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## Town

# Council 'wowed' by \$150 million development

By JOAN RANSBERRY  
Staff Reporter

A \$150 million "adult lifestyle community" made up of 900 homes and an 18-hole championship golf course will be built on 370 acres at Aurora Road near Hwy 48 in Ballantrae if local council gives the plan the go ahead.

Whitchurch-Stouffville Council gave the proposal a "wow" response when it was unveiled Tuesday. Meanwhile, the plan will go under public scrutiny very soon—The Forhan Group, acting on behalf of developer Schickedanz Bros. Ltd., will host a public information meeting on April 1 at 7 p.m. at the Ballantrae Community Centre. The ball for one of the largest developments in Whitchurch



A model of the clubhouse for the proposed Ballantrae Golf and Country Club. The public can view all the plans on April 1 in Ballantrae.

Stouffville's history started rolling Wednesday afternoon when the developer filed his application at the local municipal office. The plan does not include commercial development.

The par-72, 7,000-yard golf course will be built first. Work on the course could begin in a year's time. The golf course will be laid out around the perimeter of the property to buffer the residential areas.

Construction of the first 60 homes could begin in the spring of '98. The plan is to build about 62 homes a year. It'll take between 10 and 15 years for the last house to be built, consultant Bob Forhan Sr., said at a news conference Thursday.

Of the 900 homes, 80 per cent will be one-storey bungalows, while the rest will be link homes.

The units in the condominium-style housing develop-

ment, designed for retired and semi-retired people 50 years and older, will be in the \$190,000 to \$280,000-price range. Home sizes range from 1,200 to 2,000-square feet.

The developer will pay \$15 million in lot levies. Once complete, the development will generate \$3-million a year in tax dollars for the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville, said Bob Forhan Jr.

Most of the home buyers are (Please see page 3)

## Residents polled on single city

By KATHLEEN GRIFFIN  
Staff Reporter

More than 50 per cent of residents do not want to see York Region's nine municipalities amalgamated into one city.

In an informal poll, the Weekender called 200 people in Markham and Whitchurch-Stouffville and asked them if they wanted to see the region as one big city. Fifty-two per cent said no. Twenty-nine said yes. Nineteen were undecided. And while the survey itself is not scientific, in terms of proper polling checks and balances the Weekender has found in the past that polls of this sort are often a pretty fair indicator of residents' opinions.

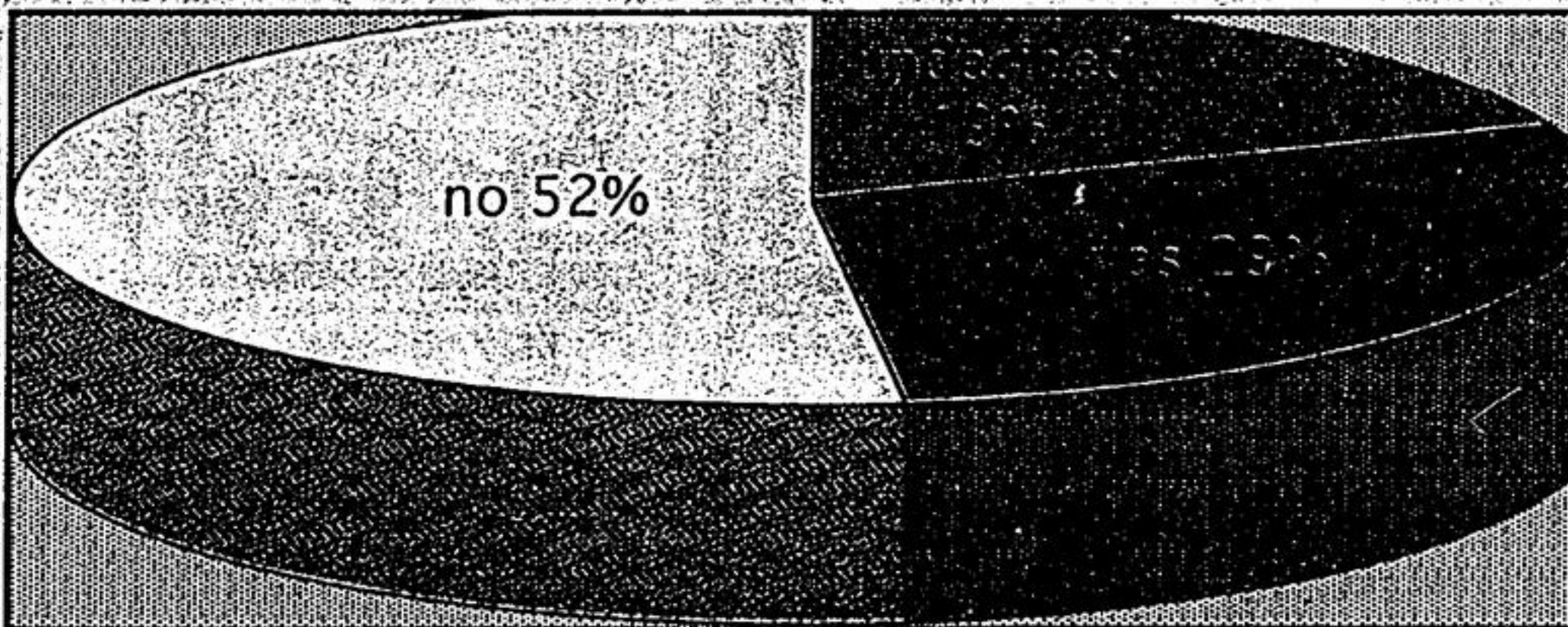
The residents' indecision mirrors that of the regional mayors, who have been grappling with the issue for more

than two years. They can't decide on what's best for York's municipalities — one city, three cities or what could be a futile attempt to keep the status quo.

