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**Jays Jocks
now poets**
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STOUFFVILLE
Clippers
Midgets fall
in finals
p. 24

Go for Canada's sake: PCs

JOAN RANSBERRY
Staff Reporter

Stouffville's grassroots Tories would rather fight than switch.

While Jean Charest's departure as leader of the federal Progressive Conservatives to the Quebec Liberals on Thursday saddened the Oak



KEN PRENTICE



CLIFF MOSS

pushed predominantly by the Reform Party of Canada, is not being embraced by the Oak Ridges PCs, now 800 strong. Riding president Pat Cross is

Ridges Progressive Conservative Riding Association, local party members remain both committed and strong. The unite-the-right movement, being

adamant: there will not be a marriage between the Tories and the Reform Party. "There's no way," said Cross. "A true Conservative doesn't listen to that crap. We stick together through the good times and the bad."

Stouffville resident Ken Prentice

spoke with Charest last week. "I certainly let him know that I am saddened by his leaving. But, in the long run, Canada will be the better for it," said Prentice.

When it comes to altering the political landscape of Canada, now is an "appropriate time" for

Reform leader Preston Manning "to step down and let the PCs come back home," said Preston.

While Manning views Charest's move to provincial politics as the biggest impediment to a merged right wing alternative to the feder-

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Creeks overflowing

A flood safety warning is in effect in York Region, including here in Stouffville.

Children should be warned to stay away from all bodies of water, a Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority official advises.

The mild weather and rain is

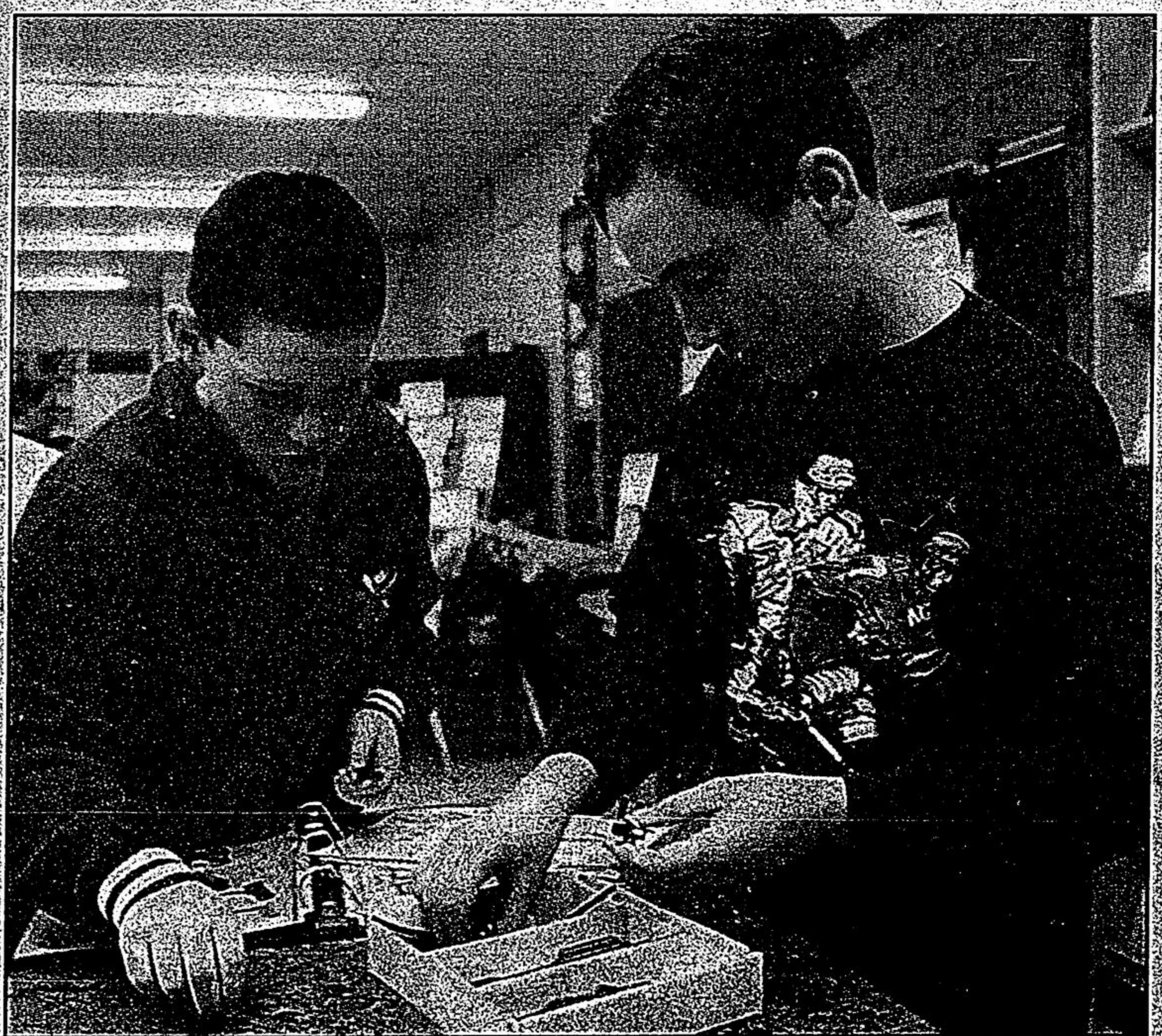
causing above normal flows to occur in area watercourses, said Murray Kinniburgh, flood water coordinator.

Under present weather conditions, "steam banks and channels can become extremely hazardous," said Kinniburgh.



Tracy Barrow and her daughter Rykie, 4, stand back from the swirling creek on Main St. in Stouffville yesterday.

Photo by JOAN RANSBERRY



A REAL LIFT: Blake Lockie, 12, left, and Patrick Molloy, 12, both Grade 7 students at Scott Central Public School, work on manufacturing a hydraulic lift at a Design and Technology class at Joseph Gould PS Wednesday - part of the board of education's 10-session course involving five schools introducing students to modern technology.

Photo by SJOERD WITTEVEEN

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