

**INSIDE:** Opinion 6  
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**5** Middle-income earners to benefit from tax cuts expected in federal budget.

**COMMUNITY CALENDAR**

**EVENT:** Winter carnival  
**WHEN:** Sunday, noon to 4 p.m.  
**WHERE:** Musselmans Lake



**21** Controlling indoor air pollution - one person's perfume may be another's poison.

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BUSINESS LEADERS WANT NEW BORDERS IN PLACE BY NOVEMBER ELECTION

## Amalgamation action ordered

BY LISA QUEEN  
 Staff Writer

York Region's business leaders this morning will demand a financial analysis of amalgamation models, with an eye to having a new governance structure in place by the time residents go to the polls in November.

Frustrated by five years of watching politicians discuss amalgamation with very little concrete

information to back up their positions, most of York's chambers of commerce will urge councillors to hire an independent consultant to conduct the study.

A task force made up of a business representative, a resident and politicians would oversee the process.

"Right now, the matter has ground to a halt and we want the region to move," said Vaughan

chamber president Peter Gianfarani, who will act as spokesperson for the boards of trade at this morning's regional council meeting.

"This infighting is not serving anybody. Let's figure it out and get on with life."

The chambers want the study completed by June 30.

If possible, the new structure would be implemented during the

summer and fall, so voters could choose their new slate of candidates in November.

The new model could range from the existing nine municipalities, regional government and Greater Toronto Services Board doing a better job of delivering services, to York being carved into one or more new cities.

See REGION, page 2.

## Stouffville at odds over smoke-free York Region

Business demands smoke freedom

BY JOAN RANSBERRY  
 Staff Writer

The move to make York region 100 per cent smoke free is not getting an easy ride in Whitchurch-Stouffville.

At Wednesday's public meeting at the council chambers, York Region's assistant medical officer of health Dr. Troy Herrick outlined the life-threatening health issue of smoking.

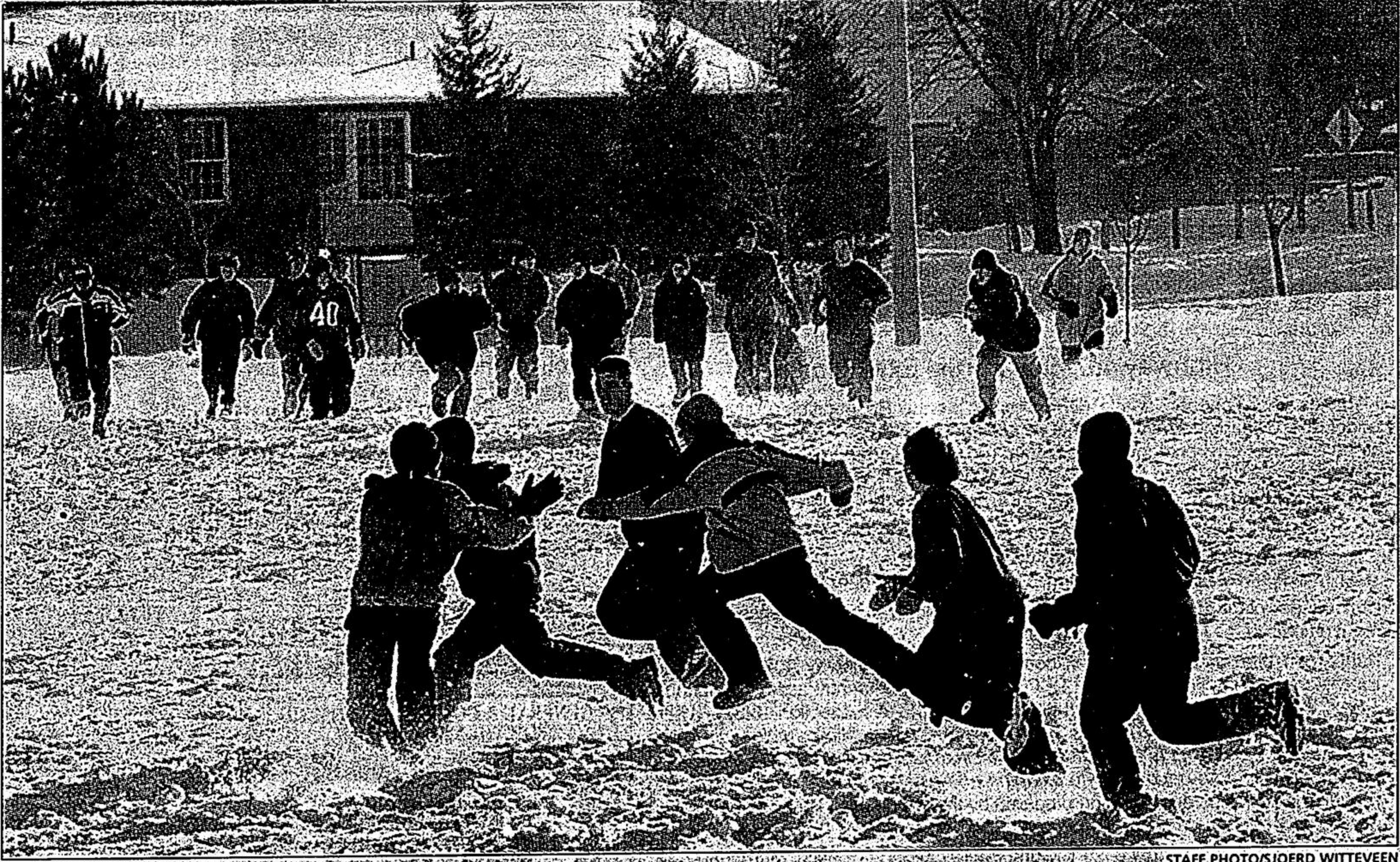
In making his pitch for clean air, Herrick said tobacco is responsible for the deaths of about 47,000 Canadians each year, while in Ontario, there are 12,000 tobacco-related deaths each year.

Still, the proposed smoking bylaw met with serious challenge, especially from the Chamber of Commerce, the Board of Trade and restaurant and bar owners.

Since the task force's goal is to have York Region smoke free by 2004, public meetings are being held region-wide to discuss the pros and cons of the proposed phased-in bylaw. Of the nine municipalities, Vaughan is the first to have a 100 per cent smoke-free law in place.

Kathy Fullerton, co-owner of a Main Street entertainment spot, didn't waste any time letting the task force know how she feels. "I don't like it when someone tells me what I can and cannot do at

See RESIDENTS, page 4.



STAFF PHOTOS/JOERD WITTEVEEN

### SNOW BALL

A snowy field was the site of a rugby match for Stouffville District Secondary School students.

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