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8 Whitchurch-Stouffville town staffers compete to reduce impact on the environment.

ARTS & CULTURE CALENDAR
EVENT: Uxbridge Concert band in concert
WHEN: 7:30 p.m. today (905-985-4794)
WHERE: Christ Church Anglican, Sunset Blvd.



11 The 'bare essentials' of clubbing in York Region can be expensive.

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SATURDAY, AUG. 17, 2002

TO REACH US: (905) 640-2612

Long hospital stay for girl who lost toes

Father says 'she's a little fighter'

BY KATHLEEN GRIFFIN
 Staff Writer

A four-year-old girl lost the five toes on her right foot after a freak accident with a riding lawnmower on her Reesor Road farm (just south of Stouffville) Thursday afternoon.

Doctors at The Hospital for Sick Children are confident they can save Rebecca Ramer's foot, said her relieved father Paul Ramer at the family's farm Friday.

"The word (wife) Jane got is they have a viable foot to work with. Some of her bones are severely crushed and they may have to take those out and rebuild the foot, but the leg between the ankle and knee is good, except it's taken a lot of skin off," he said.

"She's a little fighter," Mr. Ramer added. "She's a very strong kid and she didn't make a big fuss."

The accident happened about 2:20 p.m. Jane Ramer was mowing the front lawn while Rebecca was playing in her sandbox at the back of the house.

Mrs. Ramer rode over the edge of a field and was forced to back the mower up. She didn't realize Rebecca was close by.

"The last time Jane saw her she was on the other side of the house," Mr. Ramer said.

"She stopped to back up and all of a sudden Rebecca was there. Jane just didn't see her in time."

See TOES, page 7.

BUT WHERE IS FEDERAL GOVERNMENT CONTRIBUTION, ASKS GO TRANSIT OFFICIAL

York to get big transit cash

BY ROGER VARLEY
 Staff Writer

The provincial, regional and municipal governments say they're ready to improve public transit and reduce gridlock in the GTA, but the feds won't get on the bus.

At a news conference Thursday at Finch subway station, Ontario Transportation Minister Norm Sterling, accompanied by

Municipal Affairs Minister Chris Hodgson, listed transit projects slated for the GTA in the next year, including an estimated \$20-million worth in York Region.

"We are strongly committed to early implementation," Mr. Sterling said. "Let's see what we can do incrementally; let's not wait for a five-year plan."

A day earlier, the Central Ontario

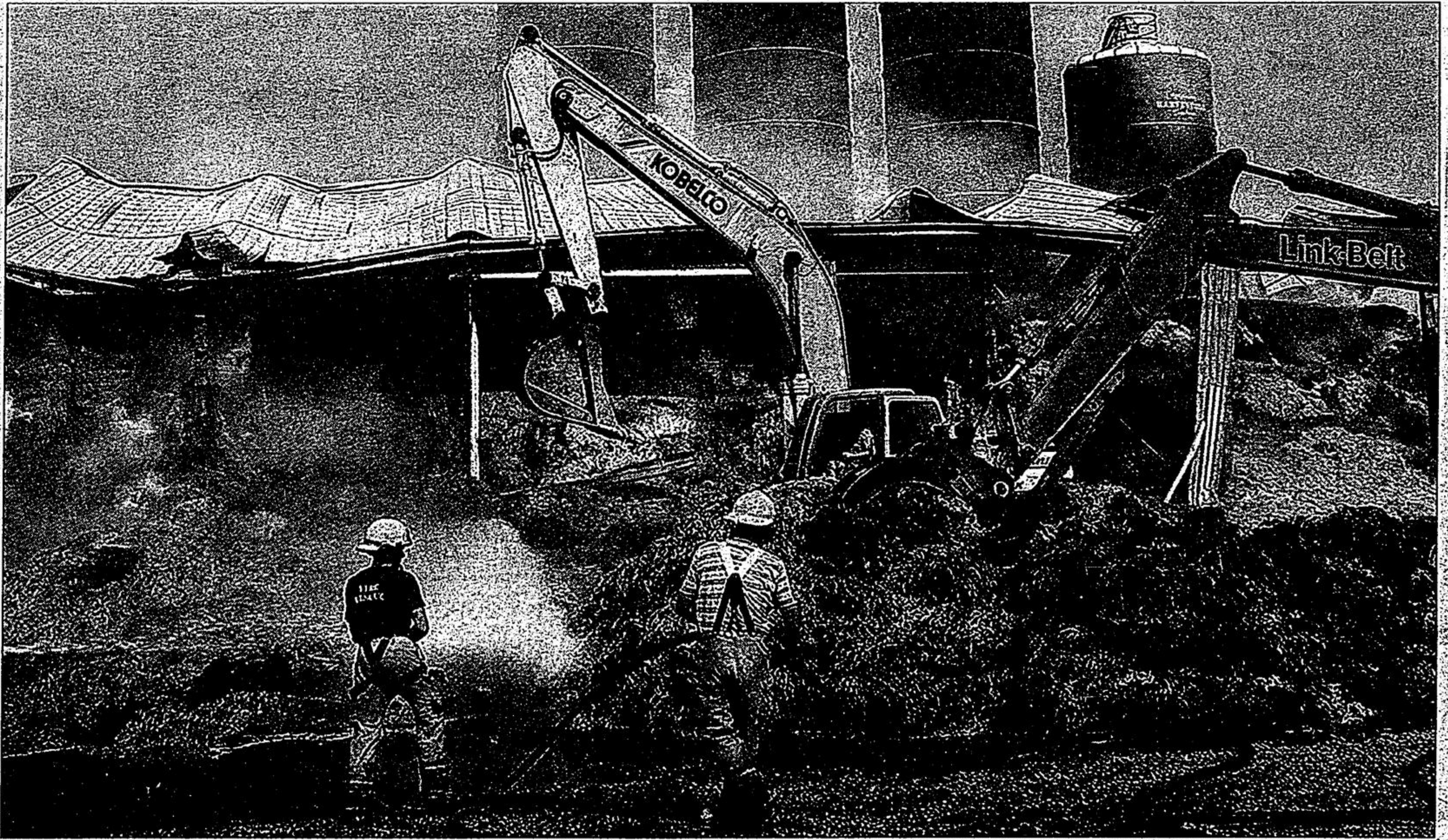
Smart Growth panel, which included York Region chairperson Bill Fisch, outlined transportation solutions it said could be implemented quickly and easily.

However, GO Transit managing director Gary McNeil, who also attended the news conference, pointed out a weakness in the province's plan to invest \$9-billion in transit over the next 10 years. It

calls for transit funding to be split evenly between the federal, provincial and municipal governments, but so far Ottawa has ignored calls to provide funding.

"Where's the federal government?" Mr. McNeil asked. "The federal government's not here today. We have to get the federal government involved in funding public transit."

See PROVINCE, page 9.



300 HEAD OF CATTLE SAFE FROM HAY BLAZE

STAFF PHOTO/JOAN RANSBERRY

Fire roared through a hay-filled barn Thursday on the Uxbridge/Whitchurch-Stouffville border. The barn is part of the Risebrough family farm. Crew from three fire departments were still putting out flames Friday afternoon. While the blaze was being contained, the family carried out regular milking duties in an adjacent stable. The cause and damage estimates are not yet known. There were no injuries.

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