

Decision on house postponed to new year

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The Bartholomew house has been given a reprieve — for now.

Council has deferred the decision to deny or approve the current owner's request for a demolition permit until January.

Councillor Clyde Smith said he wanted more options looked at, which is why he supported Councillor Rob Hargrave's motion to put the matter off until the new year.

The 160-year-old house sits on about 260 acres of land that was purchased earlier this year by auto parts magnate Frank Stronach's company Adena Stallions.

The land is located on the south side of Stouffville Road between Hwy. 48 and McCowan Road in the hamlet of Ringwood.

Reports by various consultants conclude the late Georgian style home, once owned by Henry Bartholomew, is mould infested. Asbestos-containing materials may also be present, along with lead-based paint.

Prolonged exposure to moisture has resulted in the deterioration of the flooring and walls. There is also the potential for the structural integrity of the roof and floor joists to be compromised.

An engineer noted it may have been used as a grow-op at one time, based on the grow lamps and electrical bypasses.

There are animal droppings in the farmhouse and entrance into the house



TRIBUNE FILE PHOTO

Stouffville historian Fred Robbins wants the Bartholomew house saved.

should only be carried out with proper gas masks, white suits and gloves," according to the engineer's report.

Based on structural integrity, the barn and farmhouse "are beyond salvage and suggest they be demolished," according to the engineer.

"I'm very disappointed the (previous) owners of this building let this house go," despite its historical significance to the community, said Mayor Wayne Emmer-son during this week's council meeting.

The heritage advisory committee disagrees with the consultants and the engineer. The committee agrees with a

consultant's cursory evaluation earlier this year that stated, "the farmhouse is structurally in good condition ... There is no doubt that this property can be retained and made habitable again."

The committee requested three options be considered by council before approving the demolition permit.

The first is to designate the building and barns under the Heritage Act. Secondly, retain the building as part of the town and have the municipality become responsible for its clean-up and lastly, sever the property and sell it, so the buildings can be cleaned up and used for retail, institutional or residential use.

In February, committee member Fred Robbins lobbied council to approve having the home protected under the Ontario Heritage Act. It was denied. It is on the town's heritage inventory list.

Only six buildings within Whitchurch-Stouffville have the Ontario Heritage Act designation, said Andrew Jurrius, chief building official for the municipality earlier this year.

Mr. Bartholomew's son Philip married Mary Boyer, for whom Boyer's Pond is named after, according to Mr. Robbins.

The couple had eight children who married into the Button, Hamilton, Munroe, Pike, Richards, Wells and Wideman families.

The property's current owners want to use it for agricultural feed production for their thoroughbred horses.



