

Stouffville Sun-Tribune

THURSDAY, MARCH 27, 2003 ■ SERVING THE COMMUNITY OF WHITCHURCH-STOUFFVILLE ■ 36 PAGES/\$1 INCLUDING GST



3 Young Stouffville actor spread the news in Oscar-winning Chicago.

Business 8
 Calendar 25
 Sports 27
 Classified 32

CAT CITY

Dozens of dead cats in shed at deceased's home

BY KATHLEEN GRIFFIN
 Staff Writer

A elderly woman found dead in her garbage-filled Kennedy Road home last week kept dozens, perhaps scores, of cats in cages in a backyard shed — all of whom were discovered dead by animal control Tuesday.

"It's difficult to be certain of the numbers because of the state of the place," explained Brian Pemberton, marketing and communications manager for the Ontario Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

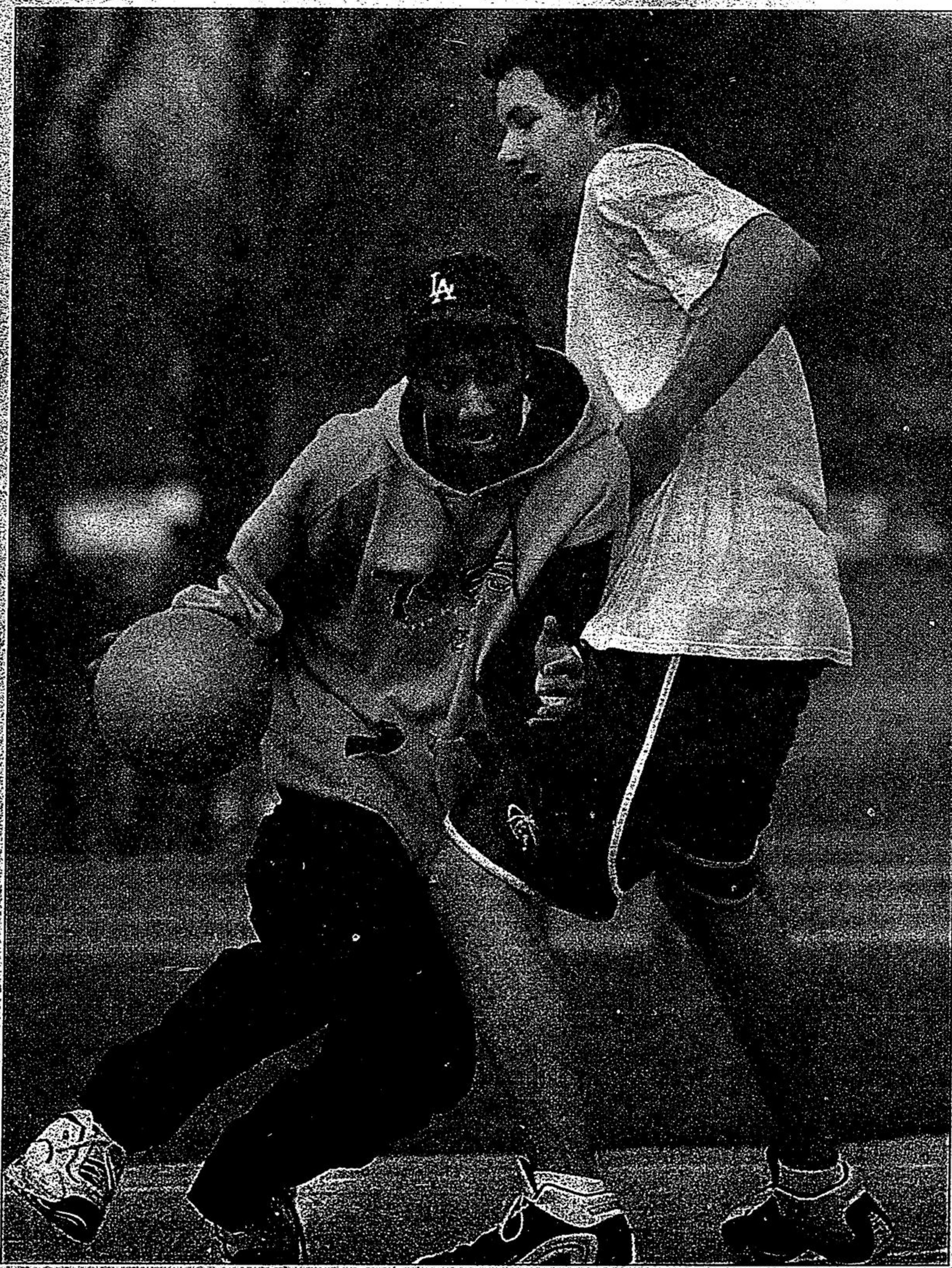
"There were a lot of dead cats visible, but there are many, many more buried under huge piles of feces and garbage. And it's not just animal feces, there are human feces too," he said.

