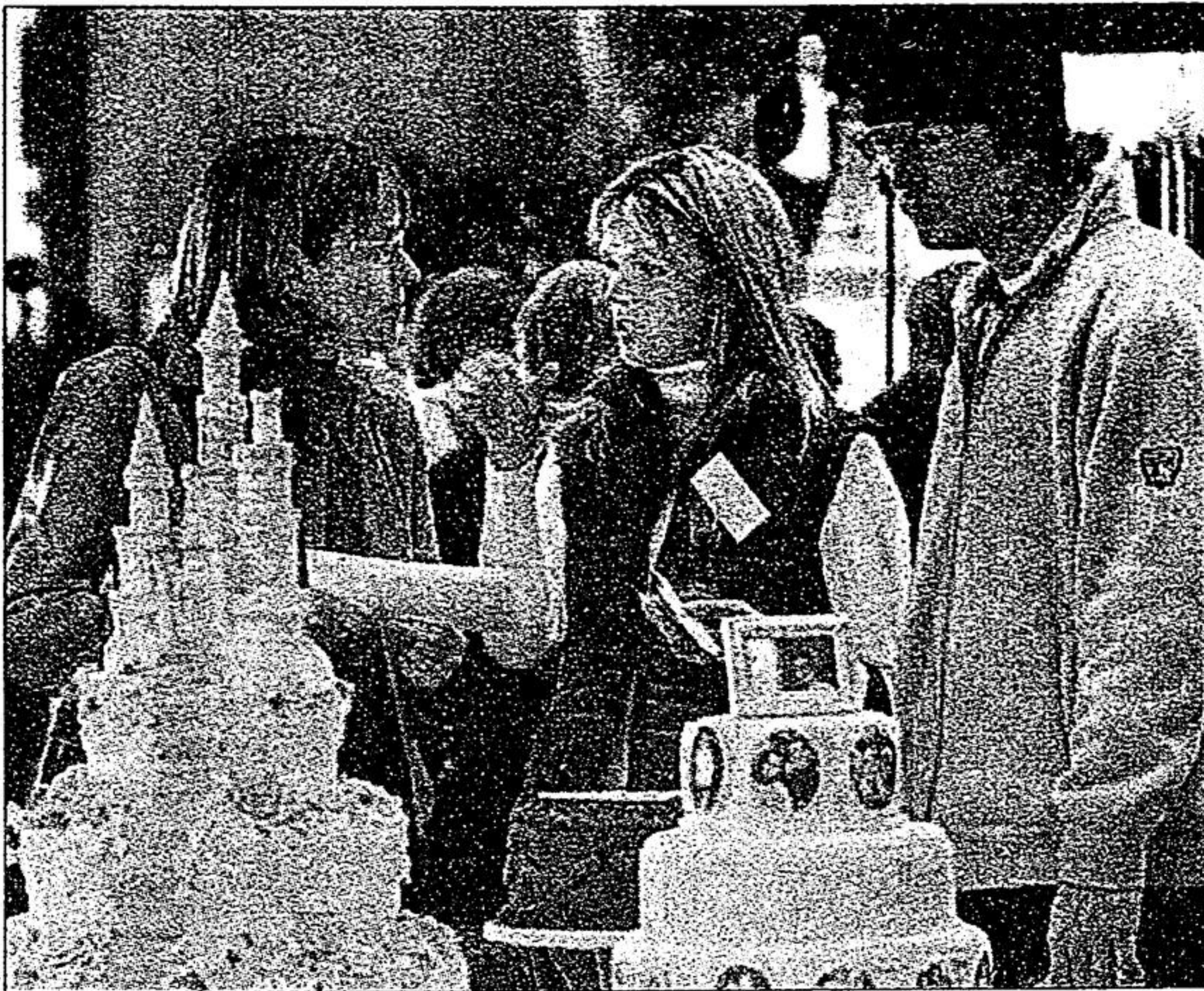


Advertising Feature

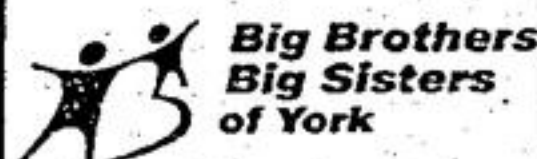


The third annual Wedding Show held recently at Angus Glen, featured Wedding Cakes by Novello's in Markham.

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Ship excess packaging to Environment Minister, activist suggests

BY ROY GREEN
Staff Writer

If you're wondering what to do with excessive packaging on an item you've purchased, Rodney Muir suggests you mail it to Environment Minister Stephane Dion.

Mr. Muir, a waste diversion campaigner with the Sierra Club of Canada, wants Canadians to slap a label on all that plastic and cardboard and drop it in the mail to Mr. Dion, using the free mail privilege for MPs.

Mr. Muir, who also operates Waste Diversion Canada, says the federal government's franking privilege allows Canadians to mail anything to an MP without a stamp.

He plans to put a template for a label on the Sierra Club's website that reads "I believe this item was over-packaged. Reduce packaging now, please."

'Everyone agrees it's a problem and now's the time to do something.'

