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10 Children have a patriotic say on what living in Canada means to them.

ARTS & CULTURE CALENDAR

EVENT: Strawberry Festival
WHEN: Today and tomorrow
WHERE: Whitchurch-Stouffville



3 Ivan Harris has been nominated Citizen of the Year for his generous gifts of time and talent.

SERVING WHITCHURCH-STOUFFVILLE SINCE 1888
 Whitchurch-Stouffville Public Library

Stouffville Tribune

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HAPPY CANADA DAY

Waving — and wearing — the flag

Clearing the way for smoke-free region

Markham latest to launch smoke ban

BY KATHLEEN GRIFFIN
 Staff Writer

Markham will nearly be smoke-free by next summer.

Council passed a no-smoking bylaw Tuesday, despite heated opposition from restaurant and bar owners, who say the public input process was unfair and restrictive.

Every bar, restaurant, bowling alley and any public place open to children must be smoke free or provide a separate, ventilated smoking room by June 2001.

Bars that restrict clientele to those 19 and over as well as billiard and bingo halls have until June 2004 to comply.

Spearheaded by Councillor Jack Heath, the no-smoking bylaw mirrors those in Toronto, Mississauga and Brampton. A similar bylaw was passed by the Town of Georgina this week.

Stouffville council has adopted a regional smoking bylaw in principal, but is seeking public input.

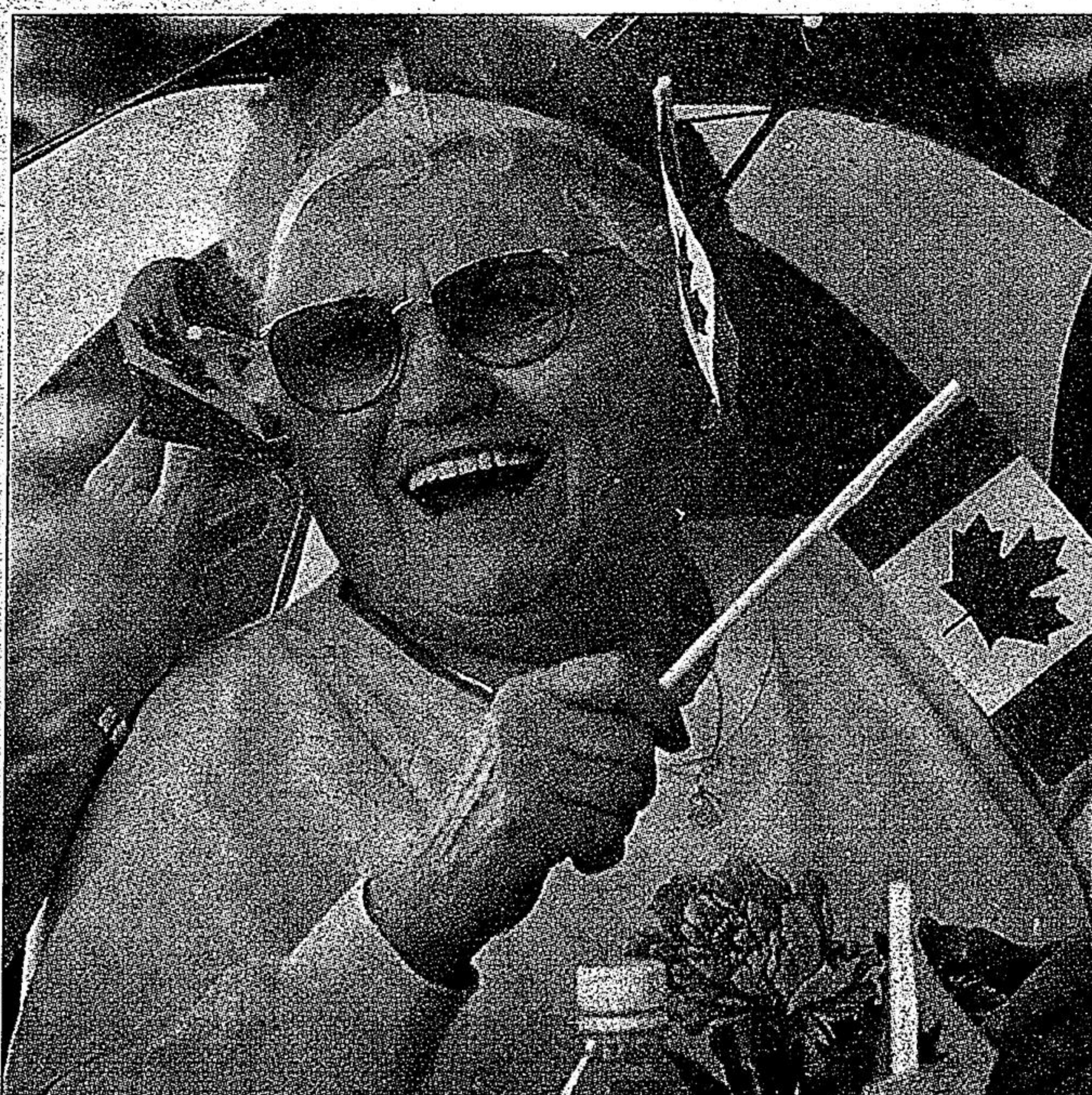
"We're doing what the people of Markham are asking us to do. It's a compromise with the least effect on business," Heath said.

Dr. Helena Jaczek, York Region's medical officer of health, was on hand to congratulate council for its leadership.

"This is an excellent effort to do your part in the war against tobacco," she said.

But Ruth Burkholder, presi-

See BUSINESS, page 8.



Kate Markovich found shade under her personal umbrella as she decorated herself in flag fashion to celebrate Canada's birthday.

True patriot love

Seniors gathered to pay tribute to Canada at a fun-filled day of games and food at Markham Museum this week.

[CANADA DAY/PAGE 10]

Court closure chaos forecast

Toxic mould removal could jeopardize trials: lawyer

BY LISA QUEEN
 Staff Writer

At least one York Region lawyer is hoping criminal trials won't be jeopardized by Attorney General Jim Flaherty's decision to close the Newmarket courthouse to clear the building of toxic mould.

"You would think not," Newmarket lawyer Dan Monteith said Thursday, a day after Flaherty announced the building will be closed for about two months.

"There may be some adjournments, but if they start adjourning too much, they may run into some Askov problems."

Under the Askov ruling of the mid-1990s, hundreds of cases were thrown out because backlogs were violating defendants' constitutional right to a speedy trial.

Monteith predicts moving court operations to other locations will create havoc.

"You can hardly imagine it's going to run smoothly. It's going to be chaotic," he said, predicting files being transferred to alternate locations are bound to get lost.

Small claims hearings will be held at the Richmond Hill small claims court at 855 Major Mackenzie Dr. E.

But officials with the Ministry of the Attorney General, which operates the courthouse, were still scrambling late Thursday afternoon to find alternative locations to hear family and criminal matters.

The courthouse closed Friday at 6 p.m. and won't reopen until the toxic mould is removed.

See SECURITY, page 5.

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