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Developer says

Attracting commercial investment unlikely

By BRUCE STAPLEY
Correspondent

A Whitchurch-Stouffville Chamber of Commerce business luncheon was told by a local housing developer Thursday to forget about trying to change the ratio of residential to commercial assessment in town.

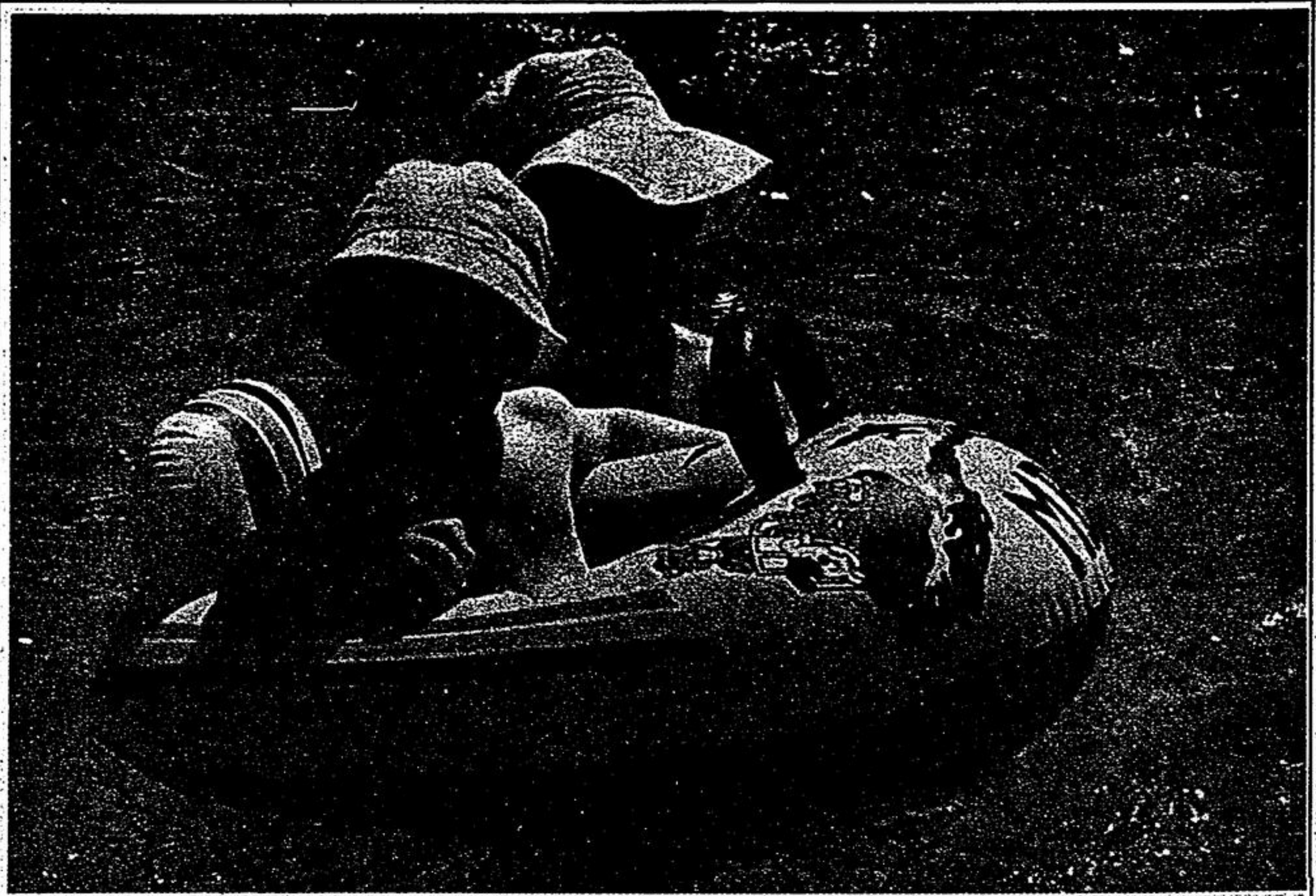
Joe Lebovic, president of Lebovic Enterprises, said it's simply unrealistic to think in terms of attracting commercial development because of the enormous costs involved.

"You have to forget about commercial assessment. There's nothing you can do," said Lebovic, who has been a major housing developer in Stouffville for nine years. Lebovic cited the futility of his own efforts to develop commercial projects in the city of Toronto in recent years as an example of why the town should concentrate on housing, not commercial development. He said it's just too expensive to build commercial buildings and make them pay in the 1990s.

The chamber and the town should instead look towards attracting new housing, he said. "You can't get industry no matter what incentives you give. Instead, you need more people living in town. That's what's going to provide jobs and create business," said Lebovic, who admitted to a certain lack of objectivity.

Lebovic said residential assessment shouldn't be seen as negative, as housing developments provide school levees, developer's fees for roads and more. "The more residential the assessment, the more services you can have," said Lebovic.

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Beating the heat

Benjamin Foppa and his mom Cibylle found the best way to beat the heat Saturday. They hit the town pool which is mercifully now open.

Photo/CHERYL JOHNSON

Hot enough for you?

By JOAN RANSBERRY
Staff Reporter

The heat is bad news unless you're selling fans, air conditioners, dehumidifiers, pool chemicals and popsicles.

Robert Van Bommel, manager of Stouffville's Canadian Tire Store, said business linked to the heat wave is amazing.

