

Speech and Stroke Centre one of only two in Canada

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Correspondent

The proclamation of Aphasia Awareness Week between May 26 and June 1 represents an important step forward for the York-Durham branch of the Speech and Stroke Centre, located at Parkview Village in Stouffville.

Aphasia is a Latin word meaning

absence of speech. The condition can occur in people who have had a stroke or suffered brain injury, and those affected can suddenly find themselves unable to speak or make sense of language.

When someone has a stroke or head injury, if the language area of the brain is affected, and if it's haemorrhaging, then the person is left with no speech right afterwards, said communication pro-

gram director Ruth Patterson.

"Everybody knows about AIDS and Parkinson's disease, yet there are less people with Parkinson's than with aphasia."

"Aphasia patients tend to be quite socially isolated, especially in a society that's so communication-oriented," she said.

The Speech and Stroke Centre, York-Durham Branch, is one of just two such facilities across Canada.

The original centre is located in North York and a third branch is slated to open

soon in Ottawa-Carleton.

Since aphasia is chronic rather than acute, many of those with the condition end up in nursing homes unable to communicate or move around without the therapy and encouragement they need to improve.

"Our centre is very community-oriented," said Patterson. "Many of our volunteers are from the Stouffville and Uxbridge areas."

What's unique about the program is that it's run by volunteers who receive training from qualified speech patholo-

gists at the centre.

"The volunteers bring the outside world to our members," said Patterson.

Volunteers work with a small group of people, who learn from each other and become part of the larger group of 33 members, their families and the volunteers.

"The members lead discussions; the facilitators are a bit like a hostess at a party; they help people to feel comfortable about getting involved," explained Patterson.

And the results are extremely encouraging, she said.

"We're seeing incredible gains in some people four, five and six years after a stroke. The brain goes through a process of healing and recovery; the program is like aerobics for the brain."

An open house at the York-Durham branch will take place on Tuesday, May 28, at 10 a.m. at Parkview Village, 12184 Ninth Line in Stouffville.

For more information, contact Ruth Patterson or Anne Wells at 642-2053.

