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12 A woman who has lived through the horrors of war talks about her experiences.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

EVENT: Lions Club fishing derby
WHEN: Saturday, May 29 at 9:30 a.m.
WHERE: Burd's Fish Pond, call 640-1476



20 The grass is finally turning green — only to be blanketed by yard sale treasures.

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ECONOMICS: Mayors want services funded through income tax

Region calls for end to tax pooling

BY LISA QUEEN
 Staff Writer

The average York Region homeowner has contributed \$800 to Toronto's social services over the past two years, according to financial planning director Ed Hankins.

And the region's finance committee agreed Thursday those payments must stop.

York is responsible for almost 50 per cent of pooling costs — a controversial Tory policy that forces the regions around Toronto to help pay for the city's welfare and social housing costs.

York's share of the total last year was \$93.6 million, which worked out to an average of \$422 per household. This year's bill of \$88.6 million adds \$378 to the average homeowner's property tax bill.

By comparison, Hankins said the average Peel homeowner contributed \$181 last year, although Peel pegs the cost at \$196. The average household in Halton kicked in \$271, while the average Durham household actually had their taxes cut by \$2 under the pooling formula.

"York taxpayers' pooling contributions to Toronto represent the single largest service in the region's annual operating budget — exceeding the net operating budgets for public health, homes for the aged, ambulance, child care and roads," Hankins said, in a report to the region's finance

See YORK, page 4.

DREDGING IT ALL UP



STAFF PHOTO/STEPHANIE CHENG

Caitlin Markotich, 7, and Harry Bowes get a jump on the clean-up of Lehman's Pond off Millard Street in Whitchurch-Stouffville. The project is to take place June 5 at 10 a.m. and is sponsored by the local Rotary Club. Anyone who can donate rakes, hip waders and other equipment is asked to call Pam Wright at 640-4668 or Bowes at 640-3319.

Politician may blow whistle on train plans

Residents complain train noise disturbs their quiet lifestyle

BY JOAN RANSBERRY
 Staff Writer

It was a bumpy ride for the York-Durham Heritage Railway Tuesday night.

When YDHRA spokesperson Rob Pare told council the group plans to run seven trains a day through the town on weekends and holiday Mondays, he faced strong opposition from one councillor.

Residents living along the Stouffville/Uxbridge train route have expressed concern about noise and safety problems linked to the train, Ward 5 Councillor Judy Scala said.

And nearly doubling the number of runs this year is going to further "upset people", Scala said.

But the 1999 train schedule has not only been set, it's been published in a tourism brochure.

Both decisions were made without consultation with council or residents, Scala said.

"I'm having a real problem with this association."



ROBERT PARE: Train group will meet with town councils from Uxbridge and Stouffville.

Scala said there's a serious "co-operation and communication" problem between the YDHRA, the town and the residents. "But, I do believe we can work together."

A meeting between the railway association, both town councils and area residents is in order, Scala proposed and Pare agreed.

The four-year-old heritage railway is a vital tourist attraction to both communities, Pare said.

"We are not a train club. We are not train fans. We are business people operating a busi-

See MERCHANTS, page 4.

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