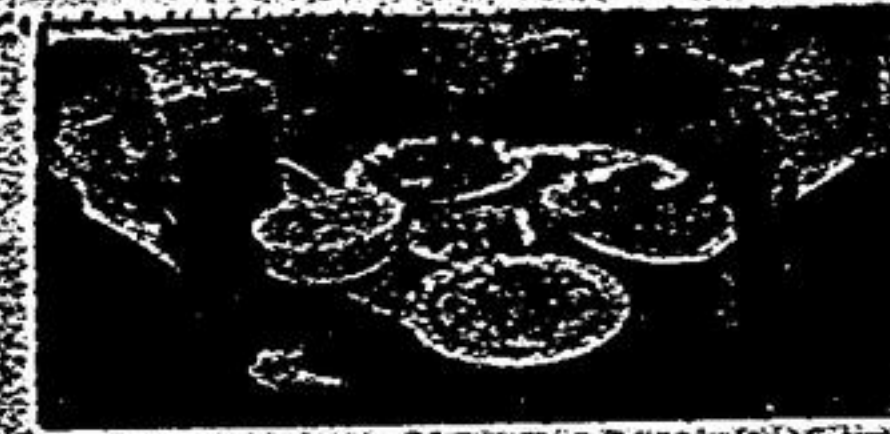


**INSIDE:** Opinion 6  
Local news 7  
Sports 19  
Classified 20

**3** Teen violence forum hears from parents of slain youth who call for people to get involved.

**COMMUNITY CALENDAR**

**EVENT:** Book discussion group  
**WHEN:** Tonight, 7 p.m.  
**WHERE:** Stouffville library



**16** Food takes on many meanings during the Chinese New Year celebrations.

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PROVINCE STANDS GROUND ON MORaine DEVELOPMENT

## Keep moraine natural: scientists

BY MIKE ADLER  
Staff Writer

Protect an east-west corridor across the Oak Ridges Moraine, forbid the cutting of its forests and establish a 2,700-acre Kettle Lakes Park in Richmond Hill, more than 450 scientists have told the provincial government.

The statement, released Tuesday at Queen's Park, calls for privately

owned Richmond Hill lands and other key natural areas along the 160-kilometre length of the moraine to be acquired for a system of public parks linked by a trail.

Scientists believe the plan is sensible, Tom Hutchinson, a Trent University environmental sciences professor, told reporters.

Half the (University of Toronto) Faculty of Forestry have signed on

to this, including the dean, he said. "It's not a bunch of starry-eyed ecologists."

Hutchinson and Ian Brookes, a York University geology professor, also agreed the province should freeze development on the moraine until it finalizes a land-use policy.

The Mike Harris government can no longer claim the scientific community doesn't support strong

actions to save the moraine, argued Gregor Beck, conservation director for the Federation of Ontario Naturalists.

Regional Councillor Dave Barrow said yesterday he hopes the statement will move the province to action. "I truly hope they realize this is a bigger issue than just Richmond Hill."

See MONEY, page 4.

## Safety fears addressed along Ninth Line

Environmental study sought by mayor

BY JOAN RANSBERRY  
Staff Writer

Calling Ninth Line unsafe for pedestrians and motorists, residents of Musselman's Lake have asked that major attention be given to the road.

The request is being heard, and Mayor Wayne Emmerson has asked for an environmental assessment on the area involving the provincial and regional governments, the assessment is viewed as the first leg to fixing the long-standing problem, Emmerson said.

On Tuesday, Bob James, a spokesperson for Friends of Musselman's Lake, told council that on parts of Ninth Line there is no shoulder at all, especially between Bomar and Forfardale roads.

When pedestrians face safety threats from motorists, there are two choices: either jump up the bank or jump down towards the lake, James said.

