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# THE TRIBUNE

## Weekender

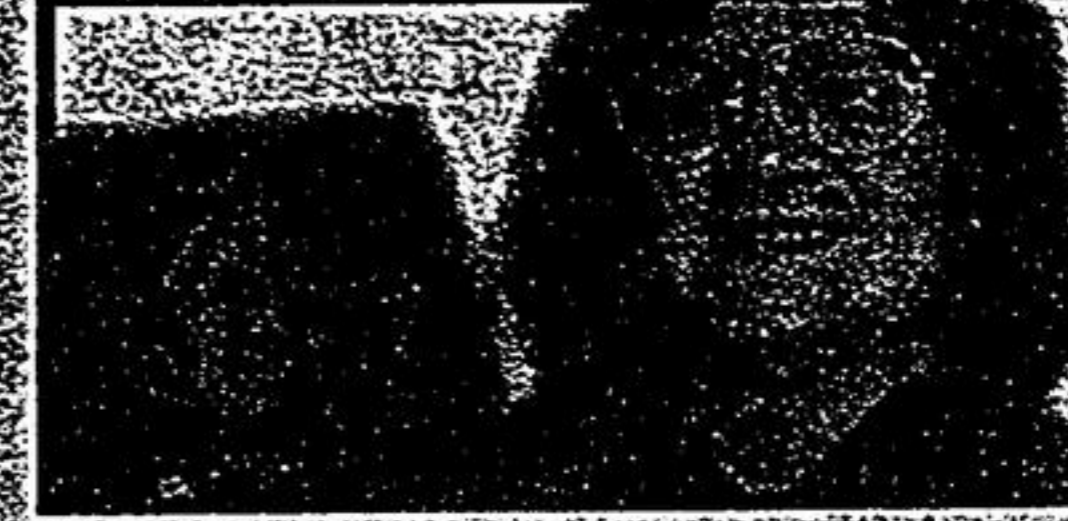
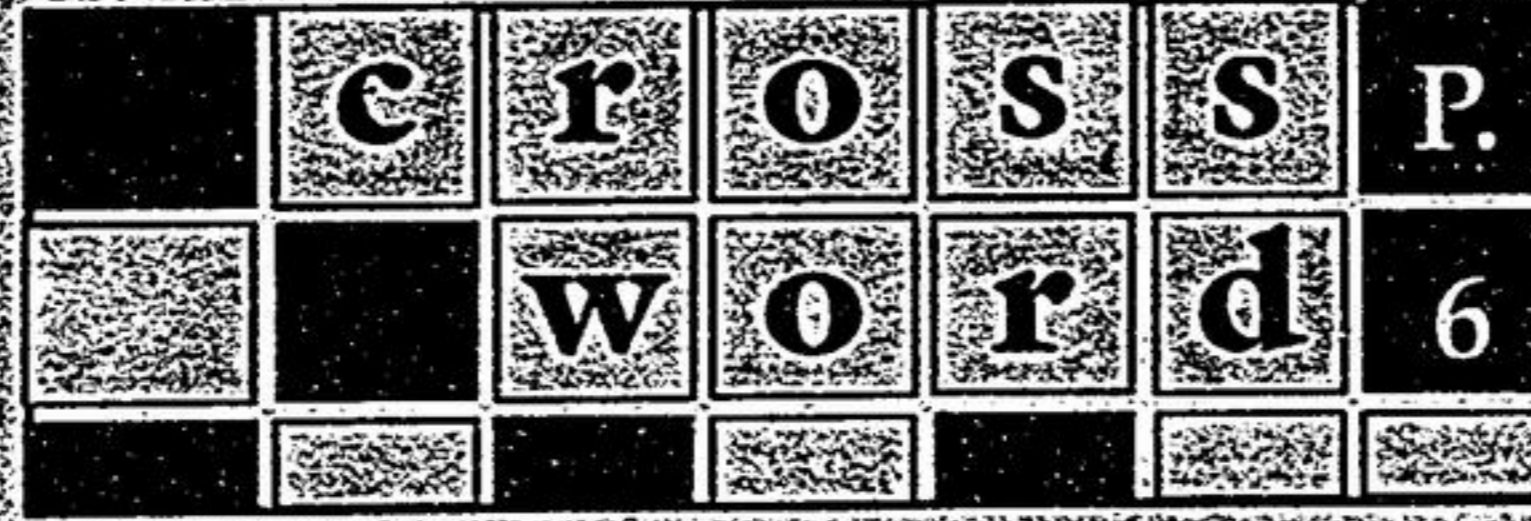
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See page 7

# North Rd. puts lives at risk

JOAN RANSBERRY  
Staff Reporter

The condition of a road in Preston Lake is putting the lives of 50 families at risk, claims a Hilltop Blvd. resident.

On Monday evening, Stuart Leigh, chair of the ratepayers association for the North Shore of Pre-

ston Lake, will appeal to Whitchurch-Stouffville Council and ask that emergency measures be taken regarding the "deplorable" state of North (Shore) Road and connecting streets.

In the spring, North Road turns into a one-kilometre-winding mud hole. In colder weather, avoiding the deep holes and humps takes

both driving skill and luck. It compares to a third-world road, said Leigh.

Driving on North Road is a challenge — a challenge that's hard on the car, hard on the nerves and a constant worry to everyone.

Getting people in and out of North Road has reached a critical state, said Leigh. "The roads are in such a state of decay that emer-

## TOWN

gency vehicles can no longer guarantee service to the residents," said Leigh.