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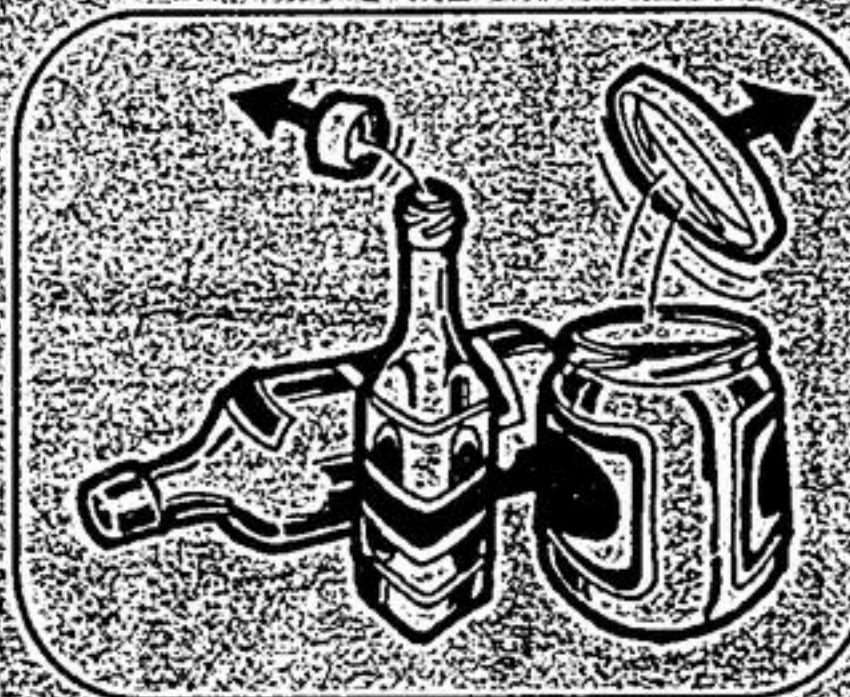
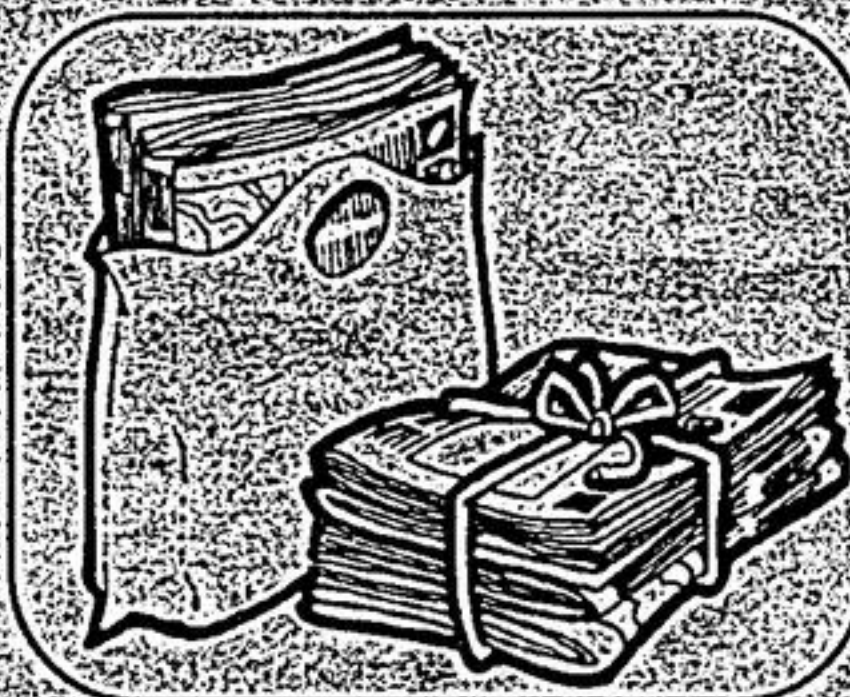
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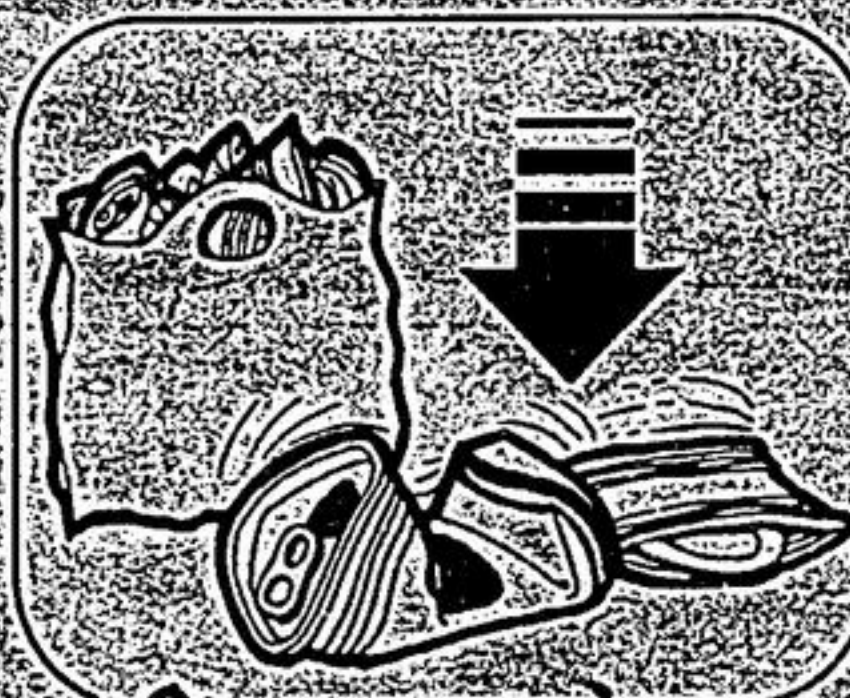
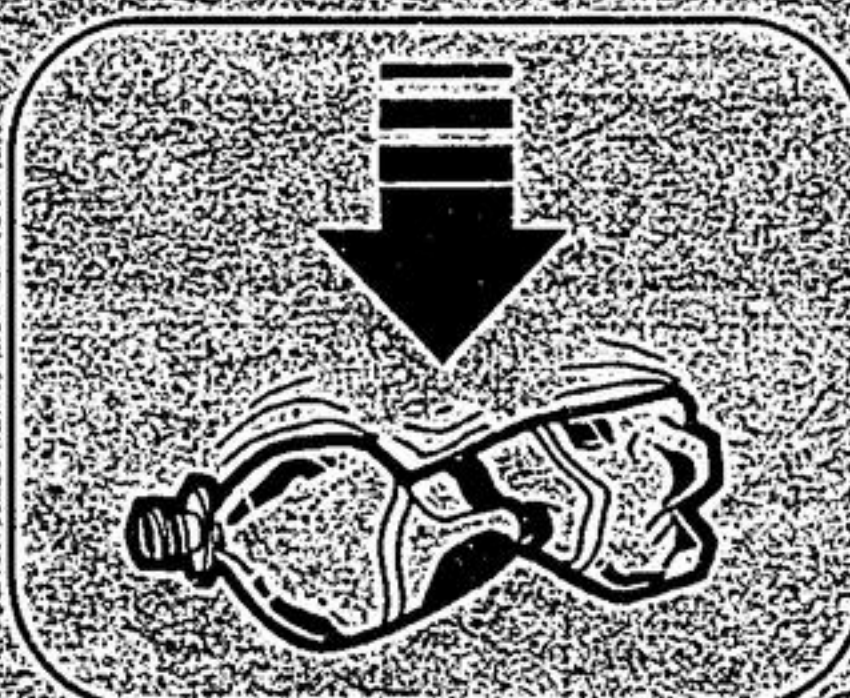


