

Costs already felt, chairperson said

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to more than \$309 million. Other increases include;

- 16th Avenue sewer from \$51 million to \$64 million;
- 19th Avenue/Leslie sewer from \$12 million to \$31 million;
- southeast collector from \$61 million to \$90 million; and

...the existing taxpayer gets charged for some of the cost.

Bill Bell
mayor of Richmond Hill

- expansion of the Duffin Creek waste treatment plan from \$178 million to \$366 million.

The increased costs are already being felt, regional chairperson Bill Fisch said, when developers at Thursday's meeting asked for more time to study the report.

"Last month alone, we paid out \$8 million more in sewer costs and we're facing hundreds of millions over the next 30 years," Mr. Fisch said.

"I agree we haven't given a lot of time, but over the last six or seven months, the industry has known we're facing substantial increases and that there was a review (of the rates) going on. The old rates don't come anywhere near to covering the costs; every month we're paying real dollars and we need the money today."

Infrastructure costs must pay for new development, Richmond Hill Mayor Bill Bell said following the meeting.

"The key fact I keep in mind is they are development charges and they are to pay for development," Mr. Bell said. "They don't even cover the total cost and the existing taxpayer gets charged for some of the cost. It's not fair to subsidize the guy moving in."

Winning photographs to go on display

Amateur and professional photographers are invited to capture Markham at its best.

The Markham Arts Council is hosting the Markham Blooms photo contest for adults and youth.

The five-by-seven-inch colour or black and white photographs have to be taken within the boundaries of Markham, including Thornhill, Unionville and Milliken between Jan. 1 and June 7.

Entries must be submitted by June 27.

The photographs should reflect one of three categories: community involvement, including

heritage and culture; floral, including landscaped areas, turf and ground cover and environmental awareness.

First and second prizes will be awarded by Black's Photography and the Town of Markham.

The winning photographs will be displayed in a series of exhibits throughout Markham.

The contest is part of Communities in Bloom, a friendly competition among municipalities that recognizes community participation in landscape, beautification, heritage, cultural preservation and environmental awareness.

For more information, contact Judi McIntyre at 905-209-9911 or visit www.markhamartsCouncil.com

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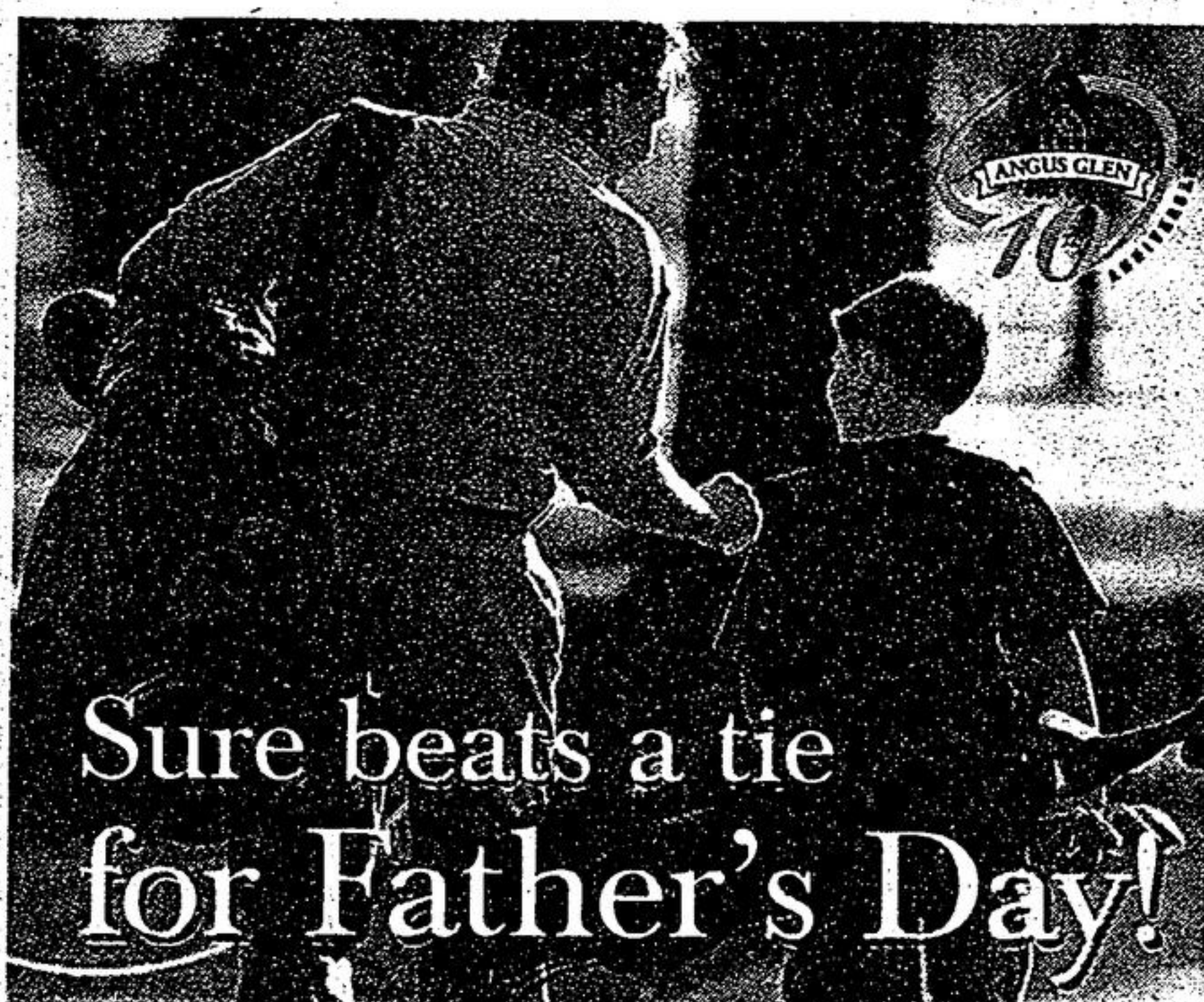
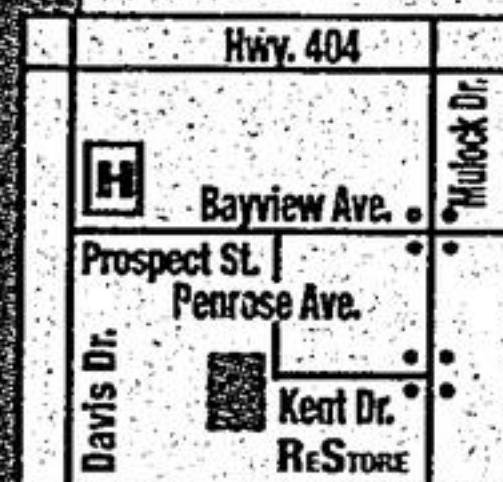
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