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8 Stouffville high school teachers get back to coaching sports with new agreement.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

EVENT: Stouffville BIA Homestead Days
WHEN: Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
WHERE: Downtown Stouffville, Memorial Park



18 Taking a ride with Olympic show jumper John Pearce of Whitchurch-Stouffville.

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Stouffville Tribune

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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2001

TO REACH US: (905) 294-2200

Hydro rate hikes, power outages irk residents

Town council revisits sale to Hydro One

BY JOAN RANSBERRY
 Staff Writer

Has the promise to freeze Whitchurch-Stouffville's hydro rates for three years been broken?

On Tuesday, town councillors and two local residents put Hydro One officials on the hot seat over a seven per cent rate hike in rates in Whitchurch-Stouffville they said was imposed during a freeze on power prices.

As well, Hydro One officials were criticized by local resident Roger Little for putting much of the town in the dark for hours this summer.

Little pointed out that in August, residents of Stouffville experienced five power outages, totaling 30 hours.

It is disturbing that the frequency of these power outages has occurred simultaneously with the purchase of Whitchurch-Stouffville Hydro to Hydro One, said Little.

Hydro One spokesperson Don McInnes explained that not all transfers from municipal-owned utilities to Hydro One went smoothly.

After taking control of Stouffville's electrical service 11 months ago, the lights went out five times in a three-month span, beginning June 26. McInnes explained that the first major outage in Stouffville was caused when a fuse blew and in the

See HYDRO, page 20.

BLUE JAY FOUND ON MAIN STREET HAD VIRUS: REPORT

BIRDS CARRIED WEST NILE

BY LISA QUEEN
 Staff Writer

Four dead birds found in York Region were carrying the West Nile virus, the public health department has confirmed.

Federal lab tests released this week confirmed a blue jay found Sept. 10 in Whitchurch-Stouffville near the intersection of Ninth Line and Main Street

was carrying the virus.

In addition, tests have verified three American crows found in Markham were infected with the disease. They were found near the intersections of Hwy. 7 and Bayview Avenue, John Street and Bayview and Steeles Avenue East and Warden Avenue.

Associate medical officer of health, Dr. Troy Herrick, said his

department was taken off guard by positive test results of the crows.

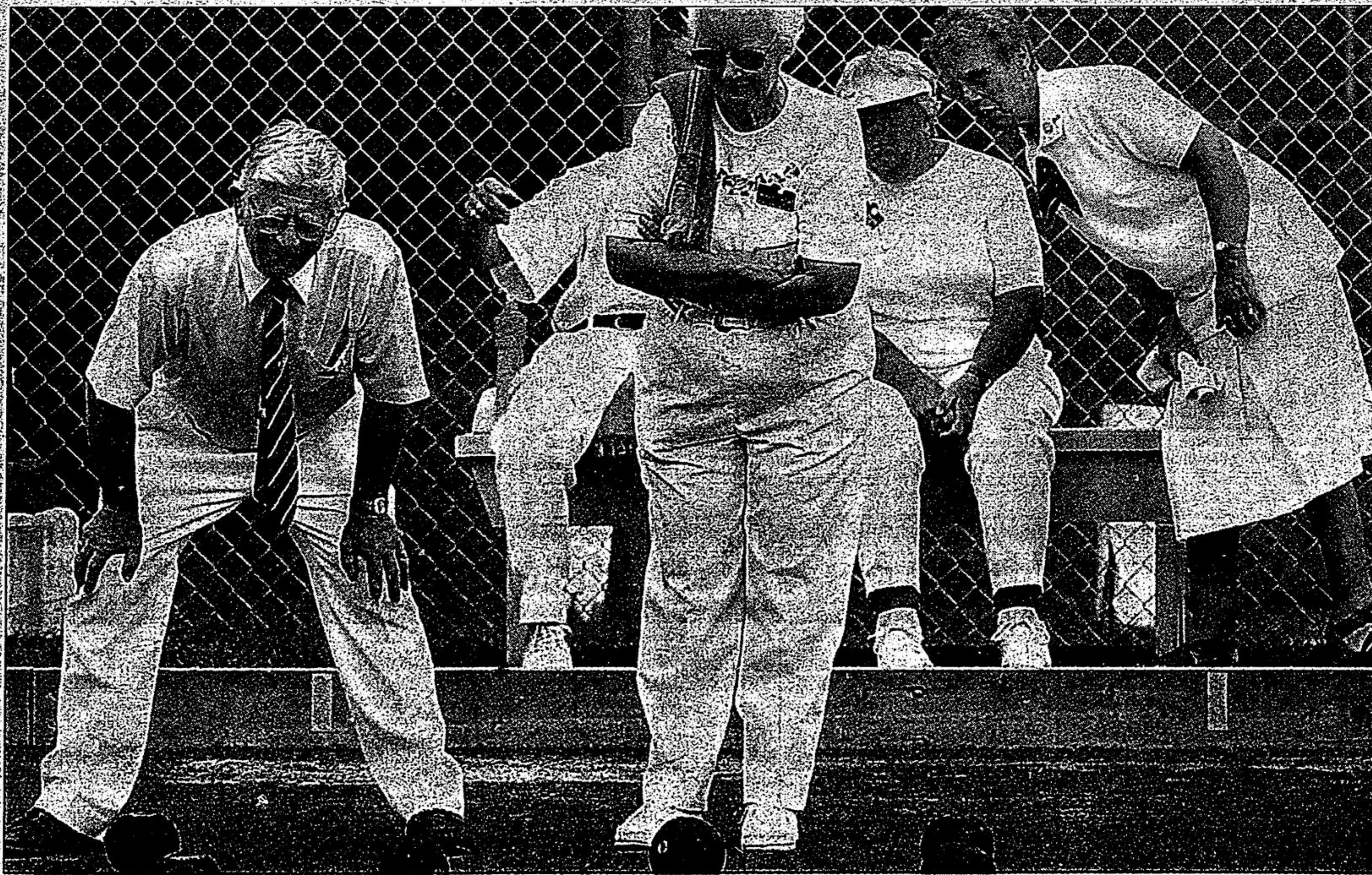
"It came as quite a surprise," he said. "But we've said it in the past — it (the virus) may have been here all along but not detected because of random chance of the birds that were tested."

More than 100 dead birds found in York have been tested, with all but the four testing negative to the

virus. Still, the four infected birds in York join a growing list in Ontario, with 42 dead birds from other regions confirmed to have the disease and another five presumed to have the virus.

Although rare, the disease can be passed to humans and animals by mosquitoes, which have

See NO, page 14.



STAFF PHOTO/SJOERD WITTEVEEN

INTERNATIONAL VIEW

Stouffville's Margaret Collins (right) and David Wood from a visiting Welsh team watch the bowl as the teams clash on the greens at the Stouffville Lawn Bowling Club on Tuesday. See more photos on page 13.

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