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MP loses on appeal at Supreme court

By **MIKE ADLER**
 Staff Reporter

After seven years of battling his dismissal as a teacher, MP Jag Bhaduria says the decision of the Supreme Court of Canada this week doesn't really matter.

"It was a moot point. I never intended to go back to teaching," the Markham-Whitchurch-Stouffville MP revealed Thursday after Canada's top court delivered its decision.

It was "patently unreasonable" for an arbitration board to order Bhaduria reinstated after the Toronto Board of Education fired him in 1990, the court found. The decision quoted letters Bhaduria sent in 1989 to Ned McKeown, then education director of the board, which for years refused Bhaduria's requests for promotion.

Bhaduria wrote he was "extremely disappointed" the Montreal massacre that month had not happened instead to McKeown and other officials at board headquarters. "That would have been the most satisfying day of my life," Bhaduria continued before adding the situation had "totally destroyed" his teaching ability and made him into "a blood-thirsty and revengeful devil."

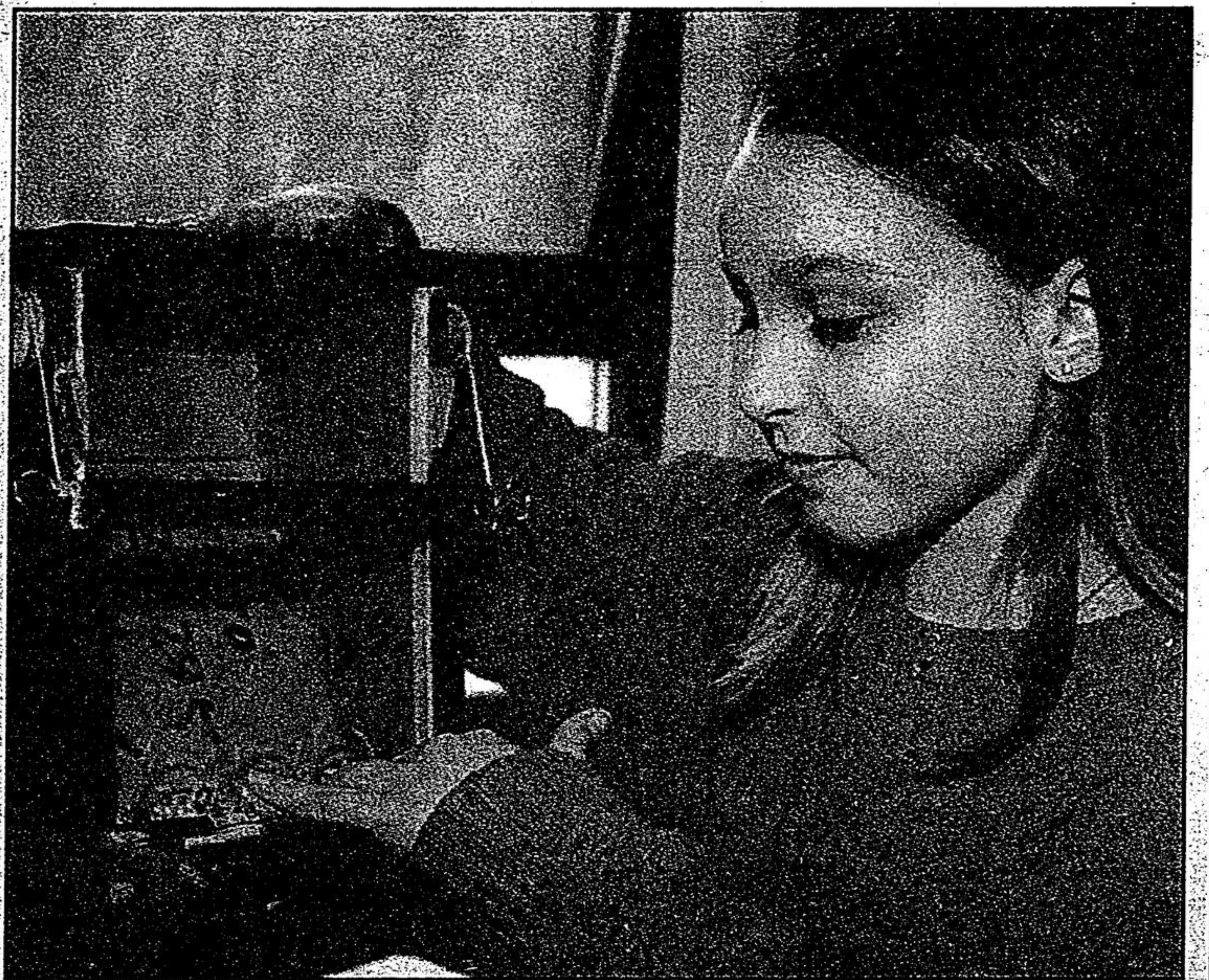
The letters "were threats of violence," Mr. Justice Peter Cory concluded in the unanimous decision.

Because of their position of trust, he added, teachers can be held to a higher standard of conduct, inside and outside the classroom. Bhaduria was fired, according to the board, for actions "unprofessional, demonstrating extremely poor judgment and attitudes

(Please see page 3)



BHADURIA



Young Edison

Alison Jwschke, a Grade 6 student at Ballantrae Public School, built a bird feeder that discourages squirrels. Squirrels climb on but are dumped off the feeder by a moving shelf (in her hand). The invention was part of Science Day at the school this week.

