



Charly MacCarl, 4, gets ready to race in her soapbox at the soapbox derby held at Musselman's Lake on the weekend. It was the first annual derby put on by Rosehill Dr. residents.

Photo/LYDIA J. CHARAK

# MP suing former employer

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ter of Rights protects the right to the expression of personal views, no matter how offensive, he argued.

Bhaduria — whose original labor board case for wrongful dismissal will reach the Supreme Court of Canada on Nov. 9 — said he is confident the courts will support him and that his newest case will be "important for generations to come."

For a precedent, Bhaduria said he looked to Toronto Holocaust-denier Ernst Zündel — even though it "is unfortunate I have to put myself into his category" — whose conviction for spreading false news was overturned.

"He maligned the whole Jewish community and the Supreme Court said he could not have his Charter rights taken away."

Bhaduria said he did not add up the total amount he is suing for, saying it does not really matter and anything he wins in court will go to charities in Markham.

"It's a substantial amount because it is a substantial violation. It should not be taken lightly," he added.

According to the school board, it could be as much as \$96.5 million but other estimates have put the figure as low as \$16 million.

Yet Bhaduria indicated he would drop the suit if the

board apologized for its actions.

"No vindictiveness here at all," he promised.

Legal counsel for the board have been told to "take all steps to vigorously defend" those named in the lawsuit, the board's public information officer Jeff Sprang read yesterday from a prepared statement.

"The board considers this action to be totally without merit and a duplication of the legal proceedings already before the Supreme Court of Canada," the statement said.

Board solicitor John Bell said the board has filed a motion to have the suit dismissed.

## Third severance considered

What makes a farmer? And if you are a farmer should you be granted a third severance on your property?

That's what council is considering in the case of a Warden Ave resident after a public hearing Tuesday. John Offenbeck wants to sever a lot from his farm, which his family has owned since 1956. The rule of thumb is that only one severance should be permitted every 50 years to protect farmland from overdevelopment. Two other lots have already been carved out of the property.

Offenbeck said the farm is not prime agricultural land. It is broken up by swampy areas and ponds. It's covered in trees

Offenbeck added that none of his neighbors oppose the severance.

But councillor Ed Lyons said "We have a situation of setting a precedent you can open Pandora's box and before you know it, you're flooded with many other (requests)."

Councillor Cliff Dunkeld added that the other larger farm owners who support Offenbeck's proposal may be eyeing a similar request for their property in the future.

Council asked that staff prepare a further report on the application in light of a recent letter confirming Offenbeck's claim to being a farmer. The issue will return to council Oct. 8.

## Daycare approved at Deer Park

A daycare centre has been approved in the former Deer Park Inn/Rikki's East. Council made its decision at a public hearing Tuesday. The centre, on the 10th Line north of the Country Market, will accom-

modate a maximum of 60 children. The concern of neighboring resident Dorothy Maye who wrote to council, "I can't stand squealing and squawking kids," was alleviated by Diane Clarke, daycare opera-

tor. She said the outdoor play area will be located so far from the Mayes as possible.

She added that children would be divided into smaller groups for outdoor play to lessen the noise.

## Lebovic plan granted reprieve

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Development Institute which found there is enough agricultural land in Canada to supply 500 million people.

Lebovic described estate housing as good assessment for the town. Its occupants don't overload town services — water and sewer, recreational facilities — but they pay considerable property taxes.

He added that council's

approval is just the first hurdle and that his plan would still have to satisfy the province before construction could begin.

But a decision on his proposal will have to wait. Council is anticipating a report on the status of designated estate lots in Stouffville. In 1994 it was determined by town staff that 285 estate lots would meet the needs of Stouffville residents

over a 10-year period. There are currently 284 such lots registered although many are vacant. Town staff will report in November on the status of these lots. In the meantime Mayor Wayne Emmerson suggested Lebovic meet with his opponents to see if he can alleviate their concerns.

Council will reconsider Lebovic's proposal in November.

## Grower Craven wins car for his giant zucchini

Norm Craven may be getting out of the pumpkin business.

He's more of a zucchini man now.

Craven, the Stouffville giant vegetable grower, won a car from CHIN Radio and Dean Meyers Chev Olds in the Great Zucchini Contest last week for his big veggie, which weighed in at 88 lbs.

He recently became aware of the contest, but not until after he had grown a zucchini that weighed a whopping 193 lbs. last year. He entered his 88-pounder in the CHIN-Meyers contest without thinking he would win.

However, the second place finisher came in at 70.2 lbs. And Norm won a '96 Chev Cavalier for his trouble.

