

Colle walks to secure better moraine deal

BY MIKE ADLER
Staff Writer

It was Carole Al-Temen who spotted the bird in front of the silt fence.

Walking on Bayview Avenue in Richmond Hill, Liberal MPP Mike Colle mentioned he had seen a great blue heron at the same spot while hiking last summer on the Oak Ridges Moraine.

Seconds later, Al-Temen saw the same species standing in a marsh that is slated to be destroyed by an extension of Bayview north of Lake Wilcox.

Disturbed, the heron flew off. But it provided the Liberal's Greater Toronto Area critic, who was retracing his steps across the moraine this week, with the most sublime moment of his

Wednesday morning.

"They'll be gone, eh?" he said, watching the heron head toward the lake. "This is what it's all about."

Last summer, Colle walked to pressure the province's governing Tories to act on saving the moraine, a band of sandy ridges and hills that covers a quarter of York Region.

Now that the government has acted — with a six-month development freeze and an advisory panel finding consensus on what should be saved — Colle was walking to secure a better deal.

Some people seemed to recognize him. Michael Lowe, a new Lake Wilcox resident, caught Colle's attention from his Volvo.

"I feel hypocritical because I just bought a house and now I'm saying stop," Lowe said.

But he still wanted to know if the extension and new subdivisions in the area were a "done deal" or not. "It gives me a sickness in my stomach," Lowe said.

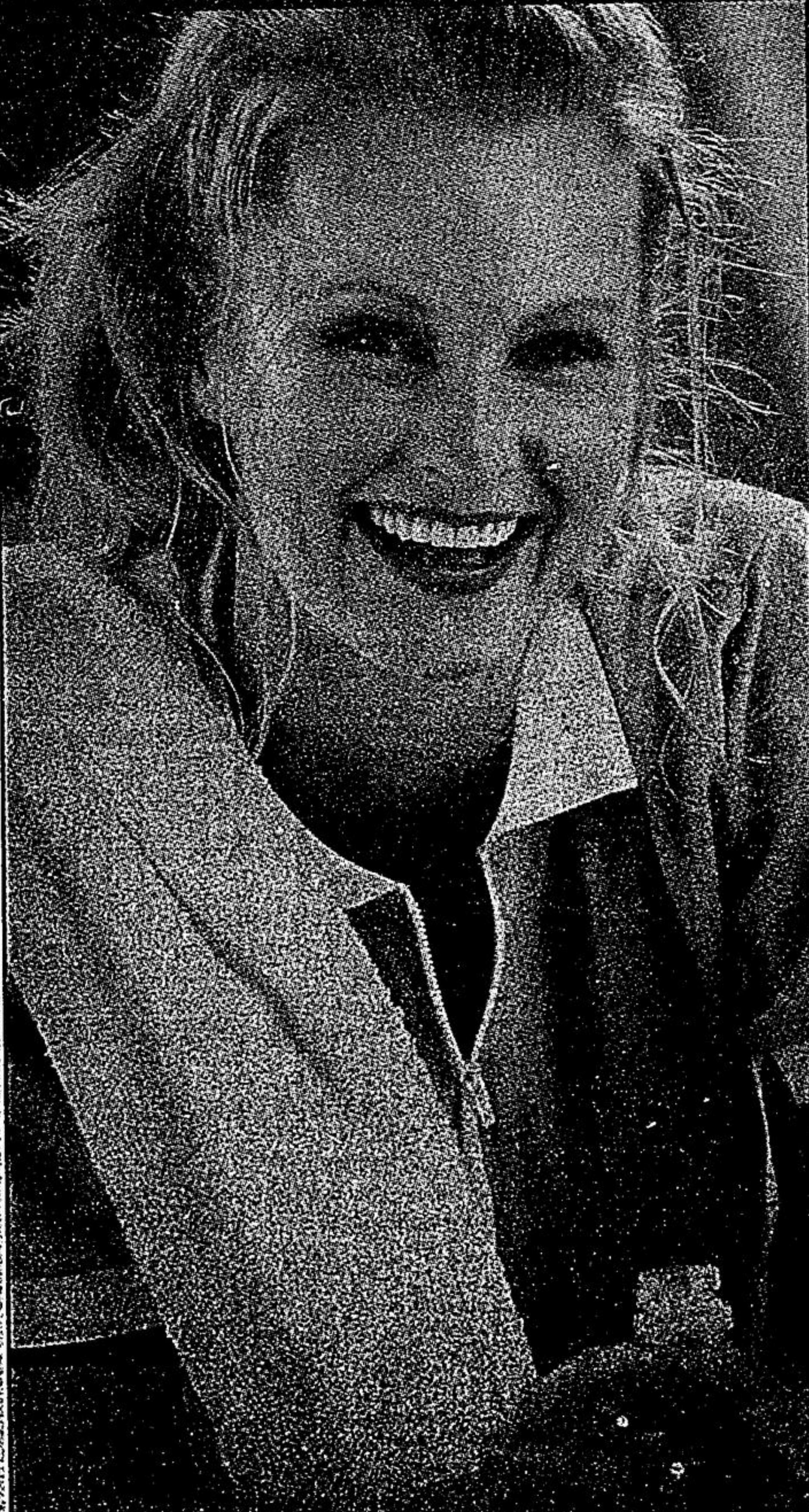
"There's still a lot to fight for," Colle told the man, "especially for your kids."

Earlier, on the same road in Aurora, the MPP came across Norm Lewis barefoot in his driveway and setting out trash.

"I think they need all that protection up here, for the lakes and that," said Lewis, who moved in nine years ago.

See MPP, page II.

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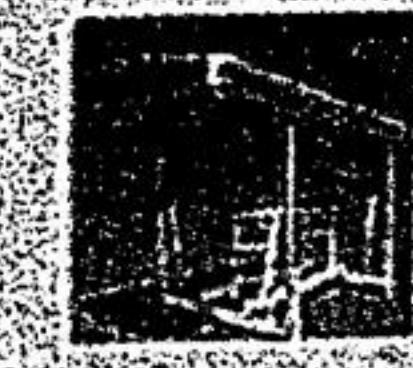
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