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**19** Vandorf golfer ready to tee it up next week at Canadian junior tourney in Saskatoon.

**COMMUNITY CALENDAR**

**EVENT:** 29th annual classic and antique car show  
**WHEN:** Sunday, Aug. 11, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
**WHERE:** Whitchurch-Stouffville Museum, Vandorf



**16** Camping has changed: New equipment takes the 'rough' out of roughing it.

SERVING WHITCHURCH-STOUFFVILLE SINCE 1888

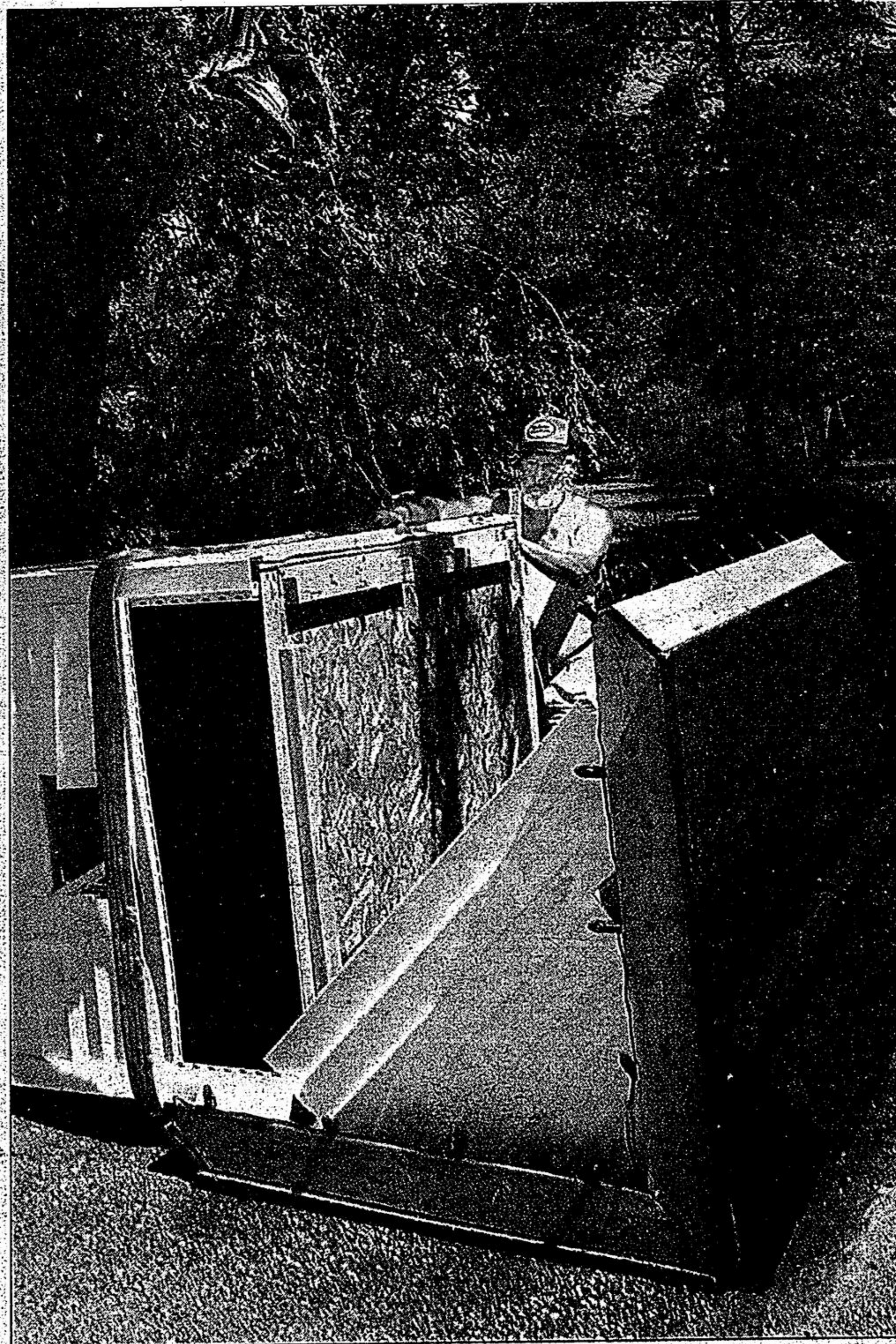
# Stouffville Tribune

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THURSDAY, AUG. 1, 2002

TO REACH US: (905) 640-2612

*Blow me down*



STAFF PHOTO/STEVE SOMERVILLE

Gene de Beaupre attempts to lift this fallen winter bus shelter in Whitchurch-Stouffville Tuesday. A storm that passed through Monday toppled the shelter on the Ninth Line property, along with branches from nearby trees.

## Cop pleads guilty over Sikura investigation

*York constable went on W-5 without permission*

BY JEFF MITCHELL  
 Staff Writer

York Regional Police Const. Patrick Lee will surrender 40 hours of banked service time as punishment for pleading guilty to a charge of neglect of duty.

Hearing Officer Robert Fitches accepted a recommendation of punishment for the officer, put forth by the defence and prosecution during a Police Services Act hearing Wednesday afternoon at police headquarters in Newmarket.

Const. Lee was charged with neglect of duty and insubordination in relation to his conduct during a re-investigation of the 1994 death of John Sikura. The millionaire horse breeder was found dead in a burned-out car at his Whitchurch-Stouffville home.

The death was ruled accidental. A subsequent Ontario Provincial Police probe of York Police actions confirmed that finding.

Const. Lee, who pushed for the re-investigation, aired his concerns in interviews with the media. Yesterday, he maintained he was acting in the public's interest.

"I think I did the right thing," Const. Lee said after the hearing, which lasted a little over an hour.

The charges were laid after it was determined the officer had

See OFFICER, page 9.

## Citizens petition to save town hall

*Movie theatre in latest plan for downtown building*

BY HANNELORE VOLPE  
 Staff Writer

Last-ditch efforts by Stouffville grassroots groups are heating up to keep the former municipal building under town ownership and turn it into an entertainment complex.

A revamped proposal for a theatre and cinema in the historic building will be brought to council in August, more signatures are being sought for a petition and a brand-new group is looking for more people interested in nurturing the arts in Whitchurch-Stouffville.

Stouffville's Pam Mandich presented a 265-name petition to council on July 23 and is gathering more signatures to hand to local politicians at the next council meeting on Aug. 20. "Residents of Whitchurch-Stouffville don't want the historical town hall deemed surplus or sold," the petition states. As well, the site should be "kept as a community facility and run by the town for the people."

Mrs. Mandich, with the help of Lisa McGill, Cathy Moyer and Ward 6 Councillor Sue Sherban, has placed petitions in several local businesses. Since last week, almost 150 more residents have signed the petition.

The fate of the old town hall has been uncertain since town staff moved to their new headquarters on Sandiford Drive in September 1998. The turn-of-the-century building was empty for some time. Then the Clock Tower Theatre Committee made an unsuccessful attempt to turn the building into a theatre. Space in the building is now being rented to a number of artists and a monthly

See ARTS, page 15.

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