

Weekender

Comment

Hospital approval a relief

The Markham Stouffville Hospital passed a symbolic, but significant, milestone this week. Approval was received from the Ministry of Health for an actual start on construction. In less than two weeks work will begin on services to the hospital.

It's easy to see why members of the Board of Trustees are elated at the latest development. Until the shovels are actually in the ground, there is always the possibility that provincial officials could cancel or delay the project.

After more than 20 years of hoping and a two-year fund-raising campaign that raised \$5 million, those associated with the hospital must have been figuratively holding their collective breaths that the hospital would actually be built.

Well, exhale fellows. It's official. We can hardly wait until that day in late 1988 or 1989 when Ontario's newest hospital opens for business.



How time does fly...when you watch the afternoon Soaps!

Unionville actor will not migrate

There has always been a tendency for some to feel that as entertainment goes, Canada hasn't got a lot to offer, especially when compared to our five star neighbor to the south.

Talent, or the appreciation of such, is often in the eyes of the beholder. Put a Canadian and an American performer of equal ability upon the same stage, and it will be the Yank who gets all the attention. Maybe it's just part of our second-power-nation inferiority complex. But it is entirely unfounded.

And if you want proof that there are Canadian performers and writers who are every bit as talented as those in other countries, you only have to look as far as Unionville.

Chris Wiggins is among the most gifted and versatile performers in the entertainment business today. He is one of the few exceptional Canadian entertainers who has chosen to hitch his wagon to the Canadian scene, resisting the lure of the more appetizing markets to the south.

Born in Blackpool, England,



Chris has never lost that toughness that so often characterizes people raised in a tough mining town.

A naturally competitive individual, Chris has fought his way to the top of the heap in a career that has been marked by success after success.

His versatility is such that you just never know where you are going to see him pop up. Impossible to type cast, he has a plastic face. He has played the gentle young father in the old television series, "Swiss Family Robinson". He has portrayed a rugged coal miner, an ancient grandfather and a psychiatrist in a three piece suit.

He was the compassionate woodworking factory owner in the movie made for television, The American Christmas Carol. And he's the cane bashing old duffer you see trying to figure out how many different ways to win in Super Loto.

As for his radio spots, it's great sport just trying to recognize him, so vast is his collection of accents. Chris takes great professional pride in his ability to faithfully reproduce dialects and subtle variations of the same brogue.

Many have been the hours spent in his living room rolling with laughter at the mini-performers he will spontaneously perform. A joke he once told us about a Scots-

man named McCoy had me begging him to stop halfway through so I could catch my breath.

Ever the devil's advocate, he once locked horns with the director of a T.V. commercial who asked him for a "Scottish" accent.

"Which one?" Chris replied. The director snapped back "Just give me a Scottish accent. How many Scotlands are there, for Pete's sake?"

"There may be only one Scotland, sir," Chris responded, patiently. However, within the country, there are five different dialects. Would you like me to go through them all so you can choose that one you are looking for?"

By now, Chris was enjoying the director's ever increasing frustration. He finally settled for the Highland Scot. Chris had proven his point.

Chris Wiggins has an insatiable interest in the English language and in words, ranking him as a skilled wordsmith. He takes great delight in unearthing 28 letter words, and then trying to use

them. He could create his own version of Balderdash.

His own writing has included children's plays along with radio and T.V. pieces.

His professional awards include an ACTRA "Nellie" for his radio work, a Genie for his role in "The Best Damn Fiddler From Calabogie to Kaladar". Best Actor recognition for his portrayal of "Scrooge" at the Crest Theatre in Toronto in 1962, and a long list of nominations throughout the years.

He has played along side of Burt Lancaster, David Niven, Ernest Borgnine, Walter Pidgeon, Stacey Keach, Ben Gazzara, Margot Kidder, Henry Winkler, Christopher Plummer and others.

And he just keeps on getting better. Last year saw him travel to Australia to play the role of Spearfield in the mini-series Spearfield's Daughter.

So, the next time someone tries to tell you that Canadian performers can't cut it, tell them about your neighbor, Chris Wiggins. One of the best in the business — anywhere.

Economist & Sun

The Tribune

9 Heritage Rd.,
Markham,
L3P 1M3

Weekender

BRUCE ANNAN
Publisher

294-2200
495-9440
640-2100
649-2292

DON BERNARD
JIM THOMAS
Editors

EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT — News Editor-Jo Ann Stevenson, Reporters: Greg Coates, Paula Crowell, Steve Houston, Chris Shanahan, Kelly Connelly, Sports Editor-Francis King, Photography-Sjoerd Witteveen, Bill Lanning.

CHRISTINE BERTRAM
Office Manager

BUSINESS OFFICE — Shirley Lee, Irene Ramsperger, Andrea Manuel, Charlene Tuckey.

PATRICIA PAPPAS
Advertising Manager

ADVERTISING DEPARTMENT — Retail Advertising Manager-Charles Canning, Retail-Terri Bernhardt, Lorne Hillier, Jo-Ann Van Maurik, Lynn Moore, Real Estate Manager-Dorothy Young, Classified Manager-Debra Weller, Classified-Phyllis Ritchie, Joan Marshman, R. Stephen Mathieu, Karen Heise.

JENNIFER HUTT
Distribution Manager

DISTRIBUTION DEPARTMENT — Assistant Distribution Manager-Sandra Marrier, Jean Middleton, Barry Goodyear, Doreen Deacon, Sandra Kitely, Lea Kitler, Sue Hutton, Donna Saxon.

Distribution Dept. 294-8244
640-2100

Published every Saturday by Metroland Printing, Publishing and Distributing at 9 Heritage Rd., Markham, Ontario L3P 1M3. Tel. 294-2200.

Second class mail registration number 1247.

The Markham Economist and Sun, published every Wednesday and Saturday at 9 Heritage Rd., Markham, is one of the Metroland Printing, Publishing and Distributing group of suburban newspapers which includes: The Acton Free Press, Ajax/Pickering News Advertiser, Aurora Banner, Brampton Guardian, Burlington Post, Etobicoke Advertiser/Guardian, Georgetown Independent, Milton Champion, Mississauga News, Newmarket Era, Oakville Beaver, Oshawa/Whitby This Week, Richmond Hill/Thornton/Vaughan Liberal, Scarborough Mirror, Stouffville Tribune, Topic Newsmagazine, Willowdale Mirror. Metroland Printing, Publishing and Distributing is a division of Harlequin Enterprises Ltd.

NATIONAL SALES REPRESENTATIVE — Metroland Corporate Sales, 493-1300.