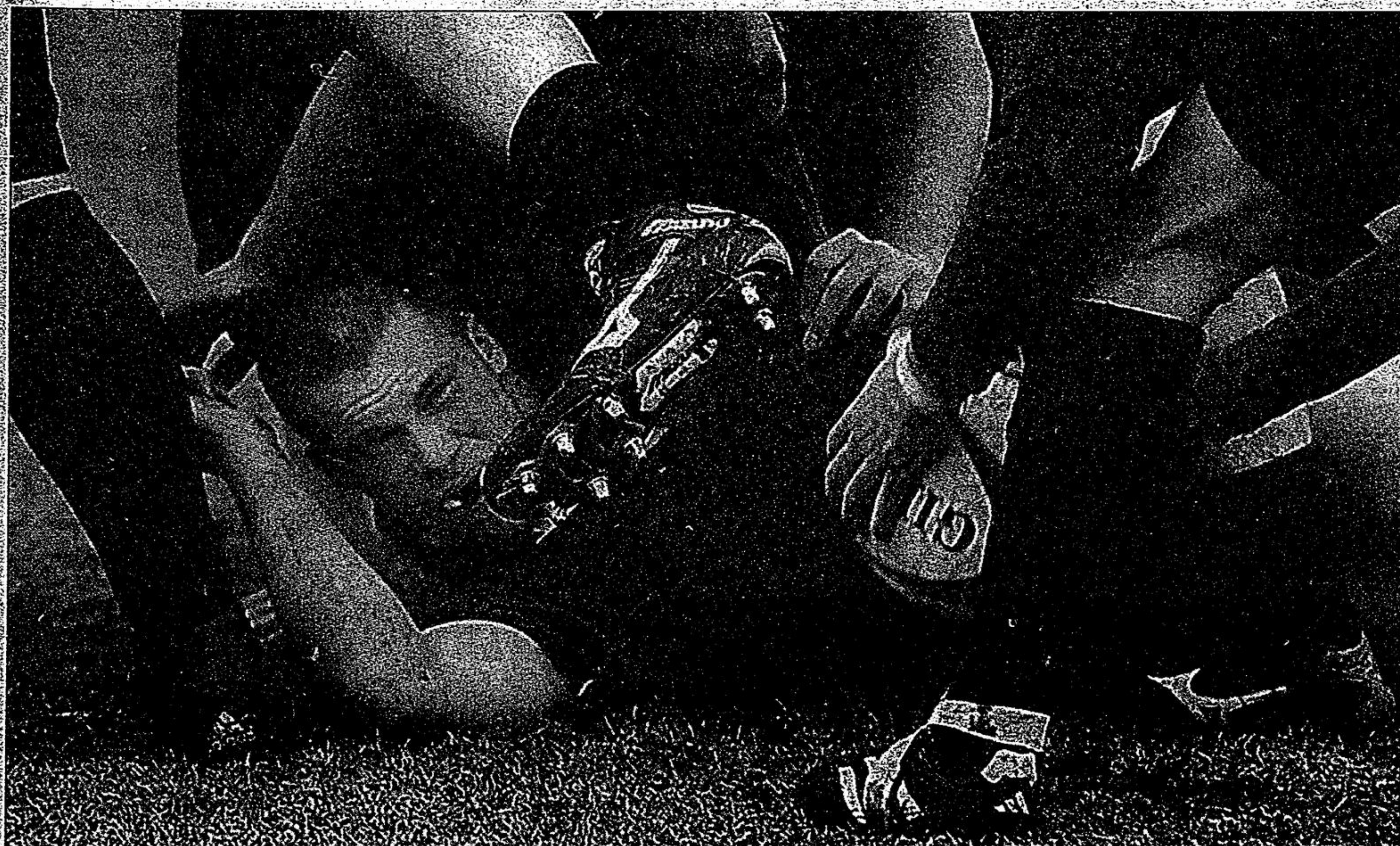




19 York University's athlete of year was reluctant to play field hockey

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STAFF PHOTO/SJOERD WITTEVEEN

Focus on footwear

Stouffville District Secondary School senior Spartan Brad Hulshof keeps a close eye on a teammate's studs as the ball is picked up by another Spartan in an exhibition rugby match at Uxbridge Secondary School Tuesday. The Stouffville seniors lost 15-0 and the juniors were defeated 25-0. See additional photo on page 19.

Accident victims bring Rick Hansen's message to town

BY HANNELORE VOLPE
 Staff Writer

As Wayne Feasby and Luke Anderson wheel along Stouffville streets June 13, they will keep Rick Hansen's "anything is possible" message alive and raise funds for spinal cord injury research.

The Rick Hansen Wheels in Motion event comes to Stouffville for the first time this summer. People can walk, run or wheel a five-kilometre course leaving the Stouffville Arena at 1 p.m. to support research and improve quality of life for those with spinal cord injuries.

Mr. Feasby and Mr. Anderson suffered injuries that changed their lives abruptly, but did not diminish the stubbornness and inge-

nuity they needed to become successful.

Mr. Feasby, 49, is general manager of a car leasing firm, while Mr. Anderson is a newly graduated engineer who has again begun to pursue his profession.

A water skiing accident in 1979 left Mr. Feasby a paraplegic. He spent three months in hospital and seven months at the Toronto Rehabilitation Institute's Lyndhurst Centre.

It took him a long time to get going again, he recalled, but "Every day you get up with the attitude you have to make the best of what you have."

He drives a car with hand controls and, with a little planning, is able to get almost everywhere he wants. The Stouffville resident

has been involved with Mobility Transit and is a member of the Whitchurch-Stouffville accessibility advisory committee.

His newest undertaking was the role of dame in this year's traditional English pantomime put on by the youth group at Christ Church Anglican in Stouffville. Mr. Feasby described his appearance as the dame in the March 5 and 6 production of Aladdin as resembling Mimi from the Drew Carey TV show, "but a thinner version with red hair."

He played Aladdin's mother and was very firm in stating, "I think I am a better-looking woman than Charlie (Parker, who played the role for many Christ Church performances)."

**NEW FIREFIGHTERS OK'ED,
 ICE RENTAL RATES UP**

**Town
 tax hike
 reduced
 to 8.9%**

BY HANNELORE VOLPE
 Staff Writer

The town portion of Whitchurch-Stouffville's municipal tax bill is increasing 8.9 per cent, not the 12 per cent originally proposed.

In a marathon 11-hour budget meeting Tuesday, councillors and staff reduced the tax hike and found enough money to hire four full-time firefighters.

That new figure means an average home valued at \$330,000 would be charged \$74 more in taxes, down from the \$100 projected at the 12 per cent rate. A municipal tax bill includes regional and school board components.

Councillors cut short a March 4 operating budget meeting and asked staff to come up with tax-saving options in the 5 to 7 per cent range.

Without changes, the municipal tax would have gone up by 13.6 per cent, after adding 1.6 per cent for the new firefighters.

The capital budget was passed Feb. 10.

Department heads were on the hot seat Tuesday as councillors reviewed where they could cut costs, delay or do without to save money.

"The role of this council is to set broad policy decisions. We are questioning the judgment that these people have acquired through many years of experience," Councillor Ken Ferdinands said after prolonged grilling of staff.

Fire and Emergency Services Chief Tim Beckett and Deputy Chief Paul Stover had to sweat it out the longest; it wasn't until almost 11 hours after they

See TEAMS, page 17.

See FEWER, page 15.

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