

INSIDE: Opinion... 6
 Arts... 18
 Sports... 19
 Classified... 20

VOTE '99

Exercise your right to vote today - cast a ballot.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

EVENT: Discussion about MS with Dr. C. Geenen
WHEN: Monday, June 14, 7 to 9 p.m.
WHERE: Seniors centre, Water Street, Markham



16 Activities mixed with the great outdoors teach students the importance of water.

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THURSDAY, JUNE 3, 1999

TO REACH US: (905) 640-2100

COMMUNITY: Girl's death at ranch triggers outcry for safety laws.

Petition calls for helmet wear

BY RICK VANDERLINDE
 Staff Writer

Appalled by the tragic horseback riding accident that killed 10-year-old Elizabeth Hader, a group of Aurora residents is determined to make sure it doesn't happen again.

The residents are starting a petition calling for support of a local bylaw that would make riding helmets and proper footwear mandatory.

Elizabeth was killed after the horse she was riding at a Whitchurch-Stouffville stable April 18 suddenly bolted. She was thrown from the horse and dragged 150 metres hitting her head on a rock.

Cathy Vranic said friends and neighbours are joining the Haders in a bid to have safety standards set for commercial riding establishments.

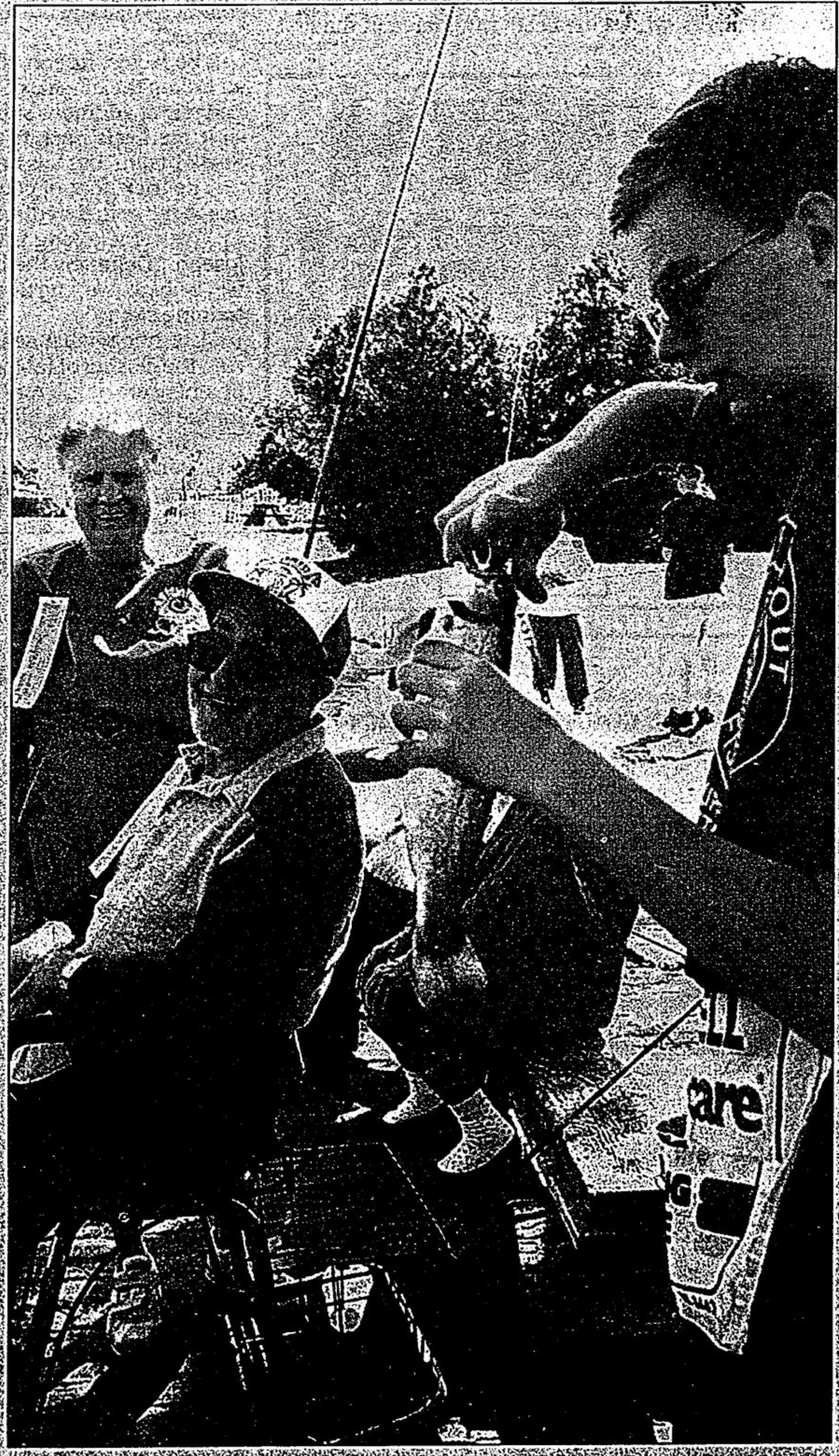
Two coroner's inquests have called for helmets and proper footwear in the past 25 years, but the recommendations were never legislated.

"Elizabeth's parents are very motivated to have something really change because of the tragedy," Vranic said.

The petition will be available at a booth in downtown Aurora Sunday between 1 and 5 p.m.

Mayor Wayne Emerson said council will meet with the horse community before striking a bylaw. "But certainly, we're hoping we can work with Aurora to get

CATCH OF THE DAY



PHOTO/CHERYL JOHNSON

Norene and Harold Wardlaw watch as employee Keith Loewen unhooks a fish during last Saturday's fishing derby at Burd's Trout Pond, sponsored by the Stouffville Lions Club for seniors and disabled children.

Area Leafs helped lead NHL team to playoffs

BY MIKE HAYAKAWA AND JOHN CUDMORE
 Staff Writers

For Steve Thomas the 1998-99 National Hockey League campaign was bittersweet.

On one hand it was an obvious disappointment for the 35-year-old York Region resident to hang up his skates for another season after the Buffalo Sabres defeated the Toronto Maple Leafs 4-2 on Monday to wrap up the best-of-seven NHL Eastern Conference title in five games at the Air Canada Centre.

Accentuating the positive though, the veteran forward was happy with the way things transpired this season in his second tour of duty with the Maple Leafs.

The team not only sported a 28-point improvement over a year ago, but advanced as far as the Eastern Conference final after missing the playoffs the previous season.

"Sure it's disappointing when you lose," Thomas said in a post-season wrap up press conference at the Air Canada Centre Tuesday. "But you have to take the positives of the playoff run and reflect on it and the experience that was gained. And to get to this step in the



CURTIS JOSEPH: Grew up in Sharon watching Toronto Maple Leafs play on television.

playoffs, nobody expected that.

Amassing six goals and three assists in 16 post-season contests, the series with the Sabres proved to be a trying time for Thomas.

Suffering a right shoulder injury in the final game of the Eastern Conference semi-final against the Pittsburgh Penguins, Thomas tried to hide his pain throughout the conference final. Thomas eventually revealed he incurred a second-degree separation with a slight crack in the clavicle. In addition, he had a bruised collarbone and took six stitches

See A GREAT, page 2.

JAKES
 Saturday, June 5
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