"Some of the cages were floor to ceiling filled with detritus, there's no telling what's in it. It's almost impossible to be precise. There are skeletons that have been there for a long time, other bones lying about. Some of the more recent deaths are in various states of decay, some had been eaten by others, there are bits of carcasses. None were alive," Mr. Pemberton said.

"The inspectors said it was the most disturbing sight they had ever seen — and they have seen some pretty disturbing sights."

York Regional Police were shocked and sickened when they discovered Marion Dent, 88, dead inside the house at 10855 Kennedy Rd. just south of the Whitchurch-Stouffville border. Mrs. Dent died of a heart attack.

Garbage was piled floor to ceiling in every room with only narrow pathways through the rooms to allow Mrs. Dent to get around inside. Refuse, including



March madness

Tim Whittle, left, drives around Andrew Post, both 20, during outdoor basketball action in Stouffville Memorial Park Sunday.

BILL ROBERTS PHOTO

ON THE FARM

Premier looks to Smart Growth to save land

BY JOAN RANSBERRY
 Staff Writer

Ontario Premier Ernie Eves is banking on the province's Smart Growth consultation process to help preserve York Region's shrinking farmlands and alleviate gridlock.

With fewer than 1,000 farms covering 175,000 acres, the premier acknowledges the number of York Region farms has taken a nosedive in the past 20 years. Nearly 20 per cent of the region's agricultural land has given way to

Eves makes record investment in long-term care while opening Bloomington facility/page 3.

urban sprawl. If the provincial and federal governments don't intervene, agriculture in York Region could be a thing of the past in less than 20 years, some predict.

Recommendations to be made from the Smart Growth process will have a positive impact on how lands, including agricultural lands, are managed and how transportation needs are met, the premier suggested during a visit to Whitchurch-Stouffville Monday.

While we prepare to kiss the family farm goodbye, we'll try to figure out a way to drive to and from York Region without standing still on Hwy. 404.

Mr. Eves doesn't view toll roads as the answer to traffic problems expected to worsen as growth continues.

Toll highways should not be

See WOMAN, page 14.

See MUST, page 13.

JAKES
 PATIO OPEN
 2 FOR 1 WINGS
 MONDAY NIGHT
 & DURING ALL
 LEAF GAMES
 470-6955
 202 Main St. Unit 10

POINTE
 Sale: Mon-Thurs 9 am - 9 pm
 Hours: Fri 9 am - 6 pm
 Sat 9 am - 6 pm
 Service: Mon-Thurs 7:30 am - 6 pm
 Hours: Fri 7:30 am - 6 pm
 Sat 8 am - 1 pm

Tina Saunders

BRING THIS COUPON IN AND RECEIVE
10% OFF ANY SERVICE*
 *ON MOST GM VEHICLES NOT TO BE USED IN CONJUNCTION WITH ANY OTHER DISCOUNTS.
 ENDS MARCH 31, 2003

B. Bartha Jewellers
 512-222-2222

FREE
 RING
 INSPECTION
 AND
 POLISHING
B. Bartha Jewellers
 512-222-2222