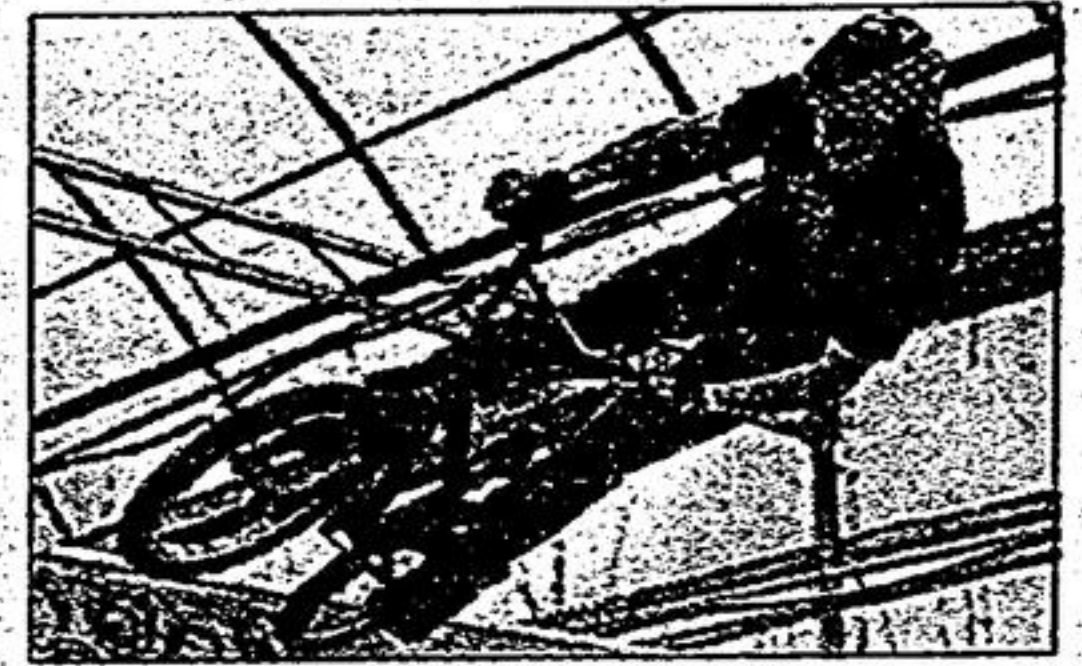


Stouffville Sun-Tribune

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11 Teen couldn't find BMX track, so he built his own.

Opinion	6
Calendar	21
Sports	22
Classified	24

Crime clans invading York Region, police say

BY MARTIN DERBYSHIRE
Staff Writer

York Region is an attractive place to raise a family, even if it's a crime family.

The area's vibrant neighbourhoods, diverse population and quality investment prospects, combined with Canada's rarely used anti-gang legislation and lax money laundering laws, make it a desirable destination for criminal organizations, say police and organized crime experts.

"There is a big organized crime presence in York Region," said Det. David Stilo of the York Regional Police intelligence bureau, who has spent the past 13 years tracking organized crime operations in the region.

"They're into everything from street crimes to more serious crimes: drugs, loan sharking, gambling, extortion, a wide variety of offences from simple assaults to homicides."