He hopes Canadians will download the template to apply to their own peel-and-stick labels and address them to Mr. Dion.

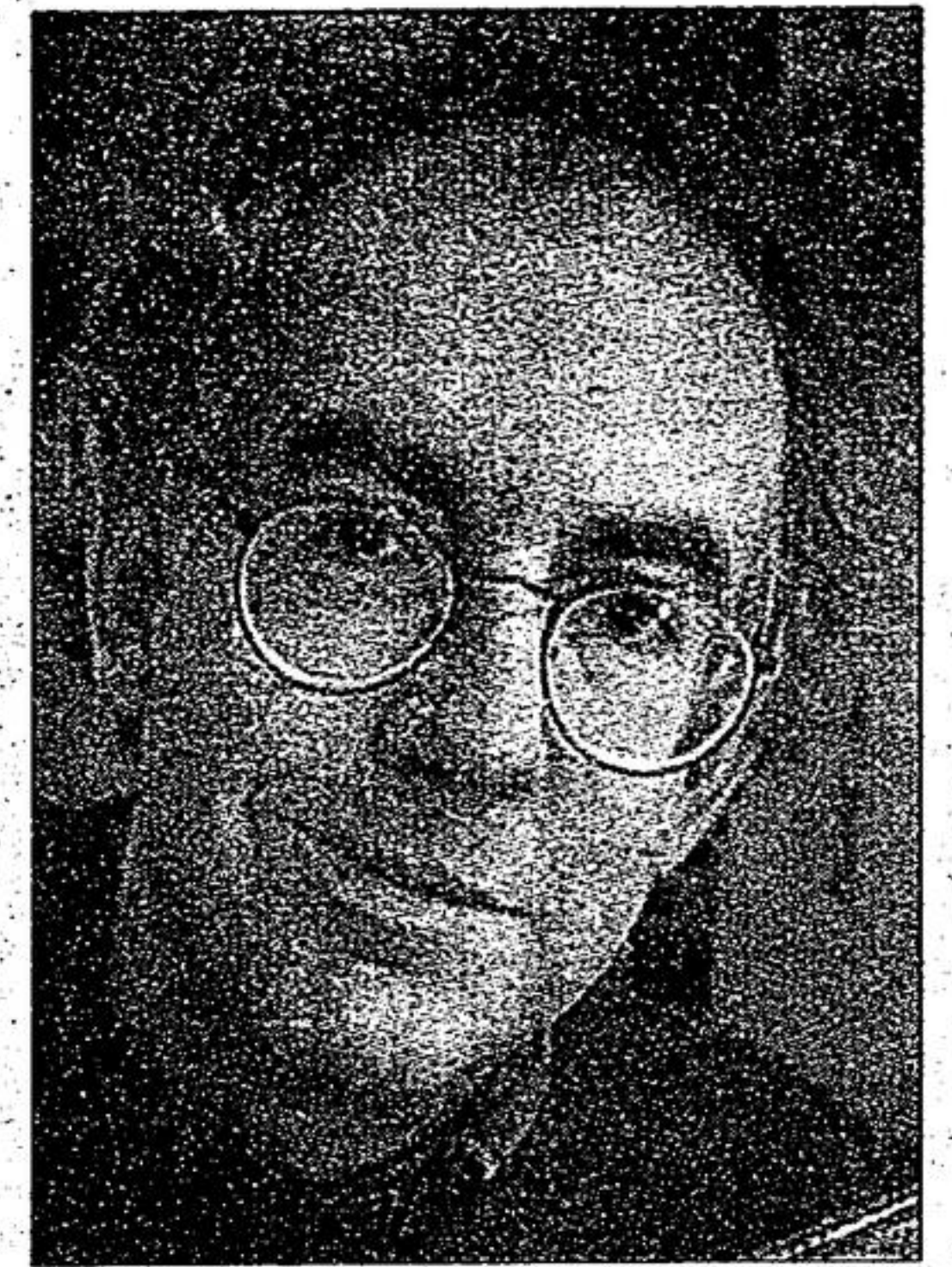
"Hopefully, bags of this stuff will start coming in to his office soon and he'll begin to take notice," he said.

But the plan may have to be trashed before it begins, because the packaging material would be considered a parcel and not eligible for free mail, according to Canada Post spokesperson Deb Garnich.

"The privilege is applied to letter mail, publication mail and ad mail," Ms Garnich said yesterday. "Parcels do not enjoy the franking privilege."

Parcels without postage would be returned to the sender or, where there is no return address, sent to the undeliverable mail office for eventual disposal.

Ms Garnich did not say how they would be discarded.



RODNEY MUIR: Sierra Club waste diversion campaigner has produced labels to help people mail garbage to Environment Minister Stephane Dion.

Mr. Muir, who recently presented his idea to York Region's waste management committee, believes the federal government is the best place to seek legislation against excessive packaging.

"If it's done only in Ontario, manufacturers will simply decide not to market their products here," he said. "Creating a national standard for packaging is what we need."

He advocates limits on the amount of packaging used for products and standardizing materials. "A third step would insure consumer goods would contain a certain level of recycled material."