Photo/STEVE SOMERVILLE

Election '97

Candidates gather forces for upcoming federal contest

By **JOAN RANSBERRY**
 Staff Reporter

The early signs of election fever have been diagnosed in the new federal riding of Oak Ridges.

Under country-wide redistribution, Oak Ridges with a population of more than 102,000 takes in all of Whitchurch-Stouffville and Richmond Hill and the part of Markham lying north of 16th Avenue.

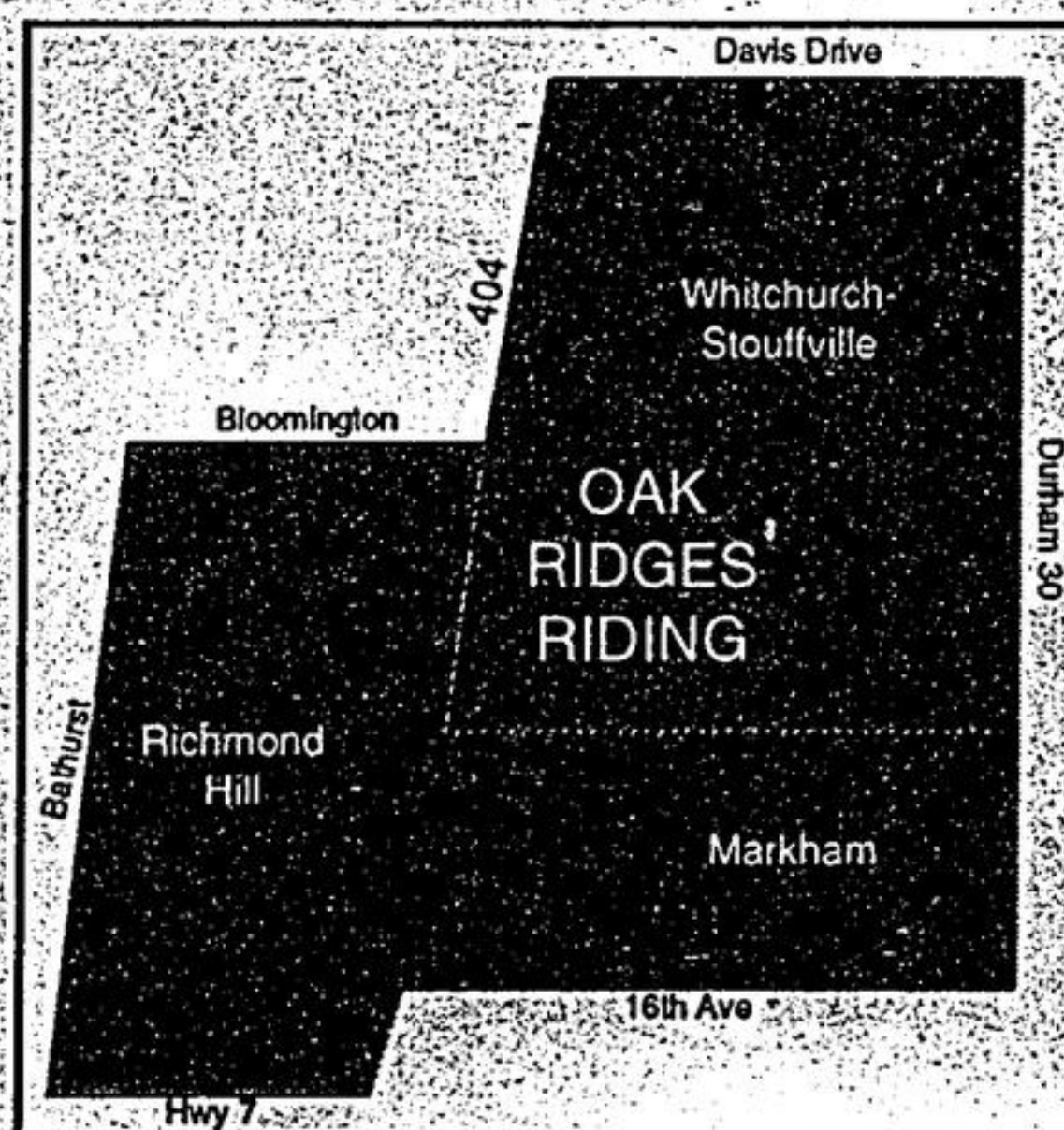
On the federal scene, Stouffville is no longer coupled with Markham. Also, after the next election, the local area will be presented by someone other

than Jag Bhaduria, a former Liberal and now an independent.

All bets are on for a June election with the ninth being the most often cited as E-day.

Officials of each of the four (party) riding associations are predicting a win.

The incumbent Liberals because they hold a comfortable majority now and have maintained their pop-



ularity; the Reformers because they were a close second in the area in the last election; the Progressive Conservatives (PC) because they feel Oak Ridges residents identify with PC-style thinking and the New Democrats because they believe the country has lost faith in the Liberals

and that Canadians will view the NDP as the only real alternative.

Each of the four parties is in an election-readiness mode - but, some are more ready than others.

With a nomination meeting, slated for tomorrow (March 2), the Oak Ridges Liberals will be the first to pick a candidate.

Grit hopefuls are Dave Bishop, a Richmond Hill accountant and Bryon Wilfert, a 44-year old private school teacher and a 12-year member of Richmond Hill council.

(Please see page 3)

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