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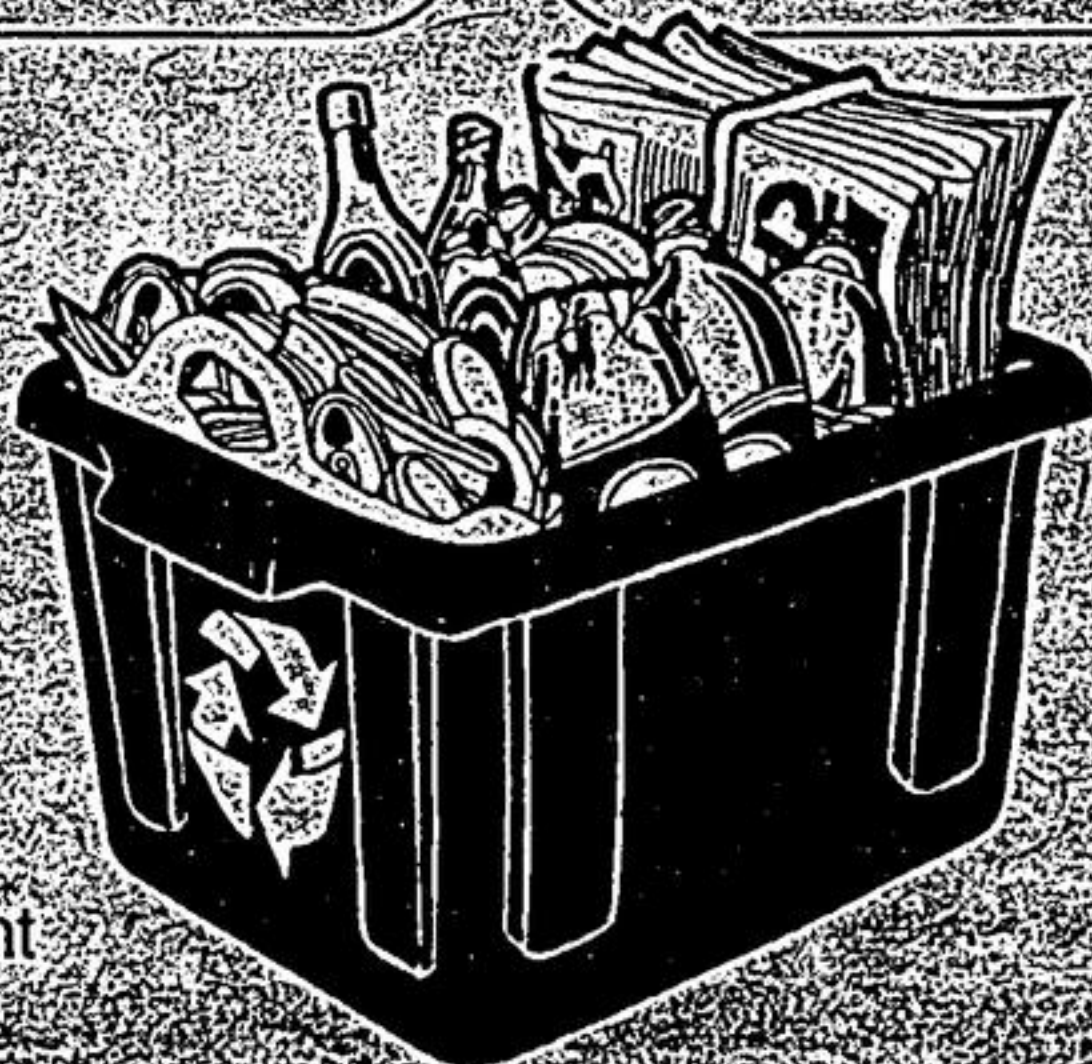
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GORMLEY NEWS

evelyn mlsted

Hoods suffer loss

Sympathy is expressed to Keith and Mildred Hood on the sudden death of her mother, Florence Denby, at the Glynnwood Retirement Residence in Thornhill on May 6.

Beula Jones was moved from the Markham Stouffville Hospital to the Nursing Care Unit at Parkview Home for the Aged on Rupert Street in Stouffville on Tuesday.

Marie Hawkins was entertained by her daughters on Mother's Day.

Mel and Effie Baker and Jack and Connie Harrison were Mother's Day guests of Bill and Wendy Baker in Stouffville.

Margaret Paisley is a patient in Markham Stouffville Hospital following a heart attack.

A number of young people from Gormley attended the annual Pitch N' Praise weekend at the Stayner Missionary Church campgrounds.

Congratulations to Albert and Jean Yake who will celebrate their 25th wedding anniversary by an open house on Sunday, May 26 at Parkview Village from 2-5 p.m.

Gary and Ardy's Winger and family of Northern Quebec in the Arctic are visiting relatives here. They will be speaking and showing a video of their work at 7 p.m. on Sunday, May 26 at the Heise Hill Church.

Melba Steckley spent the weekend in Clarence Centre in Rochester, New York to attend the wedding of her great-niece.

Claremont girl is gold

A Claremont student has won a gold medal for her baking skills in a Canada-wide competition.

Bobbi Reid also won the gold medal for baking among Durham Region schools.

She now goes on to compete in Kentucky for the North American title. Bobbi is in her final year at Harwood Secondary School in Ajax where she specialized in fancy baking.

The scholarship she received as one of her awards will be used toward furthering her knowledge of baking.



BOBBI REID
Top baker