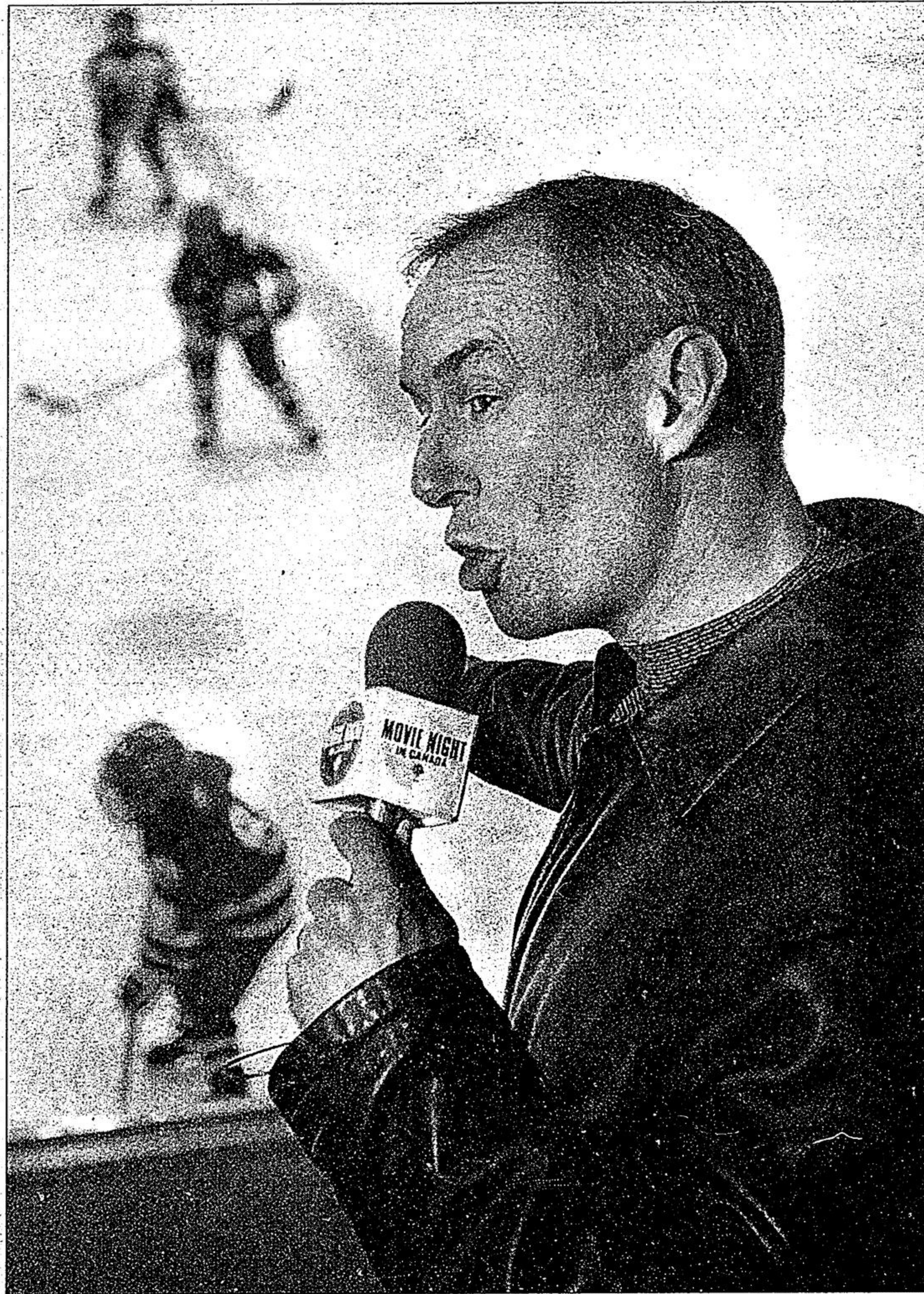
Some of the things that are attractive for hundreds of thousands of law-abiding residents to York are exactly what's bringing organized crime, Det. Stilo said.

"York Region is a beautiful place to live and they seem to like living here, just like anybody else," he said. "It's a great place to live, they enjoy it. Organized crime figures have families, too and they enjoy raising their families in York Region."

The Italian mafia, outlaw biker gangs such as Hells Angels, Asian gangs such as the triads and yakuza and Eastern European and Russian mobsters all have a foothold in York Region.

But the average resident wouldn't recognize a member of a criminal organization walking down the street, since local mobsters rarely look and act

See YOUNGER, page 13.



PHOTO/TOM BARNETT

Movie Night in Stouffville

With the NHL season cancelled, what's the host of Hockey Night In Canada to do? Ron MacLean is hosting Movie Night in Canada, a three-movie evening every Saturday night on CBC-TV. He was in Stouffville last week taping segments at the Stouffville Arena (above) and the backyard rink of Toronto Maple Leafs assistant coach Keith Acton for this Saturday's show. The segments air from 7-11:30 p.m.

ANDERSON HAULAGE LANDS NEXT TO TIM HORTONS

Third big box proposal considered

BY HANNELORE VOLPE
Staff Writer

The face of business in Stouffville could change dramatically over the next few years if town council approves the construction of at least one of three big box developments.

The latest, from Don Anderson Haulage Ltd., is for 28 acres on the north side of Main Street, west of Tim Hortons. It was presented to council Tuesday night.

The proposal projects more than 330,000 square feet of retail and commercial space, anchored by retail giants such as Wal-Mart, Canadian Tire and Loblaws plus restaurants and services.

The trucking company had been looking for some time at developing its land into a retail and commercial centre and moving its existing business.

TALKS WITH COMPANY

Mayor Sue Sherban had been in talks with the company for about a year and noted it is looking for a new location in the municipality.

"They started in Stouffville and are a community-oriented organization," she said.

The Anderson family has been active in the community for decades.

The mayor doesn't want to see mega-malls sprawling over 80 acres such as in some areas of Newmarket.

"Our desire is not to have that kind of big box on Main Street," she said.

Any developments would be in

See COUNCIL, page 8.

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