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17 Menos and Rebels record victories on the Oshawa league fastball circuit.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

EVENT: Salvation Army giant garage sale
WHEN: Today from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
WHERE: 9293 Hwy. 48, north of 16th Avenue



16 York Region's new police chief, Julian Fantino, brings strong leadership from London.

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THE ENVIRONMENT

Plan in motion to reclaim Musselman's Lake from pollution

Solution is clear

Councillor wants governments to help pay for improvements

BY JOAN RANSBERRY
 STAFF WRITER

A move is on to reclaim Musselman's Lake. Ward 2 Councillor Mark Carroll is adamant Musselman's Lake will be restored to the healthy, vibrant and beautiful body of water it once was. "Let the healing begin," said Carroll. Taking measures to get rid of the excessive amount of weeds is a top priority.

To ensure that the condition of the lake is given proper attention, a three-way partnership including the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville, York Region and the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority (LSRCA) needs to be struck, Carroll told Whitchurch-Stouffville Council Tuesday.

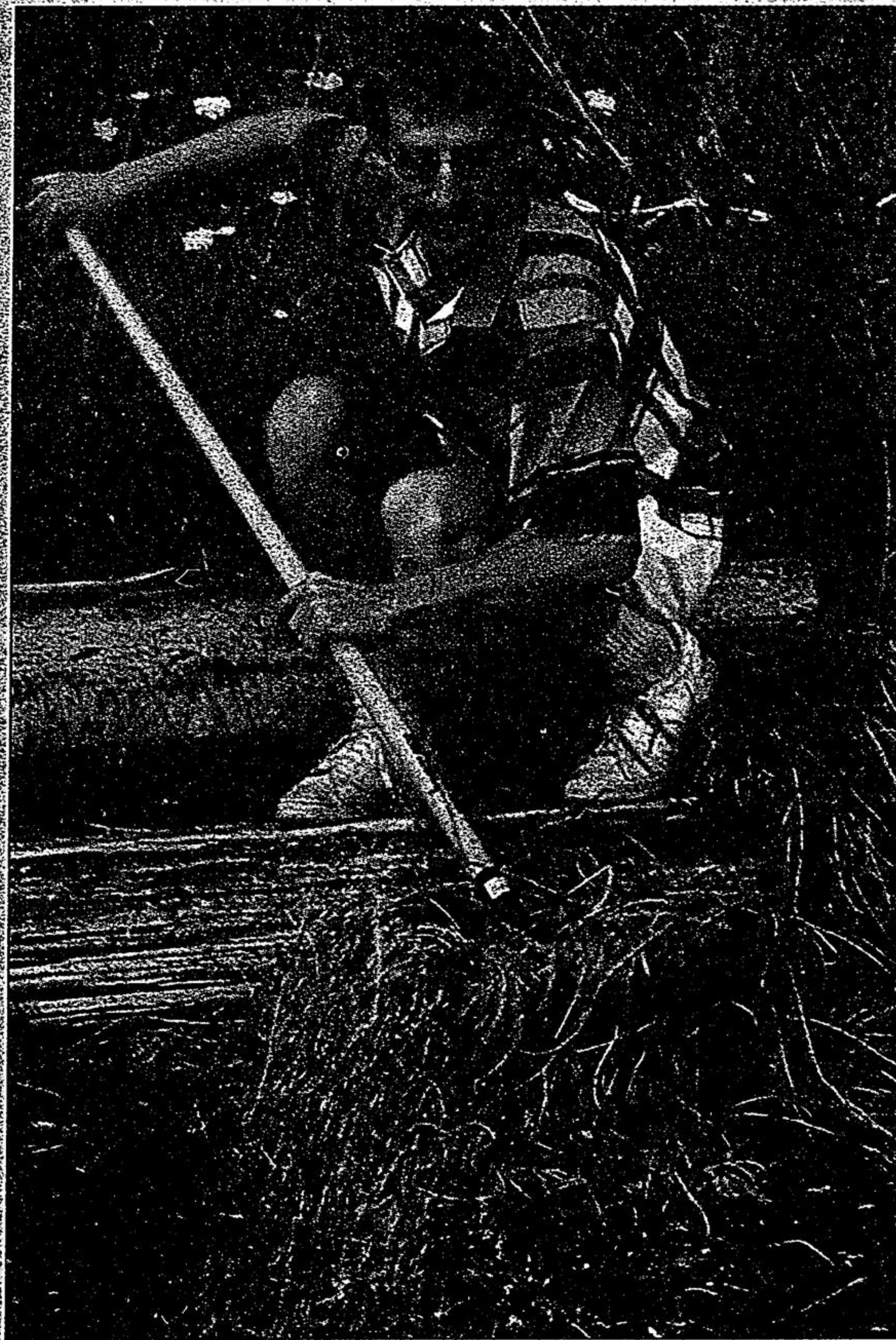
The idea is to unite and formulate corrective measures, including picking up the cost for erosion control along the lake.

A storm water retention plan is needed in the areas of the storm drains that flow directly into Musselman's Lake.

Recent tests, carried out by the Ministry of the Environment, show that Musselman's Lake is prone to blue-green algae due to high phosphorus levels and low nitrate.

Friends of Musselman's Lake — a watchdog group which formed in the spring to monitor the lake's health — is following the latest development.

Group member Caroline Lafleur explains that the high phosphorus levels are probably due to street runoff from the large number of culverts around the lake, the use of lawn fertilizers, the clearing of trees and wetland near the shore line, leachate from septic systems and the



STAFF PHOTO/SJOERD WITTEVEEN

Councillor Mark Carroll digs deep into Musselman's Lake and comes up with loads of unwanted weeds. Plans are afoot to reclaim the lake — beautify it, fix it and let it heal — with the work to be shared by the town, York Region, and the conservation authority.

See TIME, page 4.

Catholic teachers talk strike Monday

Don't mess with our schedules, teachers' union warns board

BY PATRICK CASEY
 STAFF WRITER

The fate of York Region's 45,000 Catholic school students rests in a new round of contract negotiations slated to begin Monday.

At stake is whether York Region's 2,700 elementary and secondary teachers return to the classroom Sept. 8, or institute a region-wide strike for the second time in less than a year.

Representatives from the school board and the Ontario English Catholic Teachers Association will meet in Markham Monday, 17 days after the board declared an impasse in negotiations and asked a provincial conciliator to write a no-board report.

After Ontario Labour Relations Board conciliator Bruce Janisse releases his report next week, the school board will have the right to change the terms and conditions of the current contract.

And that, the union says, would prompt a strike. Janisse plans to enter negotiations at the Radisson Hotel either Tuesday or Wednesday.

Although OECTA district president Ihor Baczynsky says he can't guarantee teachers will be in schools for the first day of class, they will arrive for work next Wednesday and Thursday, when the board releases staffing schedules for the new school year.

"I'm not saying we are going to show up for class, but we will show up next week and make a decision after that," Baczynsky said Thursday morning.

"We are not chomping at the bit to go out and we definitely will be there if our agreement is not changed. It all depends on how the board does its scheduling. If there is tampering, then all bets are off."

See TEACHERS, page 3.

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