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**4** Plastic company ready to make move north from Markham to Stouffville.

**COMMUNITY CALENDAR**  
**EVENT:** Friends of Musselman's Lake meeting  
**WHEN:** Tonight, 7 p.m.  
**WHERE:** Cedarvale Community Centre



**3** Fostering a child in need can be both challenging and satisfying for a family.

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# Stouffville Tribune

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TUESDAY, OCT. 19, 1999

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**EDUCATION:** *Highest court to decide if Constitution violated*

## Union argues for taxation control

BY PATRICK CASEY  
 Staff Writer

The Supreme Court of Canada will have the final ruling regarding the validity of Ontario's restructured education system.

Last Thursday, Canada's highest court granted a request by the Ontario English Catholic Teachers Association to hear arguments whether the provincial government violated the Constitution when it removed the right of school boards to raise their own taxes.

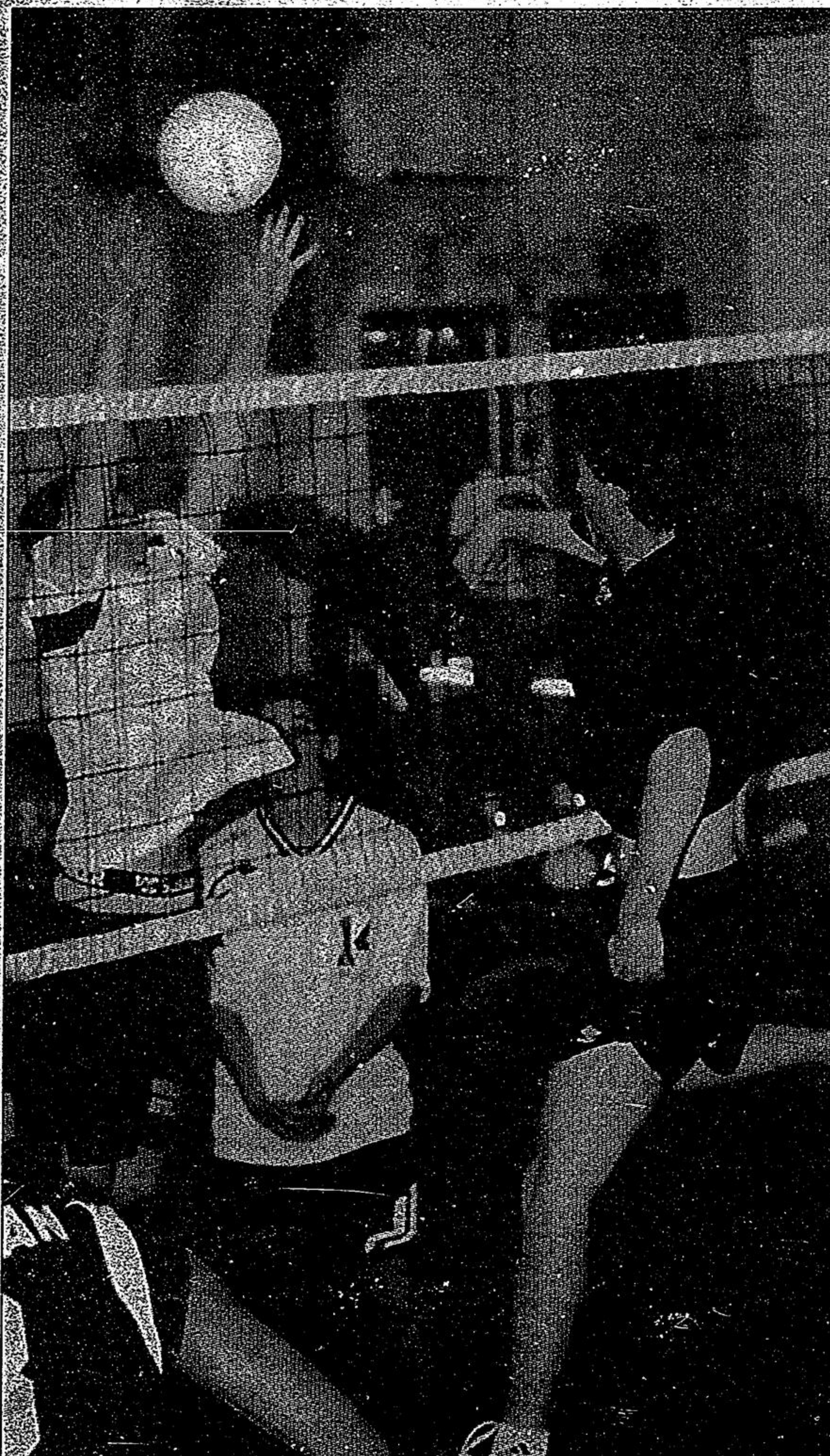
In April, the Ontario Court of Appeal overturned an earlier decision that labeled key sections of the provincial government's Bill 160 unconstitutional to Catholic school supporters.

However, OECTA first vice-president Kathy McVean said the allocation of funds is not the critical issue, but rather the centralization of power at Queen's Park and school board's lack of administrative control.

York Region's Catholic school board chairperson Elizabeth Crowe admitted Bill 160 is not perfect, but said the new funding model is an upgrade on the antiquated format, including pumping more money toward high-growth boards in an effort to build new schools at a faster pace.

York Region's Catholic school supporters were forced to accept inflated education tax bills thanks to the school board's \$32-million illegal debt that was finally erased last year.

## SPIKE STOPPER



STAFF PHOTO/STEVE SOMERVILLE

Stouffville Junior team member Adam Howe blocks a shot at the Millennium Cup volleyball tournament Saturday, hosted by Stouffville District Secondary School.

## Stable owner rejects horse laws

*Proposed bylaw enforces riding safety standards*

BY DAWN LIERSCH  
 Staff Writer

A Georgina stable owner says riding establishments that are proven safe shouldn't be saddled with a new licensing bylaw.

Georgina council is considering passing a new bylaw requiring minimum safety and licensing standards for riding stables, following the lead of Aurora and Whitchurch-Stouffville.

The bylaw has already been given two readings and is expected to be passed next month after consultation with local riding establishments.

But Don Hepworth of Leacock Hill Stables in Baldwin believes the bylaw is too strict.

"They might as well close our doors and sell the horses for meat," Hepworth said.

The bylaw will require riders younger than 18 to wear helmets and proper footgear, forbid children younger than six from trail rides and require riders aged six to 10 to be led by an experienced rider holding their horse on a tether.



PHYLIS MORRIS: Penned the controversial bylaw tightening stable rules.

It will also license riding establishments, subjecting them to annual inspections to ensure they comply with regulations.

Hepworth argued his 11-year-old establishment already follows many rules of the bylaw and believes only new businesses less than seven years old should be subject to it.

He said the bylaw also duplicates rules established by other organizations. For instance, the Ontario Equestrian Federation and the Association of Horse Riding Establishments have issued their own lists of minimum

See BYLAW, page 7

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