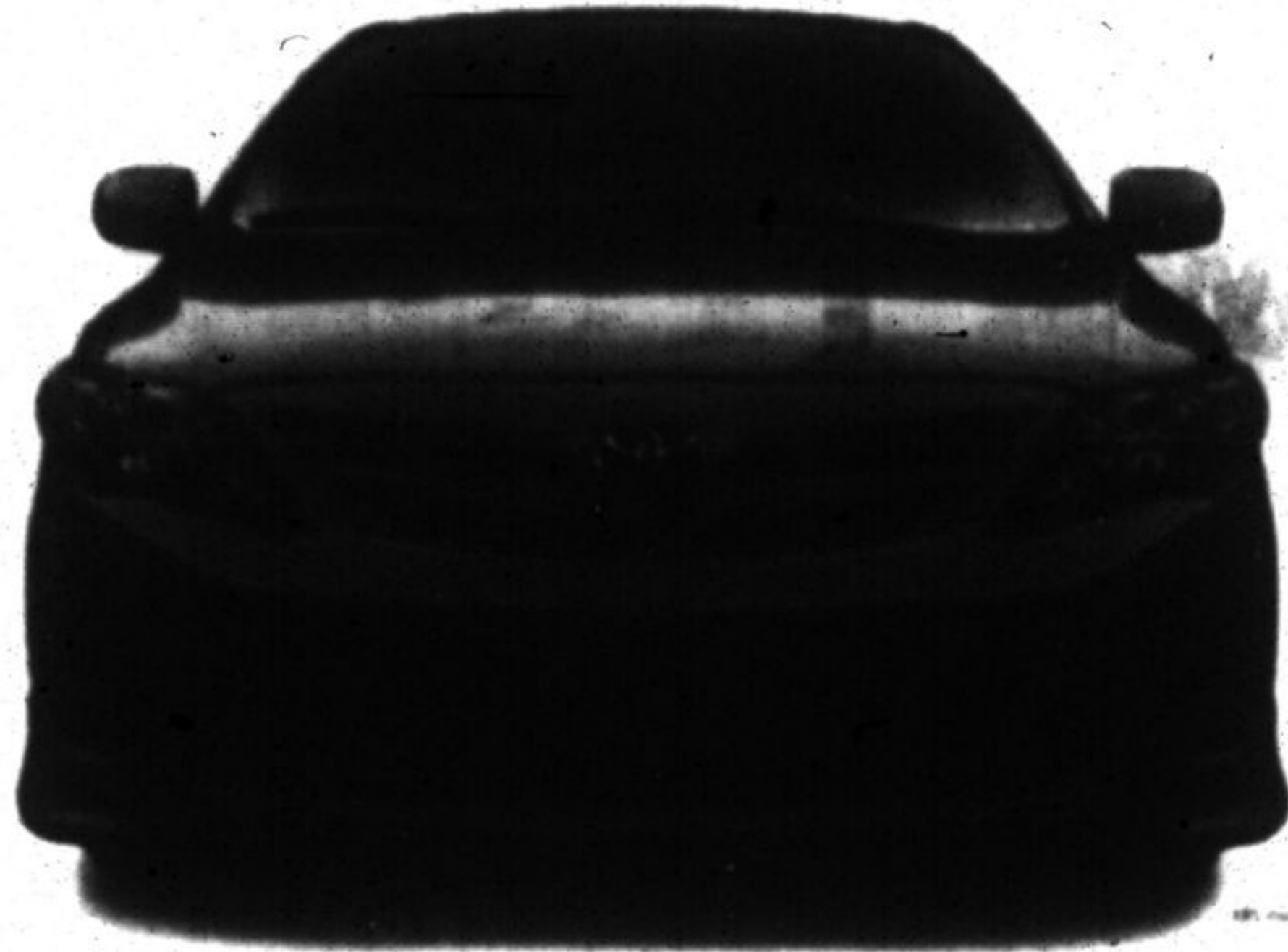




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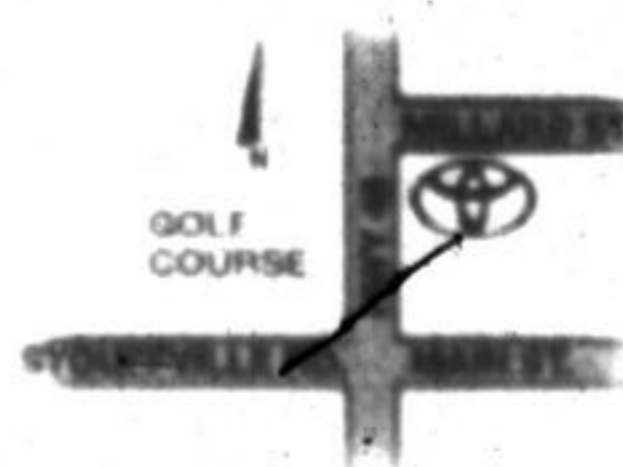
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RECREATION: Run of 53 years appears over

No money to fix, open Stouffville outdoor pool

BY SANDRA BOLAN
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Come this summer, Stouffville's outdoor pool will remain empty.

It had a good life. It lasted 53 years – more than twice its expected life-span.

However, the facility is in a state of great disrepair and would cost at least \$980,000 to renovate. This includes the main, intermediate and wading pools, but not expenses associated with soil reports, core testing, material testing or the pool building.

The estimate also does not include making the facility accessible to the disabled, which it is not.

VISUAL INSPECTION ONLY

The visual inspection was conducted last September by Betz Pools of Stouffville.

"The status of the pool shell is not known at this time. If structural cracks or defects are identified through the assessment of the shell, further restoration work would be required," according to the Jan. 7 report to council by Andrew McNeely, director of planning and building services for the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville.

"Staff have a concern that the present state of the pool shell could constitute a public safety risk and without a more detailed assessment, staff cannot recommend contin-

ued use of the facility," Mr. McNeely wrote.

Last summer, the outdoor pool was open daily from June 26 to Aug. 29. However, three days of the week it operated for only three hours a day, while on the other four days, it was open 4.5 hours a day.

Despite a growing population, there has been a marginal decline in the pool's use, according to Mr. McNeely.

... facility is in a state of great disrepair and would cost at least \$980,000 to renovate.

In its place, the town is entertaining the idea of building an accessible water park, which would consist of a multi-feature splash pad, washrooms and change rooms, play structures, outdoor activity area and sensory garden. (See story on front page.)

The project, however, is currently dependant upon government funding.

Even if the town were not to receive any money from the federal government's Enabling Accessibility Fund program, the pool will remain closed this summer as there are no provisions in the municipal budget to repair or operate it.

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