"I've got one air conditioner left," said Van Bommel. "By tomorrow, I'll be out of dehumidifiers and the sale of fans just doesn't stop."

Van Bommel is also reporting brisk sales in sprinklers, garden hoses, kiddie pools, chemicals for swimming pools and water toys.

"This heat may not be too nice to work in, but it's great for us," said the store manager.

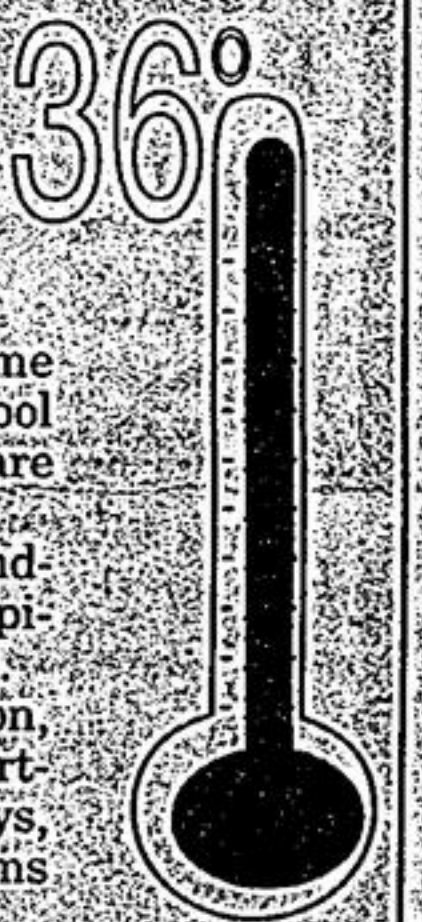
Meanwhile, in order to keep pace with the growing demand for items to keep people cool, Van Bommel is placing more orders for air conditioners and dehumidifiers.

Keeping up with the demand for popsicles and freezies is "an absolute fight," said Marianne Glover, owner of Stouffville's Frozen Food Shoppe. "It's driving me nuts. I'm selling between 150 to 200 a day. I'm having quite a time restocking the freezer. The after-school attack is something else. But the kids are great," said Glover.

Heat-related health problems are sending people to Markham/Stouffville Hospital, a health facility official has reported.

Lana Burchett, hospital spokesperson, said while the hospital's emergency department has been busy for the past two days, patients are not suffering heat problems specifically.

Health problems associated with the heat include asthma, other breathing ailments and heat exhaustion, Burchett pointed out.



Hard work, eh, Dad?

Elliot Traill pauses to refresh himself after he and his father Greg tried to beat Sunday's hot and humid weather by getting up some speed on a bike.

Photo/CHERYL JOHNSON

Watch your water, town says

Seasonal water restrictions are in place in Stouffville, local residents are being reminded. People are being asked to take special note in the wake of the present heat wave.

A public notice dealing with water restrictions was

included in the water bill which was circulated within the municipality.

During June, July and August, local residents are asked to water lawns and gardens and to wash vehicles, the sidewalks and driveways by hose and in the

morning between 6 to 9 a.m. only.

The notice points out that homes with odd house numbers many water only on odd days of the month.

People living in homes with even house numbers may water in the morning

on even days of the month.

Failure to abide by these water restrictions may result in a fine of up to \$5,000.

Residents are being asked to take extra care in preserving water.

Joan Ransberry

Ballantrae native wins Russian medal

By MIKE RUTA
Staff Reporter

Ballantrae native Robert Richards last week was awarded the prestigious K.E. Tsiolkovsky Medal of Honour from the Russian government.

The medal goes to people who make extraordinary contributions to the peaceful

development of outer space, as envisioned by Russia's father of astronautics, who began pondering the scientific basis of space travel in the 1880s.

Richards was one of three men who in 1987 founded the International Space University (ISU), the world's first university dedicated to interdisciplinary

space studies.

"It's a big honor," said Richards. "The idea of a space university had been brought up in the past, but nobody had identified what it would be."

ISU holds summer sessions in a different city each year, and this fall will offer a Master of Space Studies (MSS) degree from its central campus in Strasbourg,

France. A permanent university building is scheduled to open there in 1998, with 20-30 more campuses around the world linked to it by computer.

Richards and Americans Todd Hawley and Peter Diermanis met in the early 1980s, finding they shared a common interest in space. They formed a student's

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Economy

Job bank opens at public library

More than 2,000 jobs are being posted in Stouffville.

A job bank kiosk will open at the Stouffville Public Library on Wednesday.

The job bank, an information delivery service system, is being established thanks to a partnership between the local library and the Newmarket Cana-

da Employment Centre.

The kiosk uses microcomputer technology to provide clients with up to date information about job openings in the local, surrounding and Canadian labor market. Employers can register their job vacancies through the local Canada Employment Centre.

Meanwhile, job seekers can review

available vacancies in their field within their local area and selected job vacancies across the province and Canada, explained Marilyn Ferguson, the library's chief executive officer.

"Jobs are added to and deleted from the database three times a day," said Ferguson. "More than 2,000 jobs are currently registered."

Teen assaulted at dance

A Toronto teenager was assaulted while leaving a Cedar Beach dance Saturday night.

The 19-year-old suffered a broken nose, black eye and other bruises to the face.

According to police reports, the boy was attacked at about 11 p.m. after leaving a teen dance at Cedar Beach Pavilion in Musselman Lake.

As he was walking with friends, the victim was followed by two suspects and punched to the ground.

He was later treated and released from hospital. Police are investigating the assault.

Roger Belgrave

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