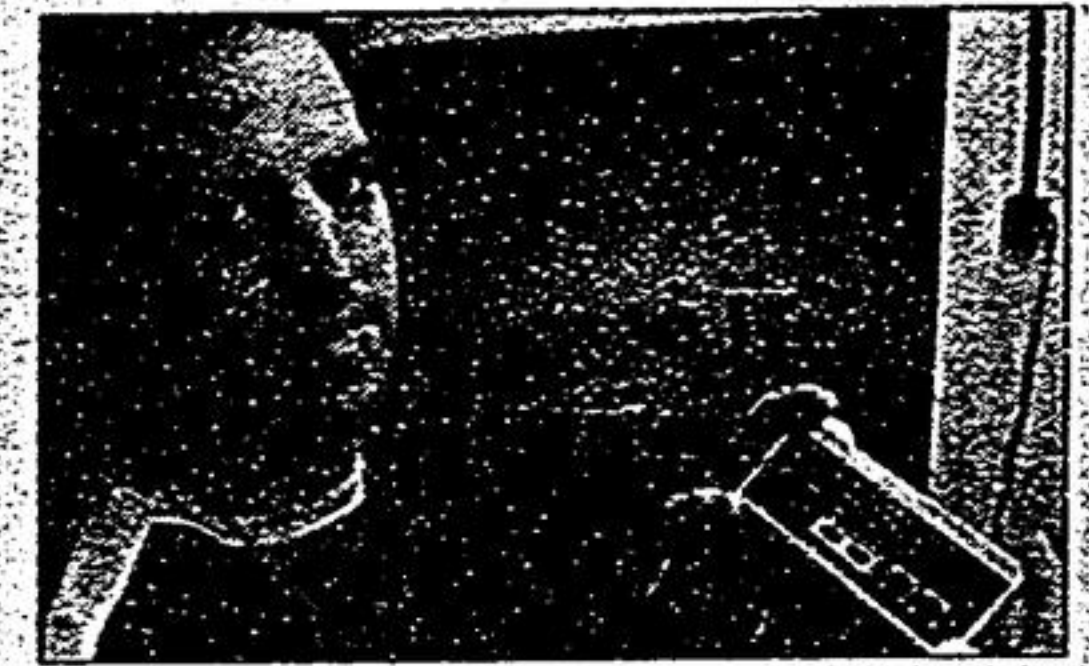


Stouffville Sun-Tribune

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20 Memories of Super Mario: old-school gaming is back

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Hockey hero Henderson 'sad as hell' season axed

'Both sides at fault,' ex-NHLers say

BY JOHN CUDMORE
Staff Writer

In a room full of former pros, it is not difficult to imagine the sentiment concerning the cancellation of the National Hockey League season last week.

It may be a historic moment but it also may be the darkest in the history of professional sports as a major league was cancelled for the first time Wednesday when commissioner Gary Bettman made the dreaded announcement in New York.

'BIGGEST BLACK DAY'

"I think it's sad as hell," said Paul Henderson, whose own sense of history has been part of Canadian hockey folklore since 1972. "This is the biggest black eye hockey has ever had. I really thought they would get it together."

Mr. Henderson was among several former NHLers gathered Thursday at National Training Rinks in Newmarket for the inaugural Hockey Ministries International 3-on-3 Marathon tournament.

He is frustrated with both sides of the dispute.

"I have 25 questions for every answer so don't ask me," said Mr. Henderson. "Both (sides) are obviously at fault — it's like one side is talking French and the other in English and they don't

See NHL, page 8.

PROVINCE ORDERED 9-PER-CENT INCREASE IN THIS YEAR'S LEVY

Pooling hike capped at 3%

BY ROY GREEN
Staff Writer

York Region politicians took their cue from the National Hockey League and its players union this week, debating their own version of a soft cap versus a hard cap.

In the end, they will deny Ontario's request for a 9-per-cent increase in the region's contribu-

tion to the GTA welfare pool, capping the hike at 3 per cent.

It means the region intends to send only \$81.9 million to help fund social housing and welfare projects in Toronto instead of the \$86.6 million the province says it must pay in 2005.

Since 1988, the region has contributed more than \$515 million to the pool, while its own social serv-

ice funding lags far behind that of Toronto.

Thursday's debate, part of the 2005 budget approval process, centred on if there should be a 5-per-cent cap, representing the region's assessment growth in 2004, or tie it to the 3-per-cent tax hike faced by Toronto residents.

"(Toronto) council plays hardball and we're playing slo-pitch,"

said Markham Regional Councillor Jack Heath. "They put a limit of 3 per cent on tax hikes and then demand bail-outs from the province — and they get it. We're sitting here trying to keep our budget increase to 5 or 6 per cent while Toronto residents are facing only a 3-per-cent hike. If Toronto residents only have to pay 3 per

See CAP, page 10.

TOO CLOSE FOR COMFORT



STAFF PHOTO/SJOERD WITTEVEN

David Oliver, a Hydro One arborist, trims a tree along power lines on Manitoba Street in Stouffville Thursday. More than 9,000 trees in Stouffville and Sutton are too close to wires and must be removed, says the utility that operates Ontario's power transmission network. For more information, see story on page 18.

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