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27 Stouffville Jones Pools squad medals at national midget fastball championship tourney.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

EVENT: Terry Fox Run for cancer research
WHEN: Sunday, Sept. 15, 1 p.m.
WHERE: Stouffville Arena/track (905-640-4705)



25 The blue yonder is not so wild a place after all, our student pilot discovers.

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THURSDAY, AUG. 22, 2002

TO REACH US: (905) 640-2612

York Region bar owners smoking mad

Banning cigarettes from bars 'ludicrous'

BY JEFF MITCHELL
Staff Writer

Markham Councillor Jack Heath's call for a total ban on smoking in public places is being met with astonishment by pub owners who've spent thousands of dollars on enclosed rooms for smokers.

"I think his move is ludicrous," said Jack Valianes, who has spent \$30,000 on a designated smoking room in his 4,000-square-foot Unionville pub, Jake's on Main.

"They ban smoking and tell you it is acceptable if you have a designated smoking room," Mr. Valianes said. "How can they tell you one thing and then change it in their next phase of getting rid of smoking?"

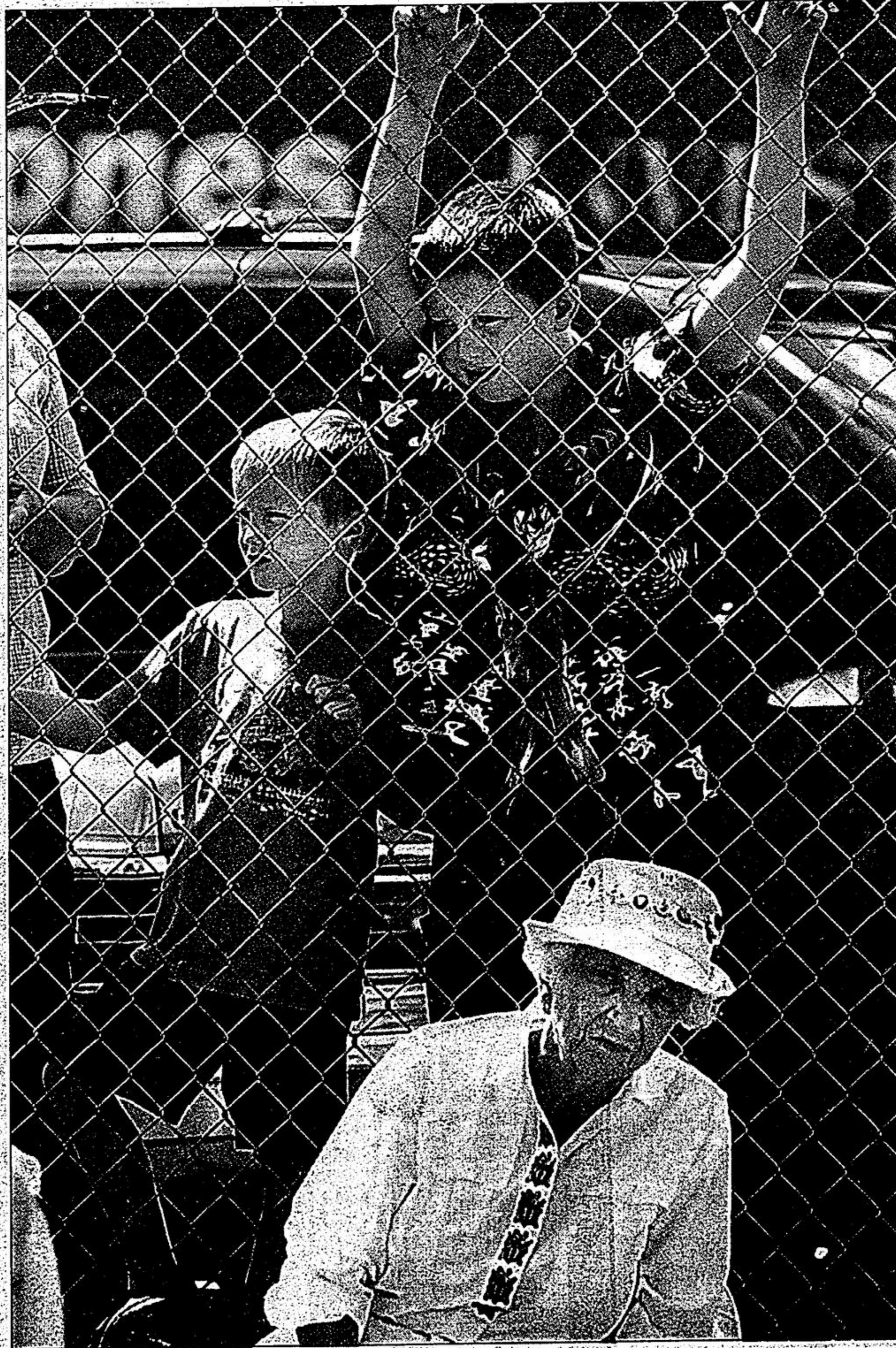
Across the street, in the Unionville Arms, owner Paul Vasilovsky fumes when told of Mr. Heath's move to eliminate DSRs, which will be required in public gathering places as of June 2004. Mr. Vasilovsky said he has spent a whopping \$150,000 installing a smoking room and ventilation required by York Region's anti-smoking law.

"If they wanted to get rid of smoking, they should have done it right from the beginning and eliminated a lot of aggravation for restaurant and bar owners," he said.

Mr. Heath's move is the latest wrinkle in the saga of York Region's

See BAN, page 22.

Ringside seats



STAFF PHOTOS/SJOERD WITTEVEN

Markham bowler Anne MacLean watches the play in the Stouffville Lawn Bowling Club Ladies Luncheon Tourney from the bench and gets some unexpected ballwatching help. Kyle Nicholson, 6 (left) and brother Tyler, 9, of Keswick take in the action on Tuesday in Stouffville Memorial Park. See additional photo on page 27.

Company won't back out of hall

Sherban pleads with firm to pull out of town hall proposal

BY JOAN RANSBERRY
Staff Writer

An architectural firm has rejected a politician's appeal to withdraw its plans to move into Stouffville's old town hall, but Arrowsmith Bell and DiTata Co. is willing to share the building's restoration cost, estimated at \$800,000.

At a town council meeting Tuesday, Ward 6 Councillor Sue Sherban said she was speaking on behalf of the community when she made three separate appeals to the owners of the firm "to pull out" of the running to occupy the top floor of the building, located in the heart of the downtown.

Despite Councillor Sherban's persistence, the firm isn't budging, said the company's co-owner, Bruce Arrowsmith.

Whitchurch-Stouffville town staff, under the direction of town council, is reviewing Arrowsmith Bell and DiTata's proposal and will not consider any other proposals until the matter with Arrowsmith Bell and DiTata is finished.

"I want to make something very clear," Mr. Arrowsmith said after the council meeting. "We are not trying to take this building out of the town's inventory. We're trying to make sure it stays a historical building."

The 64,000-square-foot building is in dire need of repair, town officials say. Mr. Arrowsmith agrees. "The building is deteriorating badly. It can't go on in its present condition," said Mr. Arrowsmith. "We have made

See BOWES, page 24.

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