

Leadership sought from United Way

Community Needs Task Force delivers York Region report

MIKE ADLER
Staff Reporter

Research by the United Way has found York Region can build itself a better future through more leadership by The United Way.

Residents worry the region will suffer a lack of affordable housing and transit, and that more people will use local food banks, consultants hired to study the area's social needs have told the charity umbrella.

People in the fast-growing region want community services that can make them safer, offer more child-care spaces and help to seniors, and a chance for all ethnic groups to influence decisions, United Way

directors heard this week at the group's general meeting.

"People said, 'If you've got more money, this is where you should put it,'" Dianne Kokesh, chair of the group's Needs Planning Task Force, said Monday night.

At the Markham meeting, Kokesh read highlights of a

planning report the United Way said it will use to help make its future funding decisions. The full report, two years in the making, will be completed later this month.

When consultants hired by Kokesh's task force talked to community agencies and leaders, they found troubling feelings of "loss of community," Kokesh said.

There was also an acknowledged need for local organiza-

tions to work together and share information, "but there doesn't seem to be anybody to do that," she said.

Nobody, this is, except the United Way.

"People identified the United Way as pulling together different community partners" since it understands the region, and suggested its role should expand, Kokesh said.

The report will recommend that ethnic communities need

better representation on agencies.

"With growth comes diversity," said Kokesh. "As a region, we're having difficulties in handling that diversity."

York Region's United Way distributed \$2.5 million this year to its 31 members and to eight other agencies, 17 per cent more than last year.

"We are an organization in rapid growth mode," said outgoing board chair Don Brown.

Hepatitis meeting set for June 17

The York Region Hepatitis B/C Association is holding a meeting for individuals with Hepatitis B/C on Wednesday, June 17.

The meeting offers support as well as a chance to access and share current information. Start time is 7:30 p.m. at the York Region Health Services offices, 4261 Hwy. 7 E, Suite 203, in the Shoppes of Unionville plaza. For more info, call Jan or Debra at 940-1333.

ADVERTISING CORRECTION

In our Storewide Father's Day insert included in this newspaper, please note: Page 22, Timberland watches, \$100 to \$150 pricing is incorrect. Copy should read: "Timberland Watches - \$100 to \$180." We sincerely apologize to our valued customers and regret any inconvenience or confusion this may have caused.

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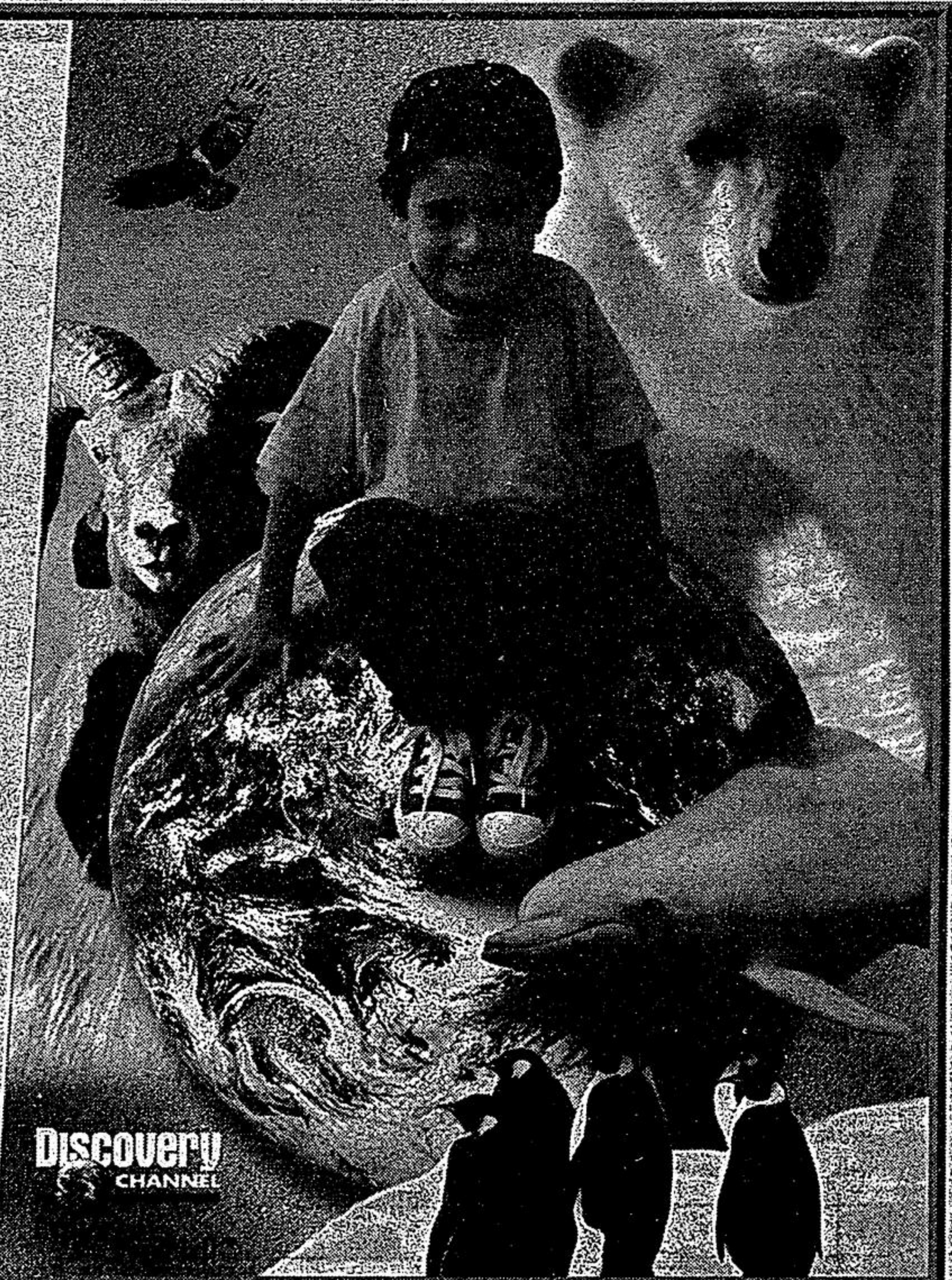
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