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Let's Get Growing
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Council votes against York smoke ban

JOAN RANSBERRY
 Staff Reporter

A Stouffville resident has vowed to "keep up the fight" for a smoke-free community.
 Lorna Turner admitted she was "very disappointed" when on Tuesday, she witnessed local council take a strong stand against a new proposed York Region bylaw calling for a smoke-free region by the year 2000.

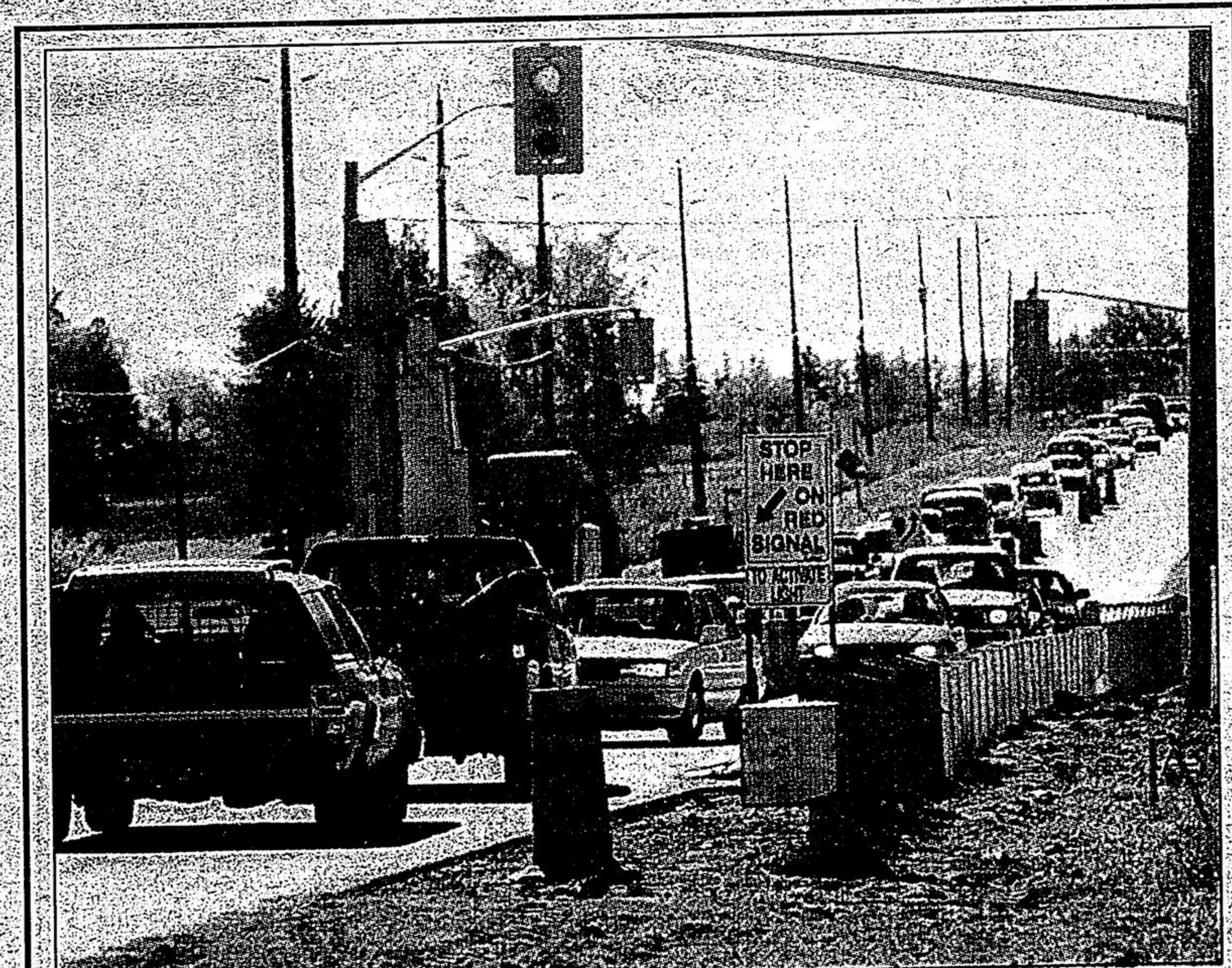
Turner wasn't alone in her disappointment. Local residents John Hall and former local councillor Jim Saunders pleaded with council to join other communities to tighten laws governing the use of tobacco.
 A smoker does have the choice to smoke, but he "does not have the choice to contaminate the air" and consequently threaten the health of others, said Hall.
 In a 10-minute address to council, Kathy Fullerton, co-owner of a

downtown bar-restaurant, said a smoking ban would be disastrous for business.
 Speaking on behalf of all restaurant and bar owners, Helene Johnson, president of the local Chamber of Commerce, suggested the municipal government lobby the federal government to outlaw tobacco.
 "We should expound our energy in a different direction and tell the provincial government and the federal government to make it

(tobacco) an illegal substance," said Johnson.
 Councillor Cliff Dunkeld said he'd rather see something more done to curb the number of teen smokers. "It's a problem here," said Dunkeld.
 While each member of council acknowledged that smoking is a serious health threat, none agreed to put the wheels in motion to eventually see an all-out ban. Instead, council members focused on the issue of choice. "It's up to

the people," said Ward 2 councillor Mike Watson.
 Education instead of legislation is the best approach, said Ward 6 councillor Mark Kostanoff.
 Regional officials need to rewrite the proposed bylaw so that it exempts bars and restaurants from the smoking ban, said Ward 1 councillor Ivanka Bradley.
 Ward 3 councillor Margot Marshall said the municipality simply

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Police arrest man after girl, 8, assaulted

York Regional Police arrested a Stouffville man last week for a sexual assault on an eight-year-old girl. Police said during an abuse investigation the child indicated she had been touched in a sexual

manner by a family member who threatened to harm her if she told.
 A 31-year-old Stouffville man was charged Wednesday with sexual assault, threatening death or injury, and sexual interference.

@random

Candidates meet

An all-candidates meeting, the municipal candidates for Whitchurch-Stouffville, will kick off at 7:30 p.m. tomorrow (Friday) at the Stouffville District Secondary School. Each of the 13 candidates for council and the mayor's post will deliver a three-minute speech. Meanwhile, questions will be taken from the floor. As well, mayoralty candidates from wards 1 and 3 will take part in a debate at the Vandorf Community Centre on Nov. 4,

beginning at 7 p.m. Candidates for mayor are incumbent Wayne Emmerson and Mike Watson.
 Candidates in the wards are Steve Pliakes and Frank Martino in Ward 1, Helene Johnson and Mark Carroll in Ward 2, Peter Dobrich and Sophie Angelis in Ward 3, incumbent Judy Scala and Judy Saabas in Ward 5, incumbent Mark Kostanoff and Sue Sherban in ward 6.

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newsline
 640-2100

RUNNING JUST A TAD LATE?
 Construction caused a traffic tie-up along Highway 48 south of Stouffville, near Dickson Hill during the warm weather last Saturday. The road was down to one lane, but featured a temporary traffic light. Vehicles were backed up to more than 1/2 mile at one point.
 Photo by STEVE SOMERVILLE

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