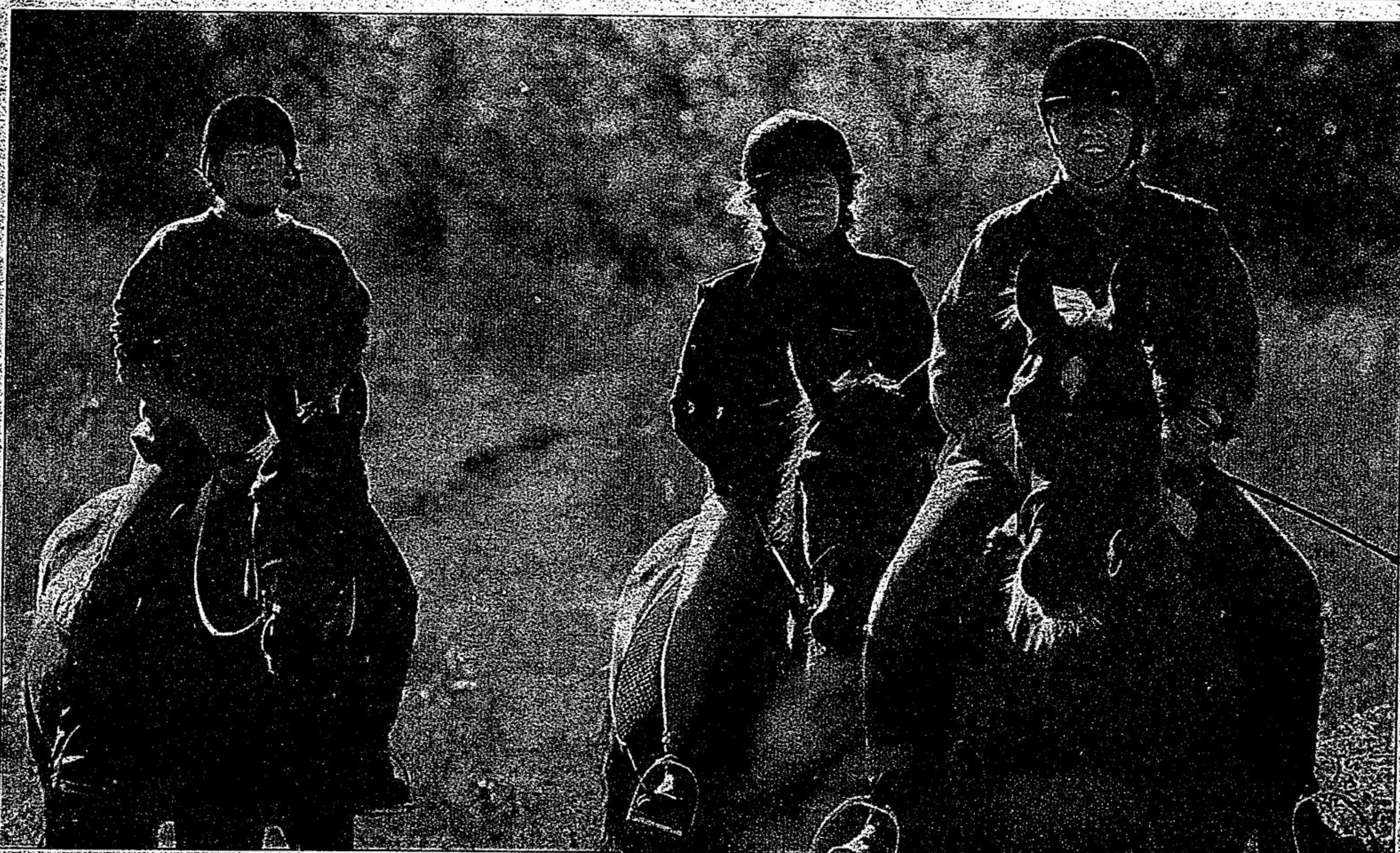




3 Stouffville makeup job is purrfectly delightful

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STAFF PHOTO/BILL ROBERTS

Riding for a good cause

Al's Tack Shop on Vandorf Road was the starting point for the 25-kilometre Great Canadian Ride for Cancer horse ride Saturday. Participants made their way through the adjacent York Regional Forest. Here, approaching the first checkpoint at Lobraico Lane are Melanie Gibson (left), Helen Callan and Diane Dowd.

Parkland purchase a plan for future

BY HANNELORE VOLPE
Staff Writer

Whitchurch-Stouffville council approved the purchase of 51 acres of future parkland Tuesday, ensuring recreation opportunities for the municipality's residents.

It will be available for large-scale facilities such as soccer pitches, ball diamonds, tennis courts or other leisure and sports-related uses.

The land, on Bethesda Road east of Ninth Line, has a pricetag of \$1.4 million.

It was chosen because it's close to Stouffville, easily accessible by rural residents, reasonably level and contains few environmentally sensitive areas.

Council also voted to take \$20,000 from hydro reserve funds for the parkland.

Of that total, \$15,000 is for a study on best possible uses and another \$5,000 to see how those uses conform to the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan.

The town began exploring a parkland purchase about a year ago, hoping to buy before development went into high gear.

Construction of more than 5,000 homes is anticipated in Stouffville over the next 10 years. Council recently approved six draft plans of subdivisions and a seventh is before the Ontario Municipal Board.

The huge piece of green space is an added bonus for the community as it devel-

ops over the next 10 or 15 years. Councillor Mark Carroll said Tuesday.

"We have green space and amenities for current and future residents.

However, he questioned whether hiring a consultant was necessary or whether residents should be consulted first.

"Why not just save the \$15,000 and go through the (town's) master plan," he asked. The residents have to tell us what should be happening.

The money would be well spent, Mayor Wayne Emmerson countered.

"We need to put something down that future councils can decide on." A public

MUNICIPAL ELECTION

Few running for school board

BY MITCHELL BROWN
Staff Writer

Quick, name the school trustee who represents your area.

If you're like most people, you're stumped.

Even trustees will tell you that, unlike municipal or provincial politicians, there is not a position that earns much, either in pay (currently \$5,000 per year, about twice that for board chairpersons) or respect from the government.

Need proof?

Only last summer, trustees with boards in Toronto, Hamilton, Wentworth and Ottawa-Carleton were fired and replaced by government-appointed supervisors because they refused to make the millions of dollars in cuts required to submit balanced budgets to the Education Ministry.

While some commentators cited this as a reason to abolish trustees altogether, Trudy Griffiths, chairperson of the Ontario Parent Council, would beg to differ.

"School board trustees fulfill an essential role, as any parent who has called on their help can attest," she said.

Trustees are elected to represent their community's various stakeholders, including students, parents, and taxpayers, while also assuming the responsibility of board governance.

Alan Shefman, one of Vaughan's two representatives on the York Region District School Board, couldn't agree more.

"I can't imagine, even with the limited ability the school board has, what the system would be like if it were

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