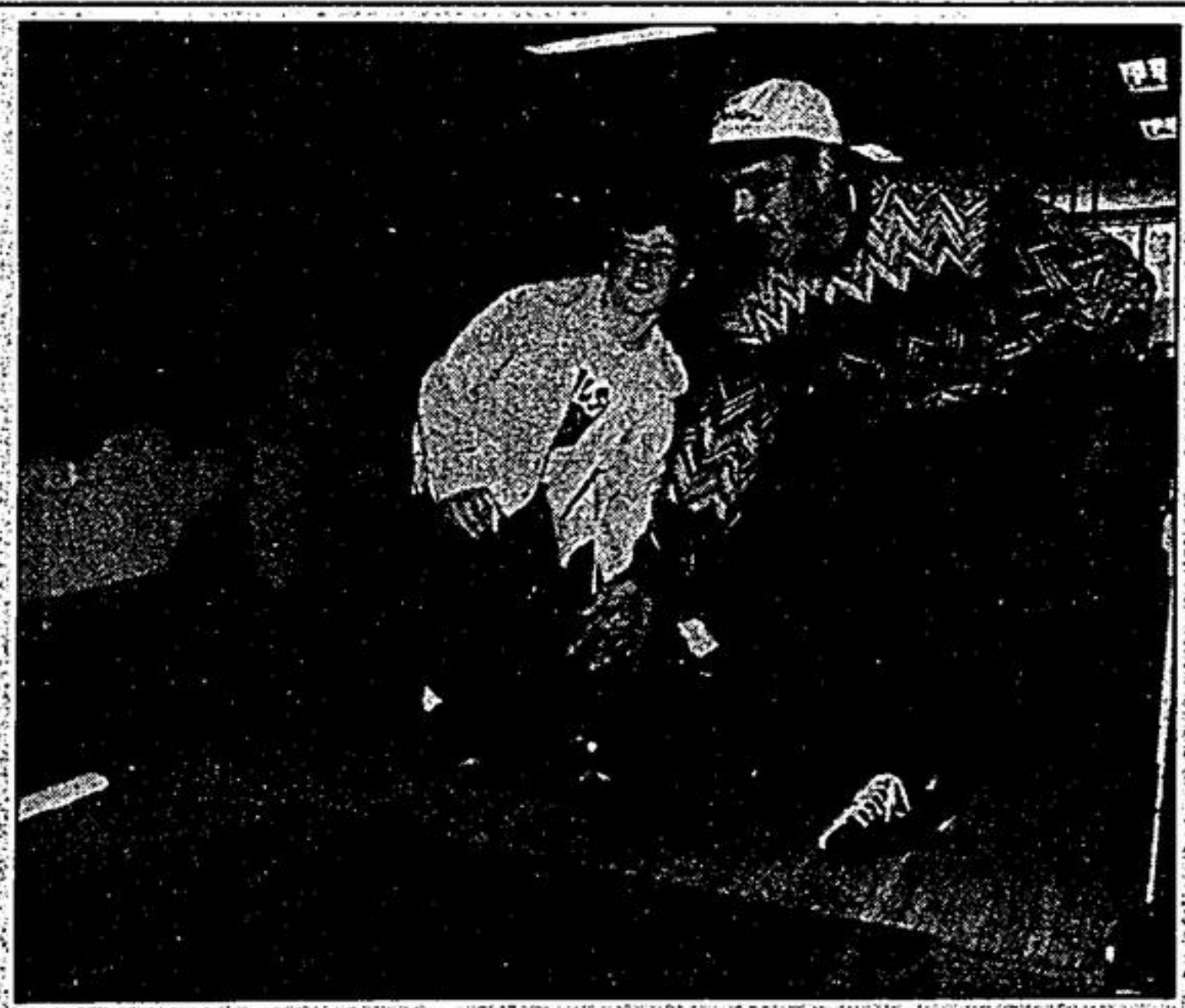
sharks neither frequent nor operate out of Ricci's East.

Eaves then told council that Hong Kong-style betting is not happening in Stouffville.

He then assured council that while some off-track betting establishments may catch the attention of the police, the morality squad is not keeping its eyes on the one in Stouffville.

Eaves said the off-track betting teletheatre opened in Stouffville a year ago.

One of 22 operated by the Jockey Club, off-track betting gives racing fans a chance to see the horse race on a large screen and to take part in wagering without having to travel to Woodbine, Mohawk or Fort Erie, Eaves pointed out.



Bowling for Big Brothers

Brandon Strickland, 12, watches the form of big brother Thomas Ross during the annual Bowl for a Boy at Stouffville Bowling Centre last Saturday.

Photo/STEVE SOMERVILLE

House cleaned of jewelry

An estimated \$10,000 in jewelry was stolen from a Kennedy Road home Friday morning.

Responding to a residential alarm, police arrived at the house around 10:20 a.m.

Officers found the front door kicked in and a jewelry box containing an estimated \$10,000 in valuables missing.

Vote of confidence for MP O'Connor

It's expected that Durham York MPP Larry O'Connor will be given a solid vote of confidence from fellow New Democrats on March 9.

MPP Frances Lankin, Minister of Economic Development and Trade, will be the guest speaker when the Durham York New Democrats hold their riding association's nomination meeting.

The meeting will take place at 7 p.m. at the Whitchurch-Stouffville Legion at 12278 Ninth Line, Stouffville. While everyone is welcome, only members in good standing will be allowed to vote. However, the only declared candidate is O'Connor.

Under the law, a provincial election must be called this year.

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