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Charities benefit from MDHS leadership program

From page 11.

In the higher grades, students are directed to advanced placement classes. Students from MDHS have carried out fundraising campaigns for the Canadian Cancer Society and the Heart and Stroke Foundation.

They learned the skills in LEAD, the school's leadership program directed by teacher Mark Caswell.

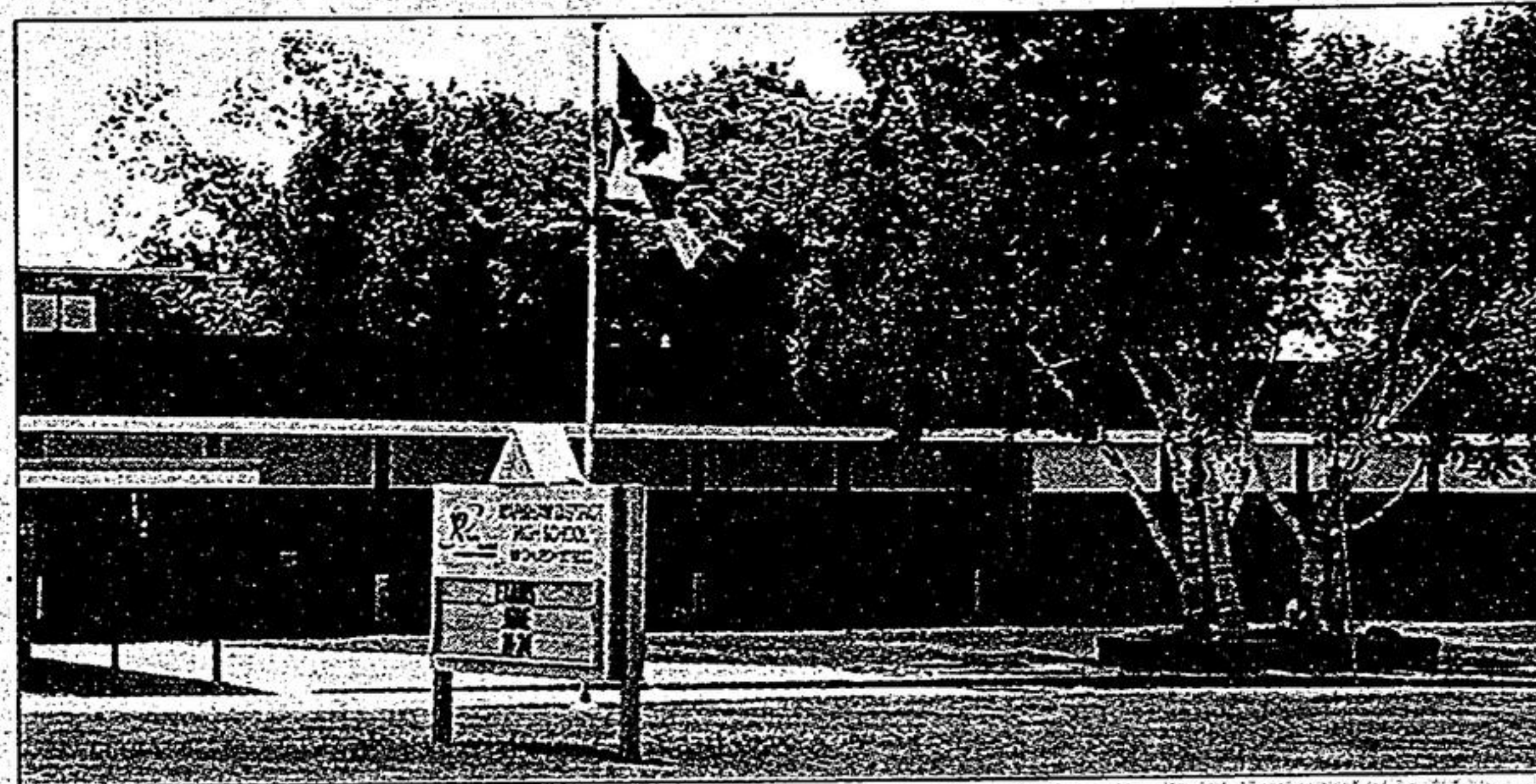
Students are nominated by their teachers for the Grade 10 and 11 program, whereby they do volunteer work inside and outside of the school while earning a social science credit.

