

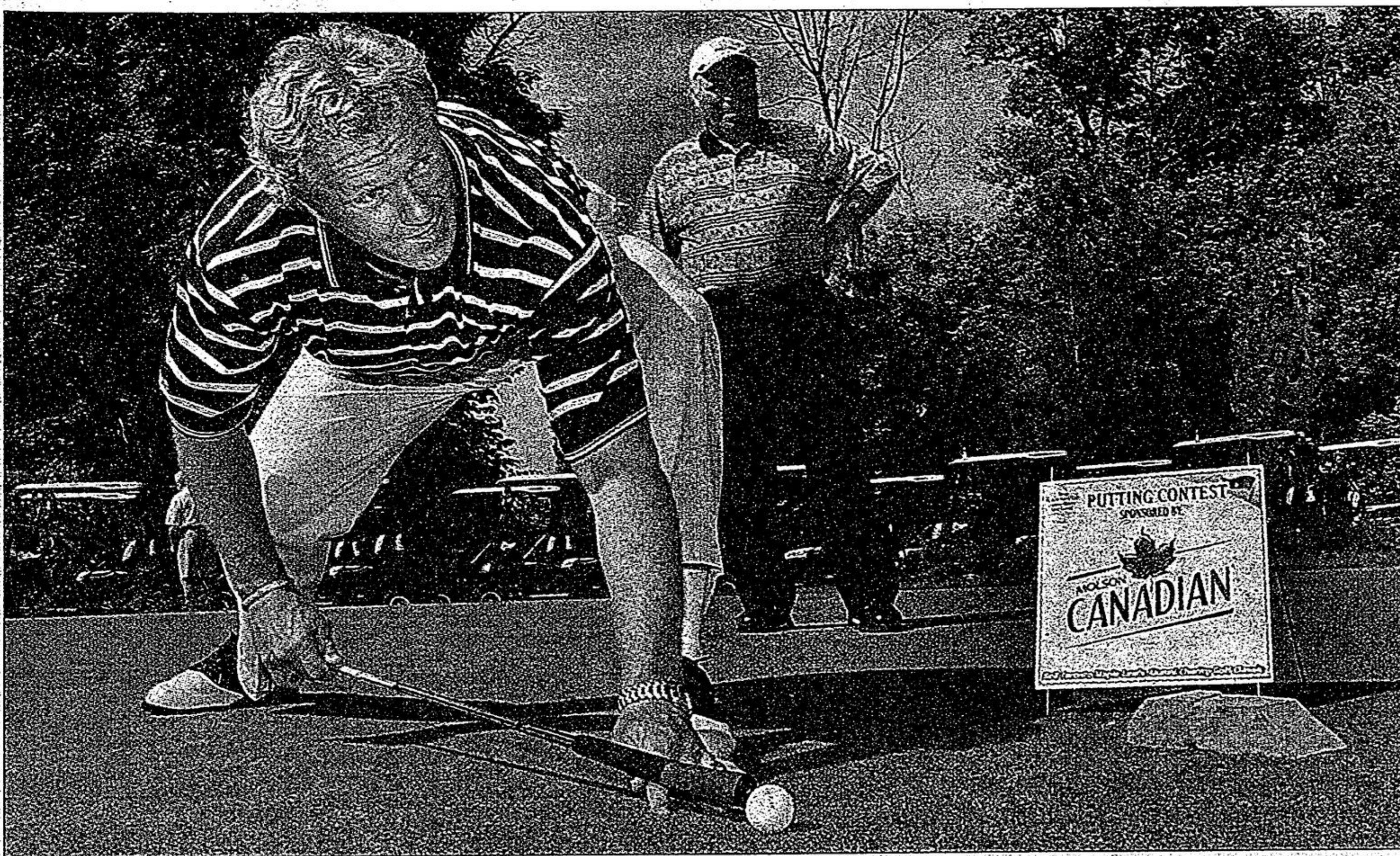
# Stouffville Sun-Tribune

THURSDAY, JUNE 23, 2005 ■ SERVING THE COMMUNITY OF WHITCHURCH-STOUFFVILLE ■ 36 PAGES/\$1 INCLUDING GST



**3** Award-winning Stouffville auctioneer keeps business in the family

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STAFF PHOTO/MIKE BARRETT

## 'Is this how it's done?'

Hockey Hall of Famer Darryl Sittler goofs around at the annual Bell-Toronto Maple Leaf Charity Golf Tourney at Emerald Hills Golf Club Tuesday. More than 25 ex-Leafs took part in the fundraiser for Camp Maple Leaf. The camp for underprivileged children was established in the Kawarthas in 1955 by the Canadian Council of War Veterans Association. For additional photographs, see page 17.

## 10 weeks off too much for students?

BY CAROLINE GRECH  
 Staff Writer

Balmy temperatures and longer days can only mean one thing: the end of another school year can't be too far away.

Next week, students in York Region will start their 10-week summer breaks and the debate remains if that's too much time off.

For elementary students, 10 weeks is a long time to go without learning, making it difficult to be sharp and ready to learn in September.

To combat the lengthy gap, the York District School Board has been holding a variety of summer programs for the past several years.

"We know that children slip during the summer. Having summer programs keeps

them active. Two months is a long time for children not to be engaged," Linda Aihoshi, a community resource assistant for the York District School Board, said.

Initially geared for at-risk students, the programs are open to everyone and many stick to the school board's curriculum, but use fun activities so children don't realize they are learning just like they would during the regular school year, Ms Aihoshi explained.

One such program, Wizard School, is aimed at Grade 5 students and teaches aerodynamics through fun activities such as making rockets.

"They're learning but they're having fun at the same time," Ms Aihoshi said.

"We know that it's working because teachers are noticing a difference," she added.

For some York Region high school students, a shorter summer has translated into a break in early November.

At Markville High School in Markham, the experiment was a major success in its first year.

The program was developed after school officials noticed dramatic spikes in behaviour in November.

"We found our absentee and suspension rates were skyrocketing during the first week of November," Markville principal Anne Belanger said.

See MARKVILLE, page 15.

DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT CHARGES FOR EXPANSIONS

## Churches ask for break on town fees

BY HANNELORE VOLPE  
 Staff Writer

Representatives from two churches have asked Whitchurch-Stouffville council for relief from fees they say they didn't know about until late in the planning process for their expansions.

Christ Church Anglican in Stouffville and Springvale Baptist Church in the rural part of the municipality made the plea Tuesday.

However, they'll have to wait until September to see if they have to pay for future parkland. That's when staff will report on the implications of waiving or reducing cash-in-lieu of parkland fees and whether to stagger payments of development charges over several years.

Both churches were asked to pay 5 per cent of the total cost of their new construction to provide for future town parkland. The Anglican Church expansion is expected to cost about \$1.8 million.

But Charles Parker of the Anglican Church told councillors the levy for future parkland is unreasonable, especially since church property is used as a playground by students from Orchard Park Public School.

"We have no way to recover this money," he said. "We don't charge for use of facilities for Guides, Scouts and choirs."

The Anglican Church wasn't aware of the charges at first and asked if the town's development services department had a pamphlet with information on the various charges, Councillor Susanne

See CHURCHES, page 13.

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