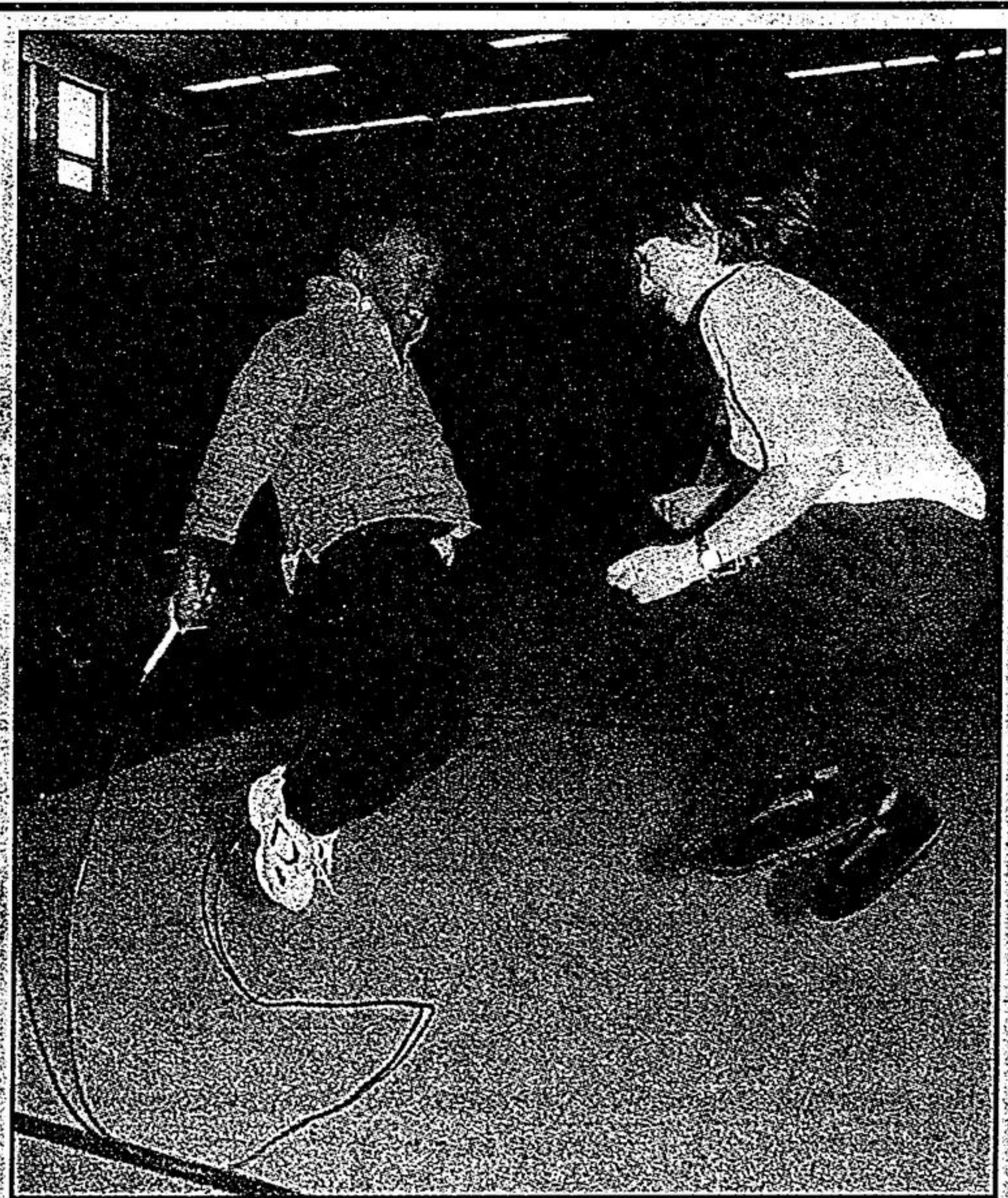
"At our last meeting it was pretty obvious no one could agree on the best route for the region," said Regional Councillor Fred Cox, chair of the region's governance commit-

tee. "A lot of us know these changes are coming, but we are now forced to leave the hows and whens up to (Premier Mike) Harris. We simply, even after all this time, cannot get agreement."

In our polling, the common denominator seemed to be a lack of awareness about just what amalgamation would mean.



The results of an informal poll of 200 Markham and Stouffville residents showed 52 per cent of the people polled are not in favor of amalgamation, 29 per cent agree that the nine municipalities should be merged, and 19 per cent are undecided. See Have Your Say on page 3.



## Skipping school

Jeduthun Lattiboudiaire, 6, left, jumps rope for the Heart and Stroke Foundation with Jennifer Muir, 9, and other Stouffville Christian School students at the Stouffville Missionary Church on Tuesday morning.

Photo/SJOERD WITTEVEEN

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