At times, life on North Shore of Preston Lake means walking in and out from the main highway, worrying that someone will break into the car left at the main road, always wondering what the road will be like in the morning, being reluctant to make social plans away from home and rarely inviting people in. "It is now a lifestyle issue," said Leigh.

The people living in the North Shore have a common fear that a house will catch fire or someone will need an ambulance. "Of course, this is our worst fear."

Area residents are not alone. Ward 3 Councillor Peter Dobrich is in their camp. "Something must be done," said Dobrich. "There are times — four and five days in a stretch — when nobody can use the road. It can't go on this way."

Public works director Paul Whitehouse is quite aware of the state of North Road. "Yes, it's in tough shape," said Whitehouse.



Stuart Leigh claims North Road is a deadly hazard for residents.

Photos by LORIE MERRISON

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## lafrate sentenced

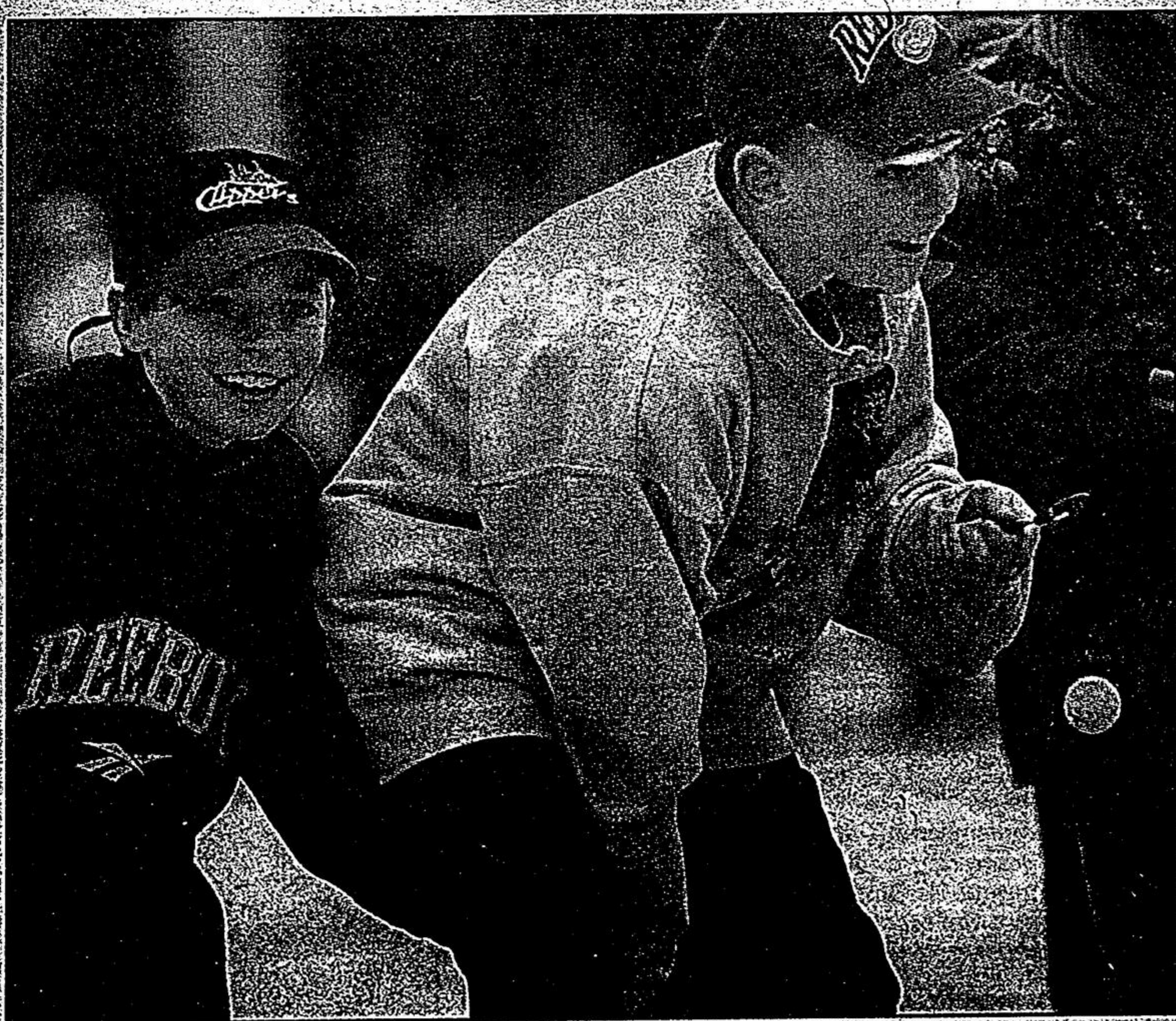
The death of a Stouffville teenager means a Downsview man will spend 90 days in jail, perform 120 days of community service and not be able to drive for 10 years.

On Thursday, Tonino lafrate, 23,

was sentenced in connection with the death of Darlene O'Blenes, 16, of Musselman's Lake.

A three-month jail term, four months of community service and a 10-year licence suspension is

■ Please see page 3 ■



BALL BEARING: During Summitview Public School's annual Winter Carnival on Tuesday, Grade 5 student Glenn Ratchiff, 11, loses the golf ball in the relay race while being attached to teammate David Hogg, 10.

Photos by SJOERD WITTEVEEN

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