Another teacher, art department head Frank Smith, also runs the York Region Arts Camp program.

Sculptor Dorsey James, who has been at the school for 25 years, offers a wood-carving program in Grade 10.

There are about 50 teens taking the course from Mr. James, whose works include fanciful creations such as a tortoise that can be turned over to reveal the face of Merlin the magician.

Mr. James — a former At The Schools teacher of the month — recently com-



STAFF PHOTO/SJOERD WITTEVEEN

Markham District High School opened in the 1950s. It has 1,900 students.

pleted a large commission of more than 30 used wooden hydro poles which he carved with faces of Merlin, Morgana and sprites.

Twenty of them are on a hill in Pickering's Alex Robertson Park, with another nine on the lower area. He has also done some of the carvings right onto trees in places where they won't be harmed.

"I want kids to appreciate art," Mr. James said, "what they do with their own hands and what they do with technology."

There are more than 30 sports teams at the school from ultimate Frisbee to curling.

A half dozen MDHS teams won

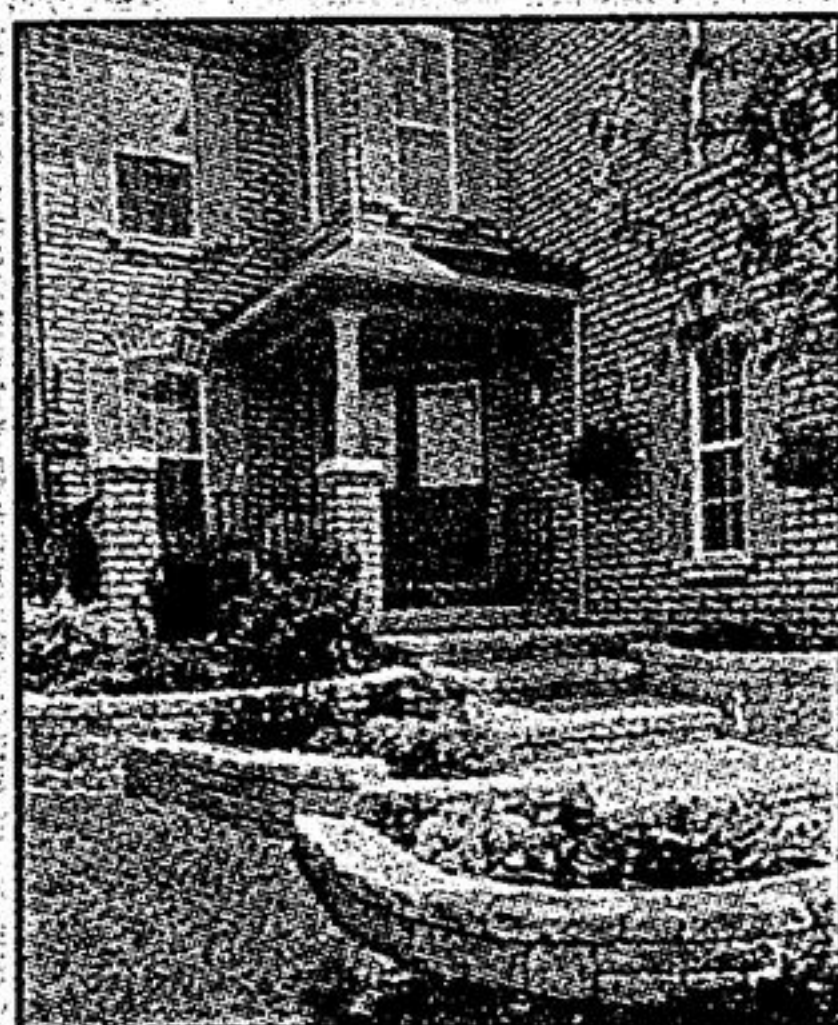
See SPORTS, page 17.

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