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Games bid goes bust, but officials still pleased

Halifax gets nod as Canadian entry

BY JOHN CUDMORE
 Staff Writer

Bill Crothers knows his people ran the good race.

It's just that there can only be one winner.

To that end, he has no qualms that the Region of York came up short in its attempt to land the Canadian bid rights to host the 2014 Commonwealth Games.

York Region, along with Hamilton and Ottawa, were shut out Thursday when the Commonwealth Games Canada committee named the Nova Scotia capital its candidate to battle Glasgow, Scotland and Abuja, Nigeria for the 10-day sports festival.

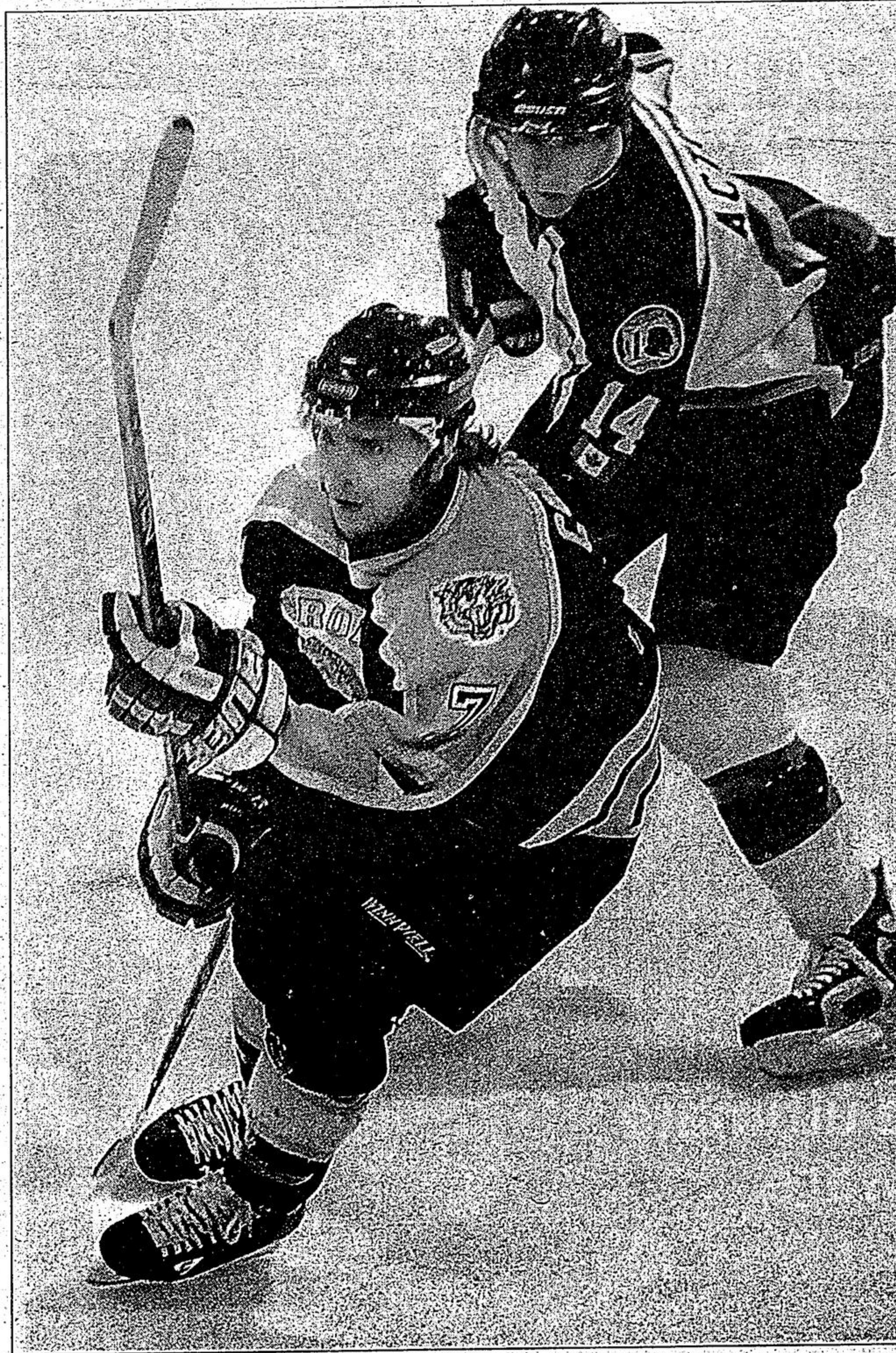
"We're a little disappointed, but you don't win every time," said Mr. Crothers, chairperson for the York 2014 bid committee and former Olympic silver medallist. "I don't think we had a weak bid. You just have to respect the process."

"It would have been great and I know we'd have done a bang-up job hosting the Games and that they would have been great for our community. But we respect and congratulate and wish Halifax the best of luck."

Halifax, which would become the fifth Canadian and first Atlantic coast city host for the Games, has a resume for staging

See *INEXPERIENCE*, page 15.

SPIRITED COMEBACK



STAFF PHOTO/BILL ROBERTS

Aurora Tigers Matt Caranci (7) heads for the play with Stouffville Spirit Will Acton (14) in pursuit during Junior A action at Stouffville Arena Thursday. Stouffville beat Aurora 5-4 in an overtime comeback. The Spirit are unbeaten in eight games. They play in Oshawa tonight.

EXTREME MEASURES BATTLE SPEEDERS

Some councils closing roads to deter bad drivers

BY LISA QUEEN
 Staff Writer

Although the debate to permanently close a Concord street to prevent traffic racing through the neighbourhood has raged for three years, resident Judy Balshin only caught wind of it at the last minute.

Still, Ms. Balshin is furious Vaughan councillors agreed last week to close King High Drive at Dufferin Street because she worries it will send traffic one road north to her street, Beverley Glen Boulevard.

"It's just not fair. I think it's a pretty selfish act for the residents of King High," she said.

"We're a residential street equal to them. I think other solutions could have been done."

Fearful about speeding traffic infiltrating their neighbourhoods, residents routinely beg councillors to find ways of protecting lives and property.

For years, municipal politicians have caved into demands for stop signs, lower speed limits, turning bans and speed bumps, despite growing evidence the traffic calming measures do little more than transfer the problems to the next street or neighbourhood.

But have years of escalating measures left York Region councillors with no other option but the extreme position of permanently closing roads?

Councillor Bernie DiVona has had five other requests for permanent road closures in his ward but he has turned away the proponents.

See *CAA*, page 16.

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