

Drive on to stop abortions at hospital

By MATT NICHOLLS
Correspondent

A former member of the Markham Stouffville Hospital Board of Trustees is organizing a drive to prevent abortions being performed when the hospital opens next January.

Earlier this year the hospital board voted in favor of allowing abortions.

Jerry Young, 56, a trustee on

the hospital board from 1985 to 1988 and a life time member of the Markham Stouffville Hospital, has sent out 2,000 letters to local church ministers and other life time members to help him in his quest.

Mr. Young hopes to present a resolution to the Hospital Board at its annual meeting on June 8 outlining his group's disapproval of the hospital's stand on abortion.

The hospital passed a resolution on Jan. 26 to allow abortions during a woman's first three months of pregnancy.

Mr. Young believes the board has a responsibility to the community to reverse that decision.

"Abortion is the actual killing of an unborn baby and we want to stop that from happening," Mr. Young says.

"We want to bring the abor-

tion issue to the forefront maybe more than it is now," he says.

"The board should respect the feelings of the community," he adds. "It is a very sensitive issue."

But Markham Stouffville Hospital Board Chairman Keith Sutherland says the board "was acting within its jurisdiction" when the abortion resolution was passed in January.

"We fully realized that when we made a decision like that (to allow abortions) that we'd be going against the wishes of some people," Mr. Sutherland says.

"I guess what we're trying to do is say that we're a community hospital and we're trying to serve as best we can the needs of the community," he says.

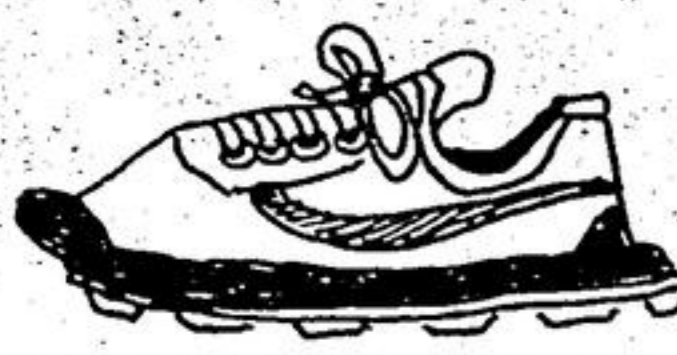
Mr. Sutherland says public

reaction to the board's decision so far has been positive, with "very few" negative responses from the community.

