



3 Young Stouffville Idol hopefuls shoot for tomorrow's finals

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Keeping Dan McNeil's memory alive

Award honours youths 15 years after death

BY MIKE HAYAKAWA
 Staff Writer

The memory of Dan McNeil lives on in Whitchurch-Stouffville in the likes of Carter Kroen.

As a minor hockey player, Carter has been described as a leader on the ice. The 15-year-old is unselfish and gentlemanly, coaches say.

Just like Dan.

During last Thursday's Whitchurch-Stouffville Minor Hockey Association annual general meeting, Carter was honoured as this year's recipient of the Dan McNeil Award. Carter is the 13th recipient of the award first handed out in 1994-95. There were seven nominees.

Dan, a former Stouffville Clipper minor hockey player himself, died in 1992 following a two-car collision near Goodwood.

A member of the Uxbridge Bruins Jr. C team at the time, Dan, 19, was returning to Stouffville from a hockey game when the collision took place.

His death rocked the close-knit community.

The McNeil family was well known. Dan was the boy next door, known and loved by many.

Stouffville United Church was packed for his funeral. A benefit hockey game was played in his name. Plaques were erected at

See AWARD, page 7.

HYDRO INVESTS \$10 MILLION, BUT WEATHER, LOCATION STILL FACTORS

Lights out on power outages?

BY HANNELORE VOLPE
 Staff Writer

Hydro One has invested \$10 million during the past seven years to improve hydro delivery to Whitchurch-Stouffville residents and businesses, but you're still experiencing more power outages than comparable areas.

That's largely due to the size of the distribution system and

Stouffville's location at the end of the power grid. It means there's more chance of transformers, hydro poles and lines and underground cables being damaged by high winds, freezing rain, car accidents and other calamities.

There were four significant storms last year that played havoc with electricity distribution systems.

"It seems we are getting more severe weather," Hydro One spokesperson Al Manchée said, including what he described as "mini-tornadoes".

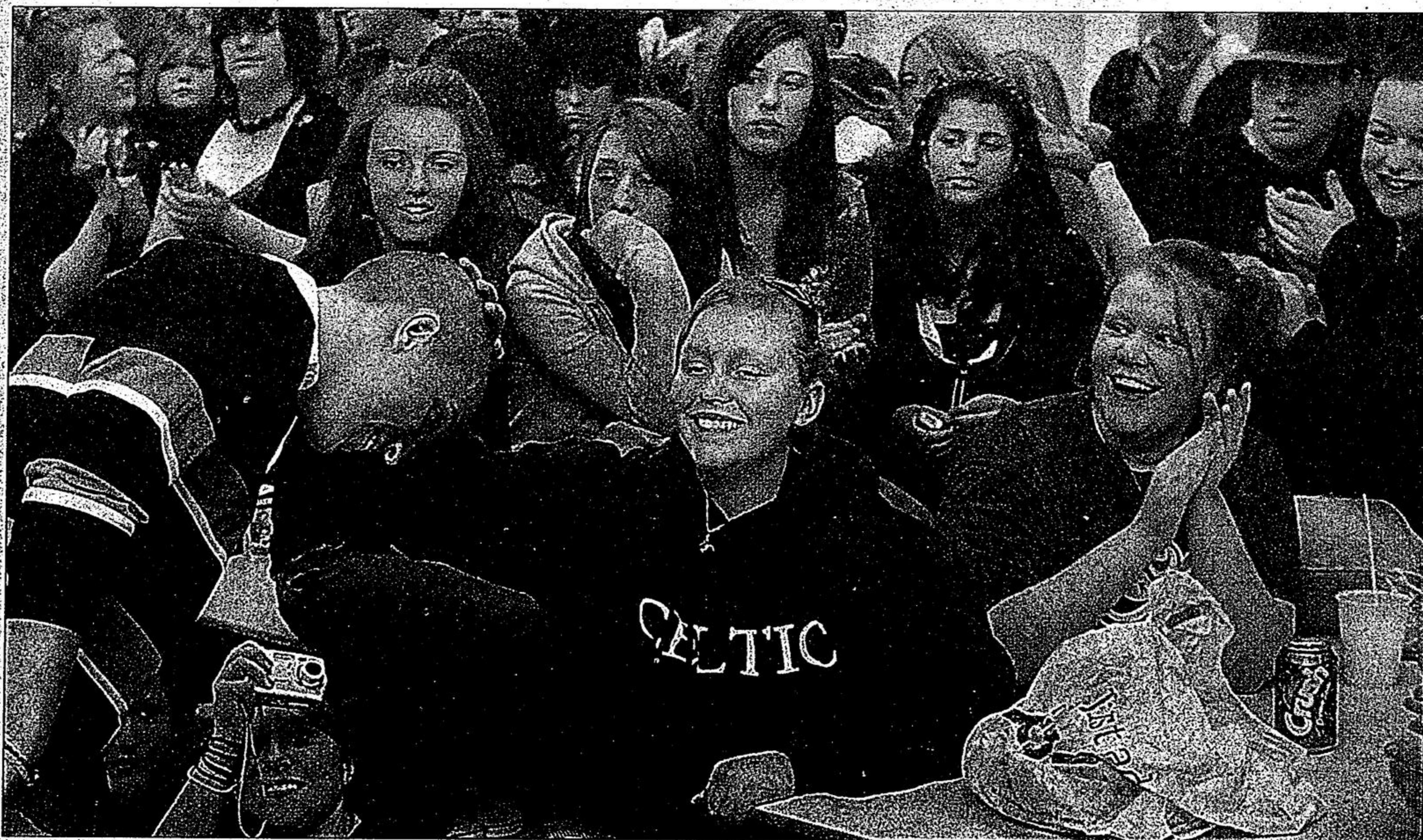
In the municipality itself, however, outages are on the decline because of the utility's improvements to its system during the last five years, he said.

In 2001, when Whitchurch-

Stouffville sold its local hydro utility to Hydro One, "we knew there had to be a lot of work done", Mayor Wayne Emmerson said at council Tuesday after a presentation by Hydro One officials.

The town didn't have the resources to make all improvements needed in the face of growth, Mr. Emmerson said.

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STAFF PHOTOS/JOERD WITTEVEEN

SMOOTH MOVE, PAL

Jesse Johnston, 15, gets his smooth dome touched by Mindy Antinucci, 16, and admired by Melinda Alexander, 15, during head-shaving day at Stouffville District Secondary School Friday. Ten people went under the razor and raised \$3,500 for the Canadian Cancer Society, bringing the four-year total to more than \$15,000.

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