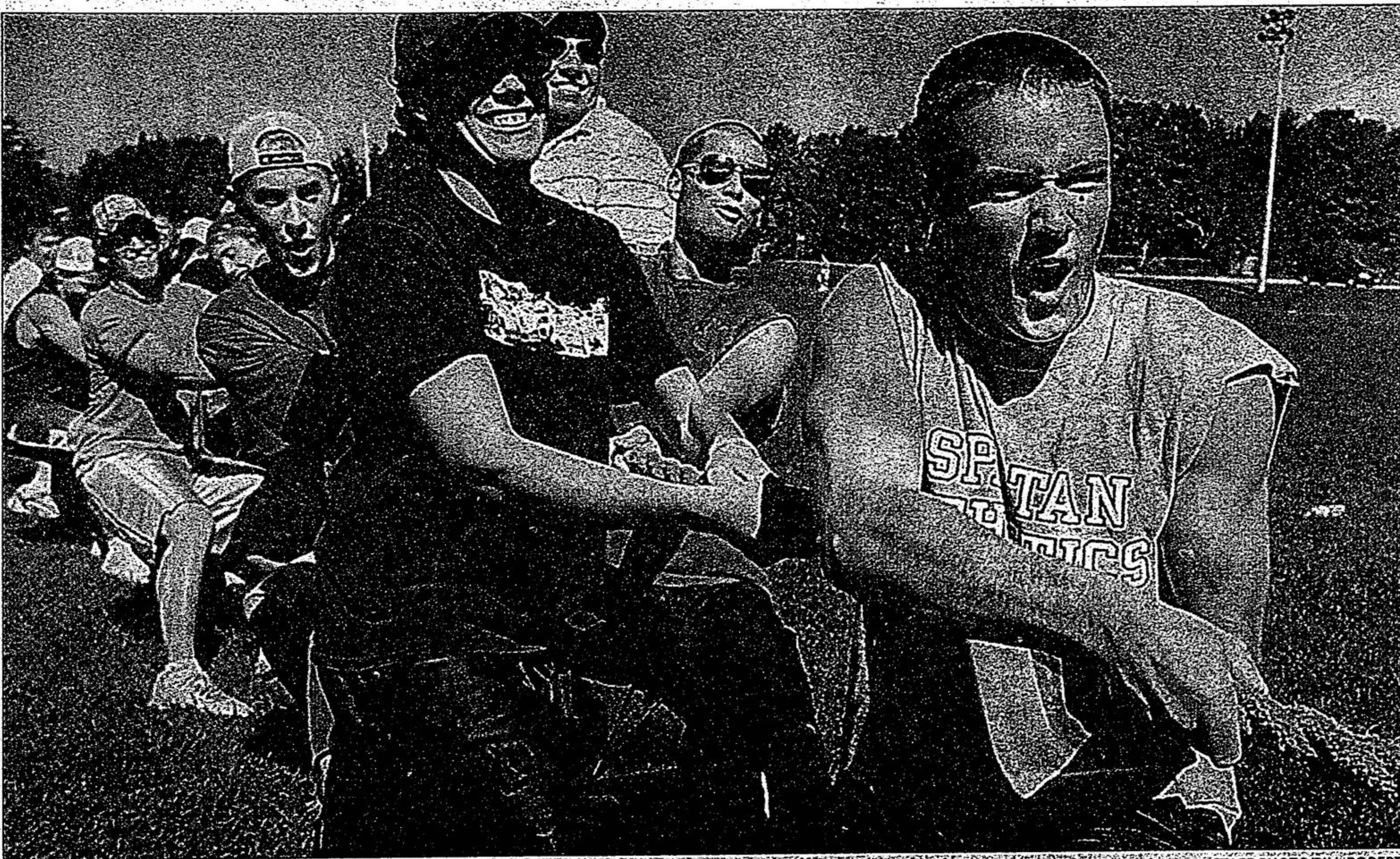




11 United Way's \$7.25M campaign taking off at airport open house

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STAFF PHOTO/BILL ROBERTS

Pulling for Terry

Jake Van Allen (from right), Ian Brunt and Mark Sullivan lead their Stouffville Spirit Jr. A Hockey Club teammates in a tug-of-war versus the Juvenile Clippers hockey squad to kick off the Terry Fox Run at the Stouffville Arena Sunday. A record 1,100 participants raised \$65,000 for cancer research. For more photographs, see pages 3 and 16. For Jim Mason's view of the event, see his column on page 6.

Neighbour confesses to murder

BY LISA QUEEN AND MARTIN DERBYSHIRE
 Staff Writers

Daniel Sylvester's conscience finally got the better of him, his lawyer said.

Immediately after the 31-year-old Thornhill man made a brief court appearance, charged with the second-degree murder of his neighbour, Alicia Ross, veteran Newmarket criminal lawyer David Hobson told reporters his client "was feeling great remorse".

Mr. Sylvester turned himself in to York Regional Police Tuesday evening, providing information that led them to search a wooded area northeast of Sunderland, on the border of Durham Region and the City of Kawartha

Lakes. Police found a body they believe to be Ms Ross.

"My client voluntarily surrendered himself to police yesterday. At that time, there was no evidence whatsoever in which the police could arrest him, let alone support a conviction," Mr. Hobson said.

Residents in the Bronte Road area volunteered in droves to help police search parks and yards after Ms Ross disappeared Aug. 17. But the searches turned up no clues.

Mr. Sylvester, who is to appear in court again at 3 p.m. today, is a mystery man around the quiet Green Lane and Leslie Street neighbourhood.

Resa Shulman, who has lived across the

road from the Ross' home for 20 years, said Mr. Sylvester's is the one house on the street where she doesn't know anyone.

"I just can't place a face there," she said. "Of all my neighbours, I can't recall anyone (who) lives there. It's the only house that really escapes me."

Some neighbours said they believed Mr. Sylvester lived alone with his mother, was unemployed and that his father had recently died.

However, Ms Shulman remembers Alicia and her mother walking their two poodles down the street, saying hello and stopping for small talk like most neighbours.

See NEIGHBOURS, page 12.

REGION TO REMAIN STEADY, SURVEY SHOWS

York's job outlook solid

BY PATRICK MANGION
 Staff Writer

While soaring energy prices and our surging dollar may spell bad news for manufacturers, York Region industry is well positioned to weather the storm.

York's economy is being fed by rampant growth and the region is part of a Greater Toronto Area powerhouse, said Don Eastwood, the region's director of economic strategy.

"The fact York Region is such a diverse economy probably insulates us to some degree from the Canadian dollar. But because Canada is an exporting country, it will make itself felt," Mr. Eastwood said.

When the Canadian dollar was valued at the 60 to 70-cent mark, its exports were more attractive to trading partners such as the United States.

However, earlier this week, the loonie reached a 13-year high at nearly 86 cents, fueling the loss of approximately 85,000 manufacturing jobs in Canada this year, according to some analysts.

In York Region, manufacturing remains the largest sector, accounting for nearly 25 per cent of total employment, according to the region's 2004 report on employment and industry.

"The effects on manufacturing are not as significant as initially thought. The manufacturing sector has actually proven to be quite resilient," the report stated.

Earlier this month, a survey by Manpower Employment predicted the fourth quarter would remain steady for the region's manufacturers.

Steelcase Canada Ltd., one of York's

See VIBRANT, page 11.

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