Mr. Muir spent 25 years in the advertising business and said he wanted to find a creative way to get the government's attention.

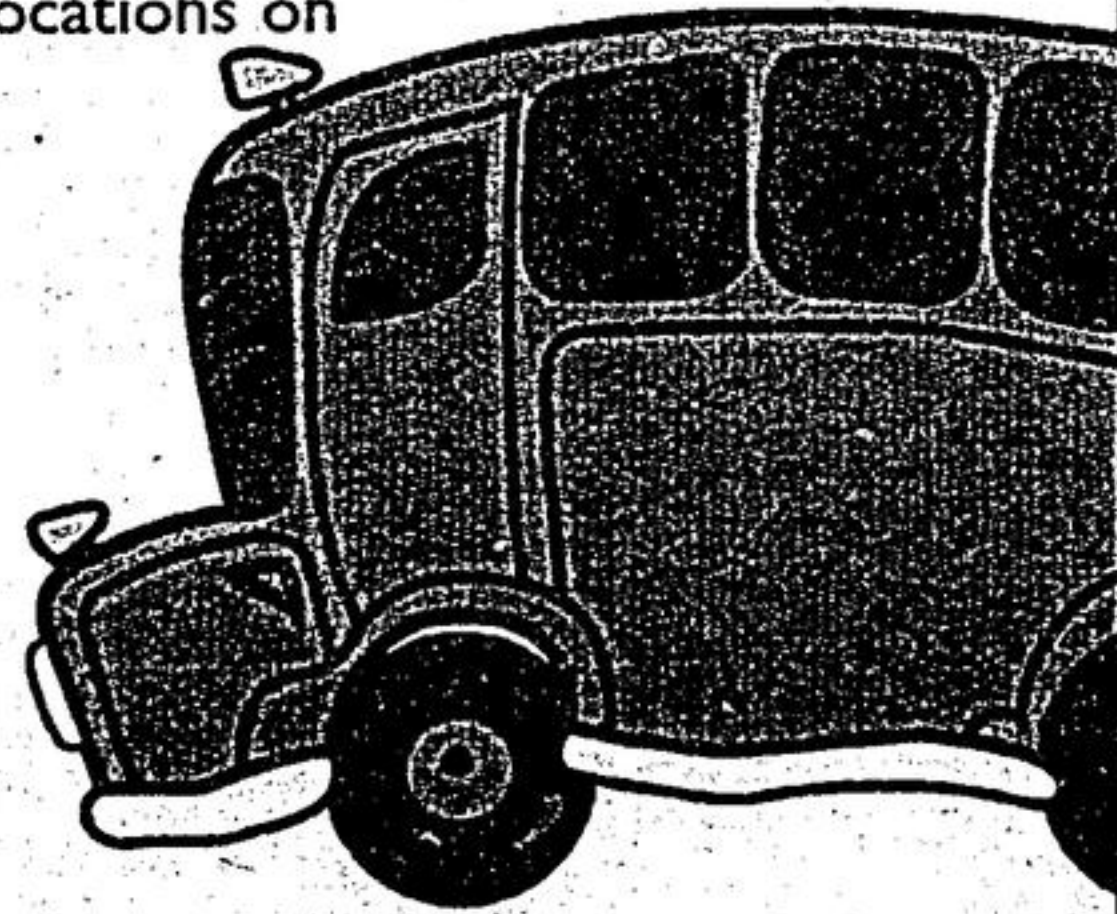
"I originally planned to do it for cans of concentrated juice; they're made of three different components and are hard to recycle. But I realized it could be bigger than that; it can be all packaging. Everyone agrees it's a problem and now's the time to do something."

February is Kindergarten Registration Time

The York Catholic District School Board
is now registering for
Junior and Senior Kindergarten

Registrations for your home school begin in February,
Monday through Friday, or:

- register for any York Catholic school at these locations on Saturdays in February from 9:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.:
 - St. Paul - Feb. 5
(140 William Roe Blvd., Newmarket)
 - St. Matthew - Feb. 12
(75 Waterbridge Lane, Unionville)
 - St. John Bosco - Feb. 19
(199 Belview Ave., Woodbridge)
 - St. Charles Garnier - Feb. 26
(16 Castle Rock Dr., Richmond Hill)
- the Admissions Office at the Catholic Education Centre, (320 Bloomington Rd. W., Aurora)
(Mon. - Fri. from 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.)



If you have a child with special needs, and are considering enrolling them for September 2005 two information evenings are planned at:

- The York Catholic District School Board - Jan. 26, 7:15 - 8:30 p.m.
(320 Bloomington Rd. W., Aurora)
- Pope John Paul II Catholic School - Feb. 2, 7:15 - 8:30 p.m.
(155 Red Maple Rd., Richmond Hill)

To register, you will need:

- Roman Catholic Baptismal Certificate (child or parent)
- Proof of Status in Canada
- Proof of Health Insurance (optional)
- Proof of Residency
- Proof of Age
- Proof of English Separate School Support, ie. property tax bill or completed and signed school support form(s), included in the registration package.



For further details or to receive information in languages other than English call the Admissions Office at (905) 713-1211 or (416) 221-5051, ext. 7450

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