

# Local Leaf fans mourn playoff elimination

BY CHRISSIE O'BRIEN  
Special

There's no joy in Markham and Whitchurch-Stouffville today. The beloved Toronto Maple Leafs are toast. Toronto's run for the Stanley Cup died Tuesday night with a heartbreaking 2-1 overtime loss to the Carolina Hurricanes.

Carolina took the best-of-seven semi-final series 4-2, and now awaits the winner of the Detroit-Colorado series, to see who it will face for the cup.

Most fans in Markham and Whitchurch-Stouffville are taking Toronto's elimination hard.

"I watched the game from beginning to end, and I'm disappointed with the outcome," said Markham mechanic Brian Masters.



AJ DOODNAUTH  
'I was expecting a game seven.'

"I thought Toronto should have won; as the last goal went in you wanted to cry. It's just a game but you get really wrapped up in it." That said...

"It was great to see the whole Greater Toronto Area come together, to see the blue flags everywhere. Now it's down to better luck next year."

Other fans are equally philosophical. "There is only one winner in the end

and it wasn't us," said Graham Hoad, owner of The Lion of Stouffville pub, who didn't miss a playoff game. "It was fun while it lasted."

"I was expecting a game seven — I didn't think they would lose it. For them to go down to a team like

See LEAFS, page 14.

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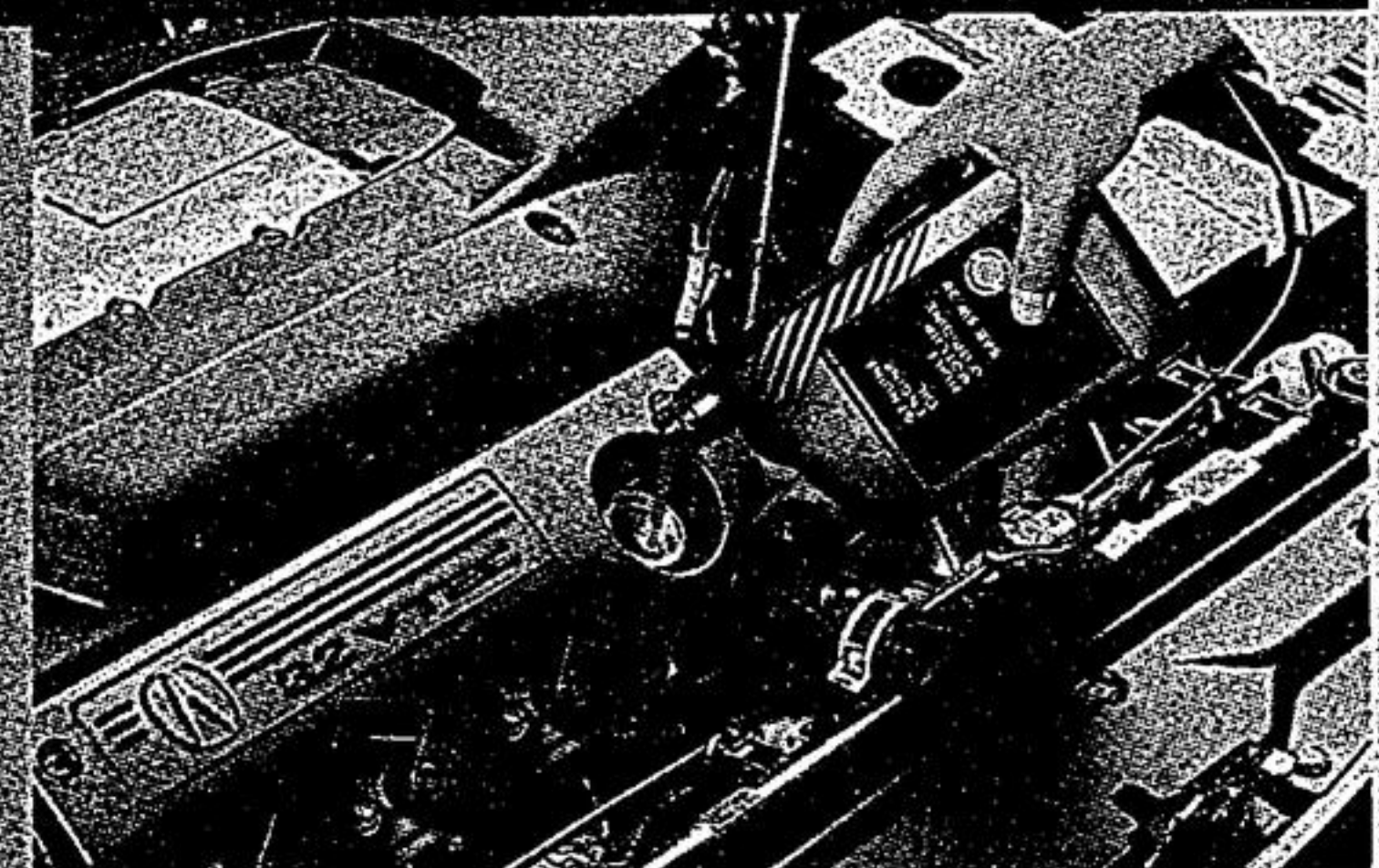


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