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5 Paul Martin plans 'unofficial' leadership campaign stop at Markham Fairgrounds.

ARTS & CULTURE CALENDAR
EVENT: 'Foundation' art show
WHEN: Aug. 15-Sept. 22 (905-640-8954)
WHERE: Latcham Gallery, Stouffville

32 Minor football experiencing a boom in popularity in York Region

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Define health system, then assign money: MP

'Not prepared to accept' status quo

BY JEFF MITCHELL
Staff Writer

It is important to define the kind of health system Canadians want before assigning specific taxes to pay for it, according to one local Liberal MP.

"The real issue to me is how the money is used," Oak Ridges MP Bryon Wilfert said in an interview yesterday.

"I can tell you the government is open to looking at just about everything, but the status quo we are not prepared to accept."

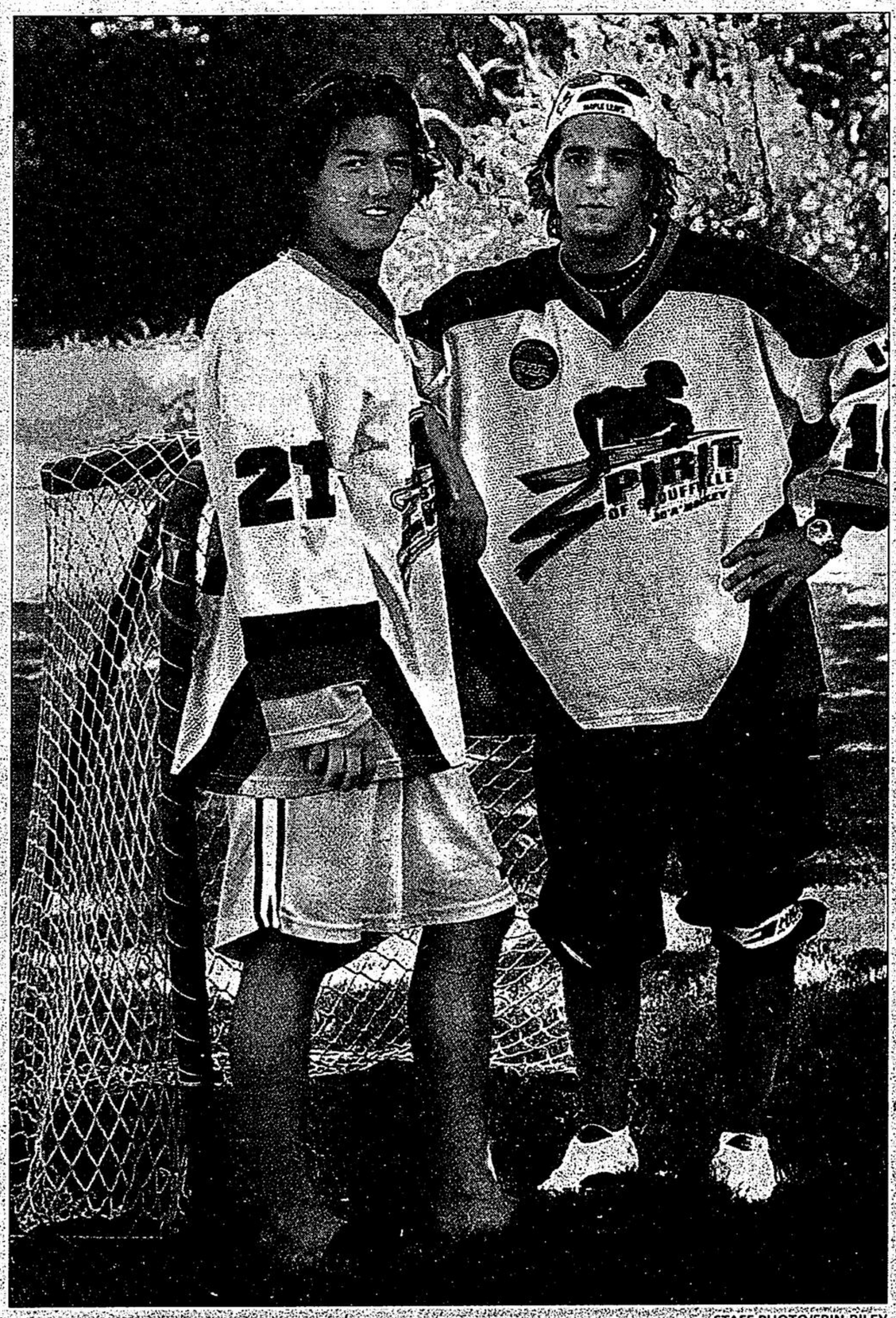
Mr. Wilfert was responding to a submission made to the Romanow commission on the future of health care, which recommends designating funds raised through the federal GST to offset skyrocketing provincial health-care costs.

Authors Melissa Rode and Michael Rushton of the University of Regina said in their submission an investment of GST funds would allow provinces to catch up with spiralling health-care costs.

But Mr. Wilfert and others contacted for a reaction to the proposal said the commission — led by former Saskatchewan premier Roy Romanow — ought first to concentrate on the kind of health-care system Canadians want and how much they're willing to spend on it.

See MP, page 9.

Spirit signs local talent



STAFF PHOTO/ERIN RILEY

It's the goal of every junior B hockey team to have as much local talent on the roster as possible. The Stouffville Spirit moved three steps closer to that goal by signing Cale Tanaka (left), Lee Maxwell and Mike Lombardo (not in photo). The Spirit's training camp opens Aug. 17.

More West Nile birds found?

If confirmed, then York Region total is three birds

BY KATHLEEN GRIFFIN
Staff Writer

A dead crow found in Holland Landing is presumed to have the potentially fatal West Nile virus, bringing the total number of infected birds in York Region to two.

And a Markham family who found a dead crow on a roof is taking it in stride.

"It's not like we're afraid of West Nile, we just wanted to make sure the health department was aware of it," said Mike Morris, who retrieved the dead bird from his mother-in-law's roof on Sir Constantine Drive, in the Main Street North-Parkway Avenue area.

He brought it to the health department's Unionville office.

"It was a big crow, just flapping around up there, for hours. We tried to knock it off and it just hopped back and fell over," he said, adding it was dead by the following day.

The first crow which tested positive for the virus was found in the Hwy. 404-Steeles Avenue area in Markham. It's one of about 50 birds undergoing testing at the Federal Laboratory in Winnipeg this summer.

The second crow was found off Yonge Street in Holland Landing.

"We're not surprised by it," said Darlene Keates, manager of infection control for the York Region health department. "It means we'll be enhancing our program, just doing more of the same."

That means increasing the health unit's

See INEVITABLE, page 11.

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