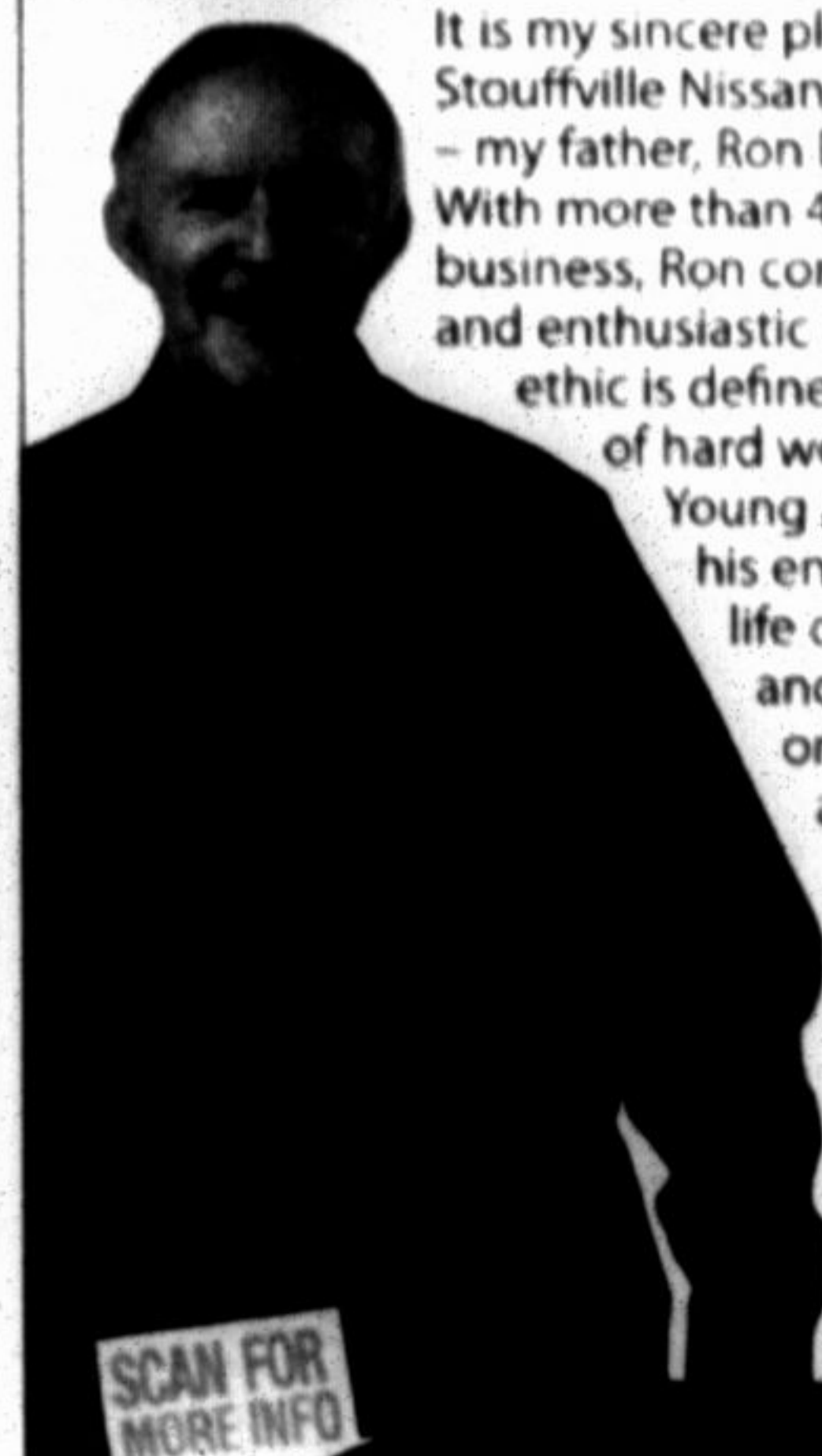
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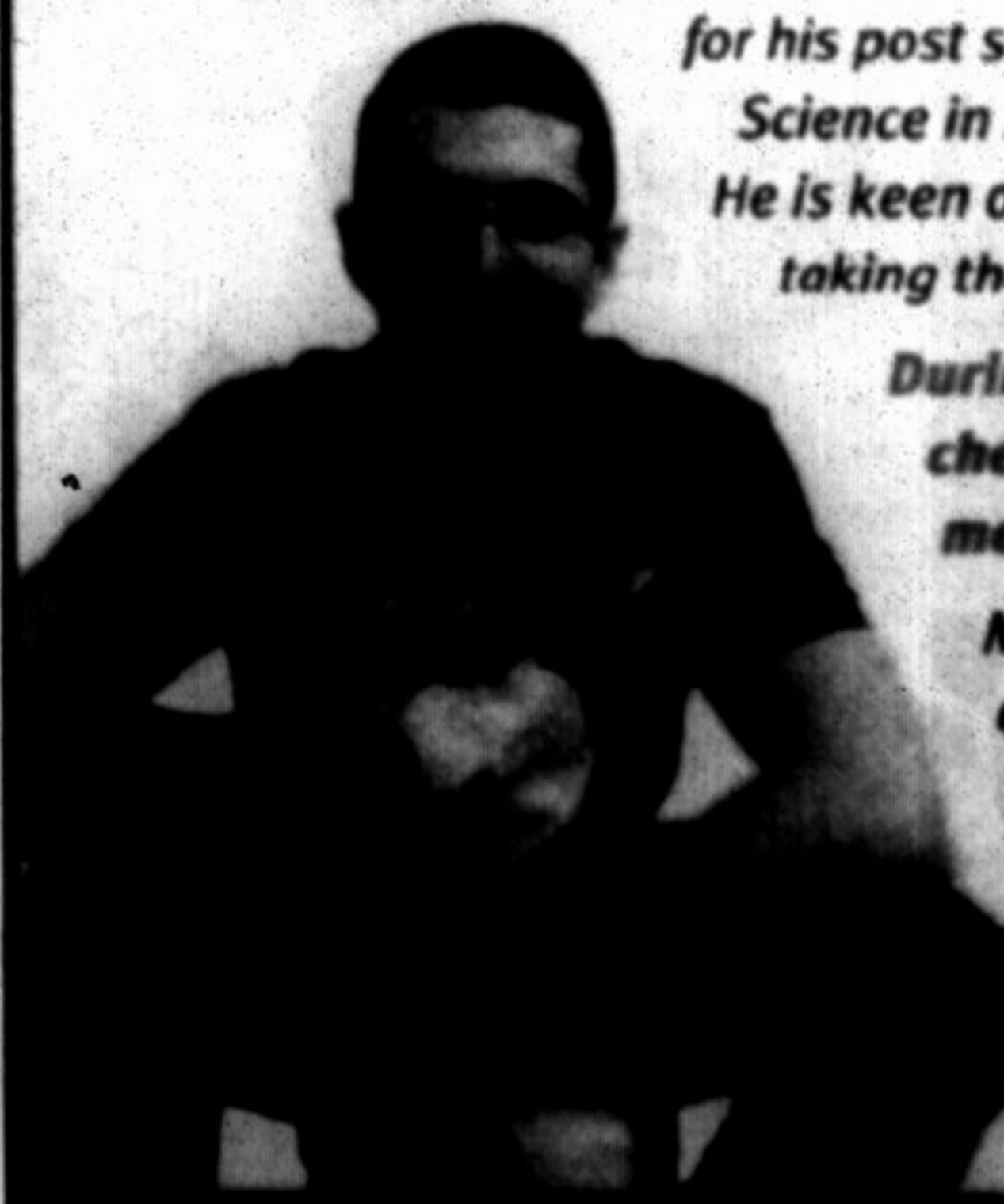


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Dr. Jordan grew up around the corner in Sharon before attending the University of Guelph for his post secondary education where he received a Bachelor of Science in 2008 and a Doctor in Veterinary Medicine in 2012. He is keen on following in Dr. Hackings footsteps and will be taking the animal chiropractic course in 2013.



During the month of November, Dr. Jordan will be giving check-ups* to new clients or clients who have not yet met him for a nominal cash donation to Movember.

November is a charity that helps raise money and awareness for men's health, specifically prostate cancer and male mental health initiatives.

(http://ca.movember.com/about/)



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