

51

# People have say in new smoking bylaw

■ From page 1 ■

"We'll have to talk to the people before making a decision here," said Emmerson.

Last year, business owners, especially restaurant and bar owners told council that an all out smoking ban would hurt business.

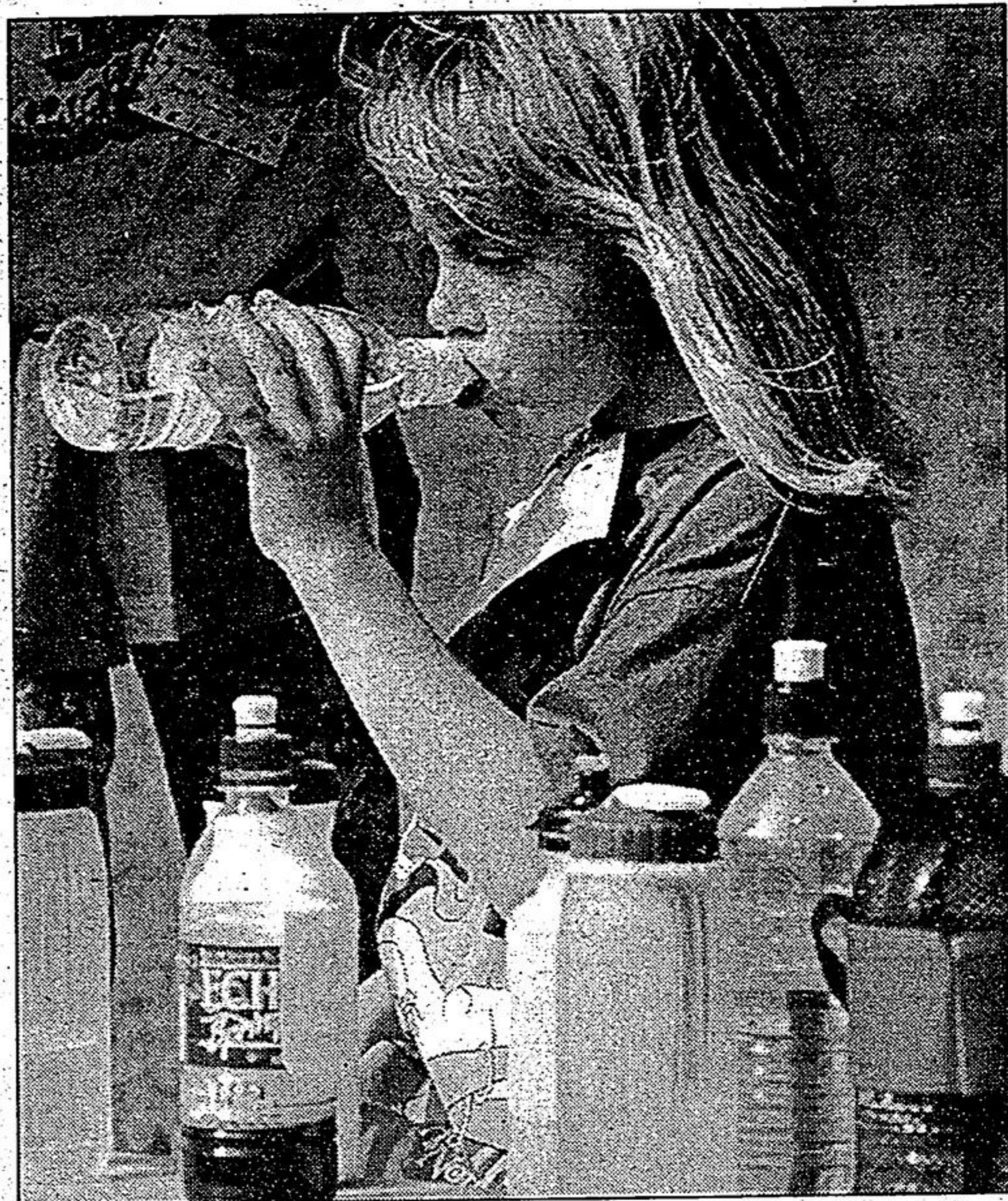
Still, the majority of people support introducing more limits on where people can smoke, regional health officials have reported.

As it stands now, Stouffville puts aside 70 per cent of restaurant seats for non smokers. Meanwhile, Markham reserves half and Richmond Hill just 20 per cent.

As well, many people, including health officials, have expressed concerns about smoking among young people.

Local council took note a few months ago, when *The Tribune* published the results of an informal survey showing that nine out of 10 Stouffville merchants sold cigarettes to minors in direct contravention of the law.

York council will soon decide if it needs the support of all nine municipalities or just five to bring in the new smoking laws.



ON YOUR MARK, GET SET, GO! Ted Bundy, in Grade 5, laces up, eager to continue in the Terry Fox Run fund-raiser at Ballantrae Public School yesterday. Laura Evans, a Grade 2 student gets a drink before her next lap.

Photos by LISA DIAMOND & SJOERD WITTEVEEN

# Bail granted for sex assault suspect

JOAN RANSBERRY  
Staff Reporter

A Pembroke man facing 21 sex-related charges, including anal intercourse, sexual assault with a weapon and forcible confinement against his biological mother, a

49-year-old Stouffville resident, was freed on bail on Friday.

During a bail hearing, a Newmarket judge agreed to a \$25,000 cash bail agreement for the 29-year-old man who's been accused of raping his mother.

York Regional Police detective

Jack More reported that two years ago, the accused, who was adopted at birth, found his birth mother living in Stouffville.

Within a few days of visiting her home, it's alleged that the son raped her. Police said the assaults continued over a period of time

from September 1994 to February 1995.

The accused moved out of the Stouffville home and went back to Pembroke in 1996, More added.

The victim did not go to the police to report the assaults until recently.



CASE FOR A CURE: Cap Cowan, left, Lorne Hurst, centre, and Tom Winters Jr. of the Stouffville Lions Club, collected empties outside the local Beer Store Saturday, to raise funds for diabetes research. The Case for a Cure is an annual event, and the Beer Store reported that more than \$700 was raised locally.

Photo by LORI EMMERSON

# Saving Erie a lost cause

JOAN RANSBERRY  
Staff Reporter

An appeal to Erie Manufacturing to remain in business in Ballantrae has failed.

Last week, Whitchurch-Stouffville's economic development officer Eric Lismanis attended a meeting with a company official to see if there was any chance to keep the plant going. Lismanis reported the results of the meeting to Mayor Wayne Emmerson.

Erie Manufacturing, an American-owned company, employs 50 people in Whitchurch-Stouffville. It's been operating in Ballantrae for 36 years.

Two weeks ago, plant manager Sylvio Linsincho confirmed that most of the plant's product lines will shift to the United States, while a third product line may go to Toronto. The plant is slated to close by late December.

The reason for pulling out of Ballantrae in late December is not linked to the local area.

"It's not the town. It's not the taxes. It's not the province. It's not the country. It is a decision made by someone in Europe. A decision made far away from this level," said Emmerson.

While it's always sad to lose a local industry, the mayor is optimistic that the industrial building will not be vacant for long.

"There's two or three business interested. Perhaps this will work out," said Emmerson.



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