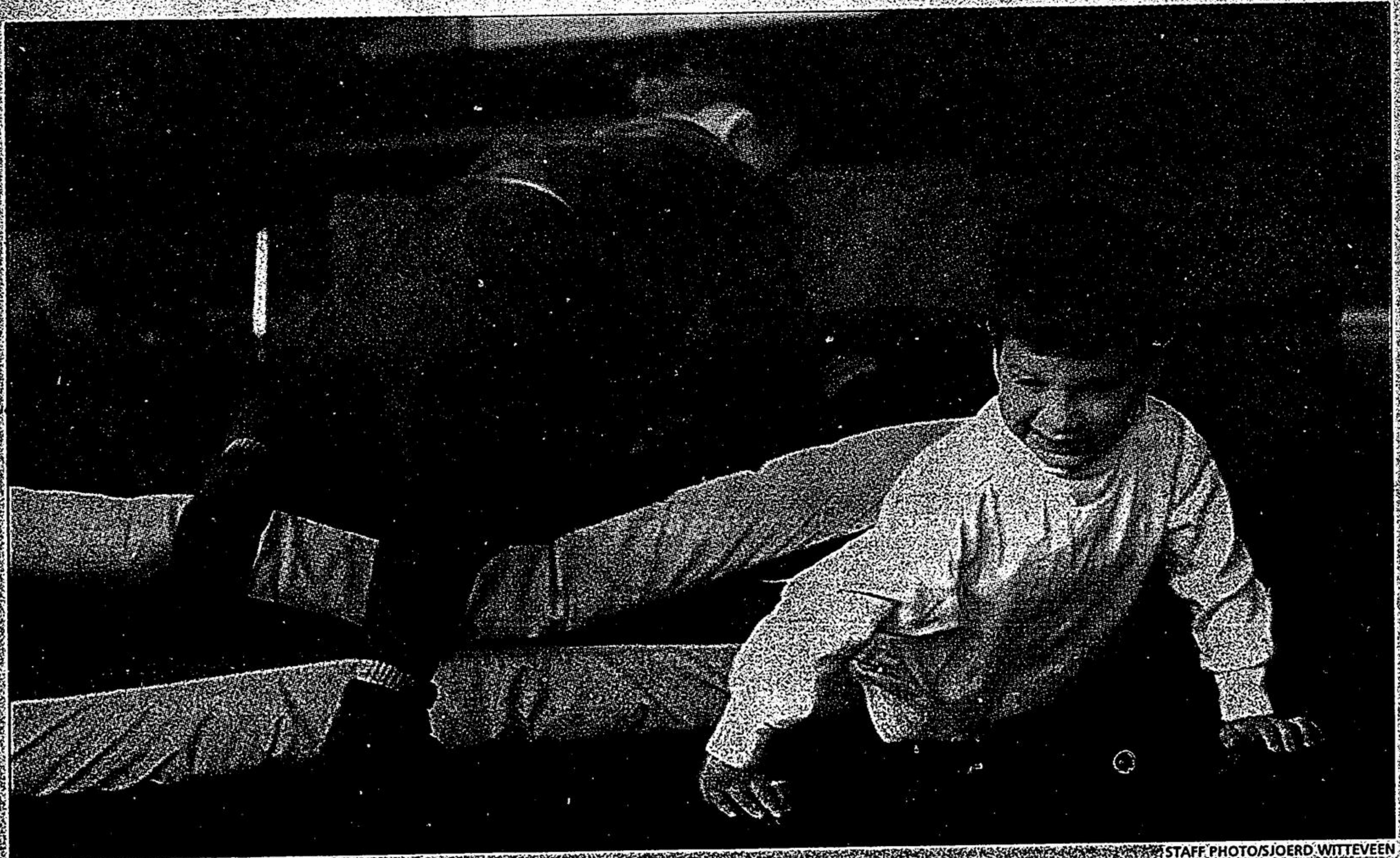
This particular portion of the road has become very dangerous to travel. In some places, the road along the lake side has caved in and washed practically away.

One section of the guard rail has been damaged and is simply hanging in mid air, he said.

The safety of the residents is a major concern.

The Friends of Musselman's Lake recently circulated a ques-

See SAFETY, page 7.



STAFF PHOTO/SJOERD WITTEVEN

### MAT TRAP

David Chartrand escapes the mat trap, despite the best efforts of playmate Jordan Boyd during Tumbling Tots activities at the rec centre Tuesday afternoon.

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