Another car was won by the grower of the longest zucchini. The winner was measured at 8'7". Craven grew

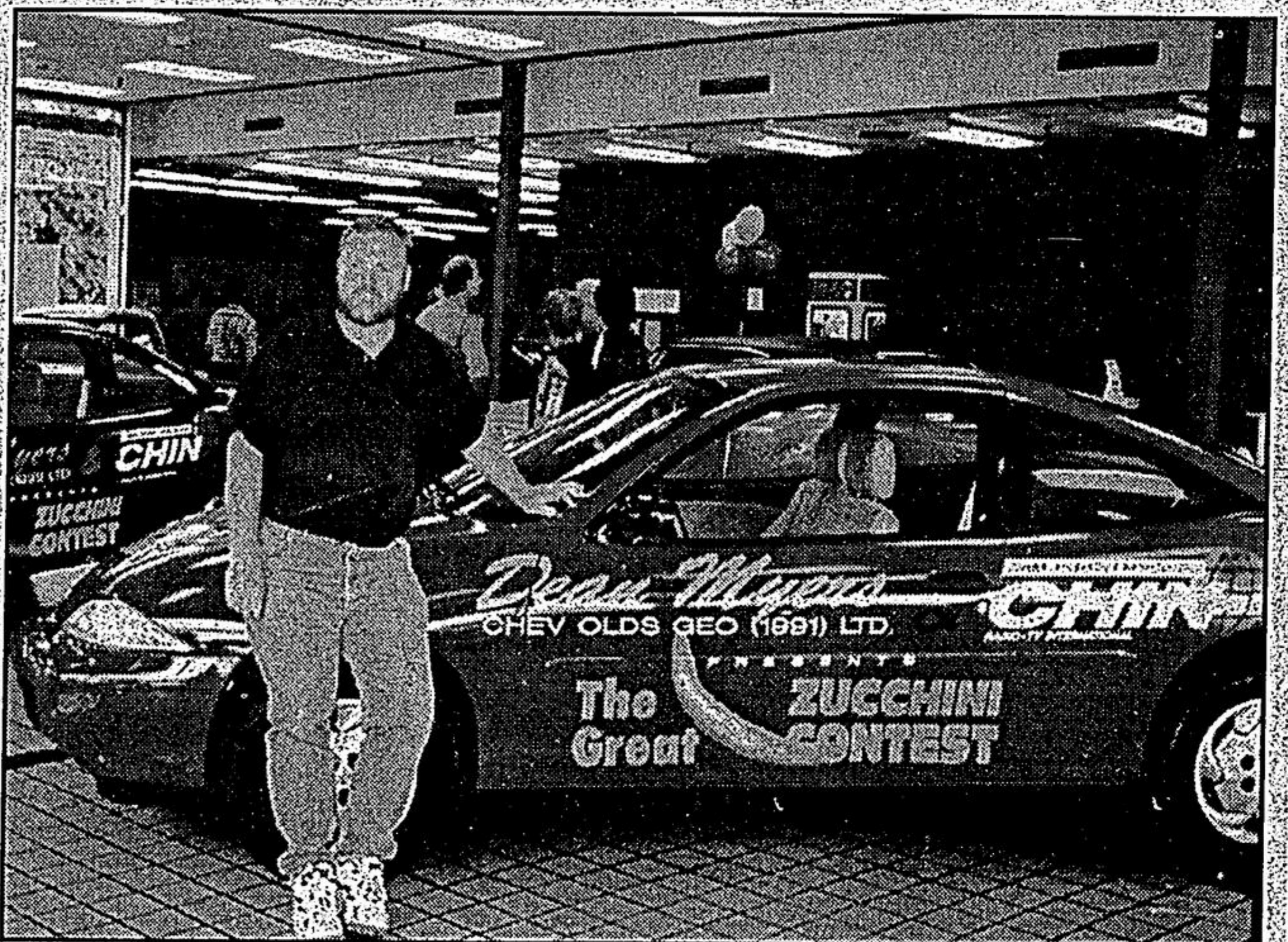
one last year which measured 9'4" but again, he didn't know about the zucchini contest until this year.

Craven said that while called zucchini, the vegetables in this contest are botanically speaking gourds, Nigerian bushel gourds to be precise.

He said growing the gourds is far easier than pumpkins, for which he once held the world record.

Craven said he may concentrate on the gourds next year, since they are obviously so lucrative.

Craven hopes to sell the car. He says he has no need for a car, as he won a truck two years ago for his prize pumpkin. If the contest sponsors insist he has to drive the car, you may be seeing it's unusual paint job for a while. Prizewinners agreed to drive the car and its zucchini motif for a year.



Norm Craven stands beside the 1996 Cavalier he won in the Great Zucchini Contest sponsored by CHIN Radio and Dean Meyers Chev Olds. The prize was for the heaviest zucchini.

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