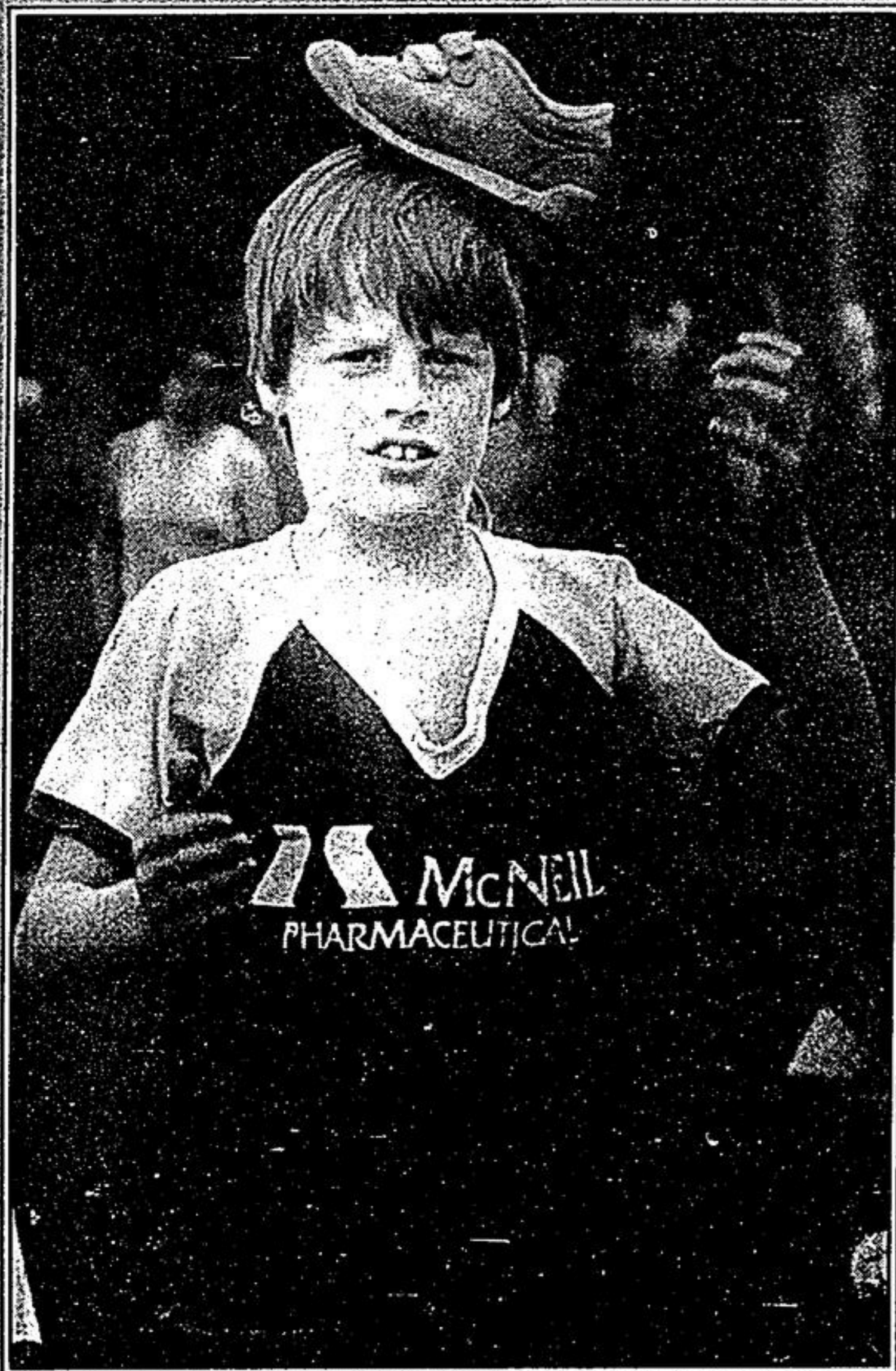
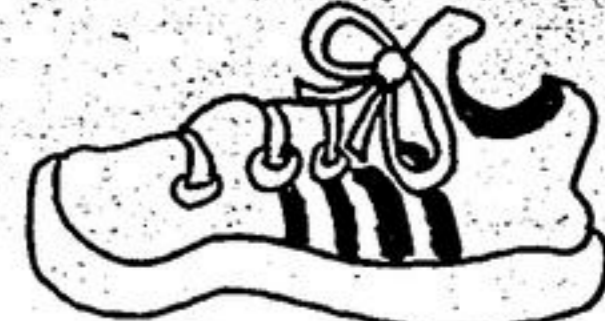
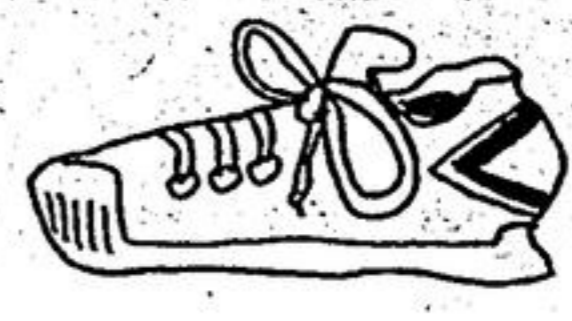
"That isn't to say they (those opposed to the decision) aren't out there," he says.

But "we feel we're working in the best interests of the total community," he says.

"If I thought otherwise we wouldn't be doing what we're doing."



If the shoe fits...



Students at Ballantrae Public School showed some fancy footwork on last Tuesday as part of the school's Sneaker Day celebration. More than 300 students participated in the day-long activities which included a hole-in-the-foot sneaker race, a big-foot carpet race, and a best dressed sneaker competition. In the top left photo, Grade 2 students Thomas Waters (left) and Dustin Magee (right) frantically search for their sneakers in the Shoe Pile Relay race as their classmates look on. Grade 7 student Lazaros Nikeas (top right) got into the spirit of the day during the hole-in-the-foot sneaker race. Here he tries his best to fill up a bucket before all the water escapes out the hole. In this sneaker competition for the best dressed sneaker competition was tight. Below right, the judges survey the students' work. In the bottom left photo, best dressed sneaker participants (from left) Rebecca Morrison, Christie Foster, Susan Schrader and Mandy Vanveen show off their work. The balance relay race (left photo) was one of the more challenging events but Grade 2 student Jonathon Maguire seems to have everything under control.

Photos by
Matt Nicholls



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