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# The Tribune *Stouffville*

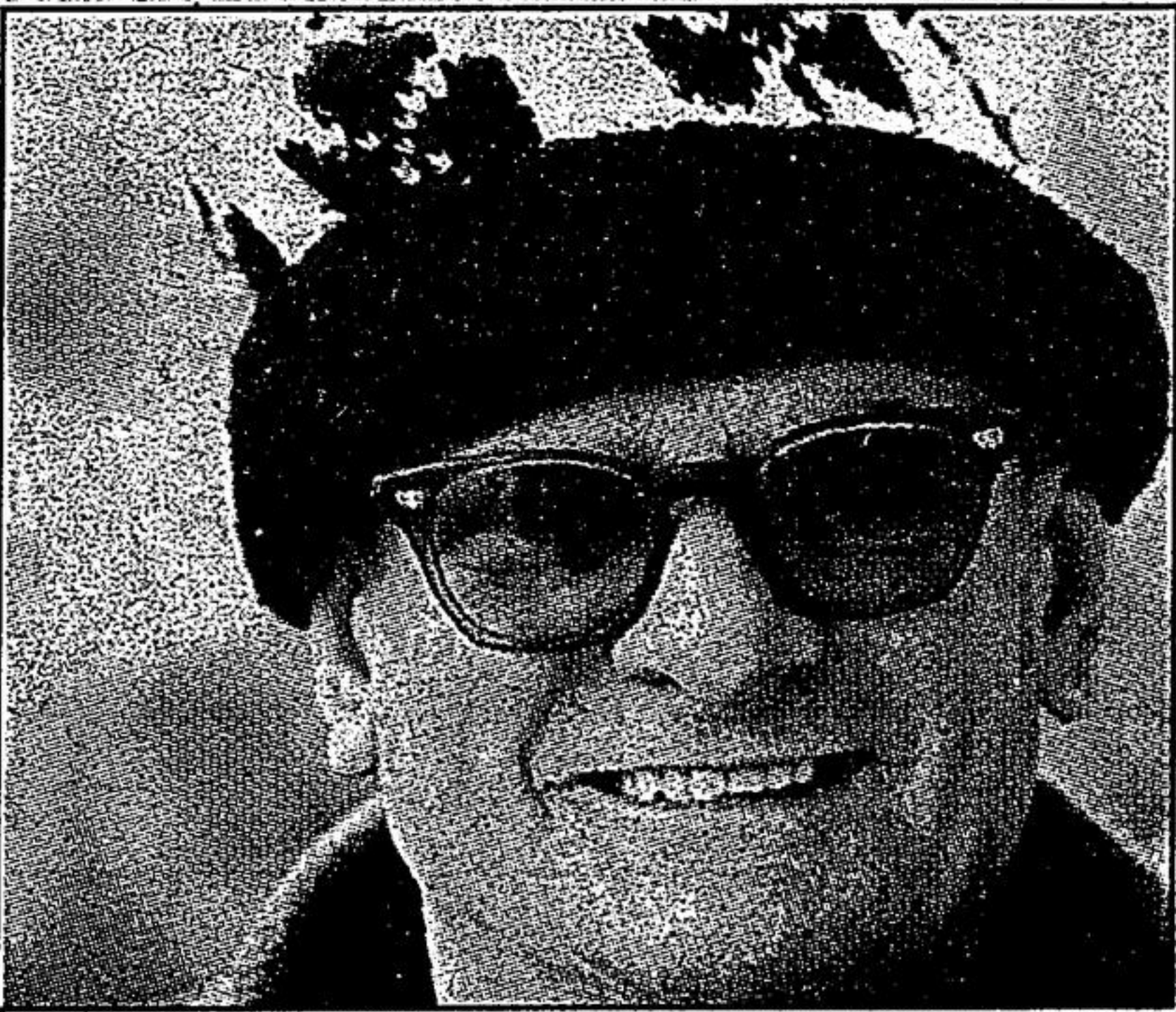
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## Hats on

We hardy Canadians deal with the harshness of winter well, and our expression of this hardiness comes out in our clothing, and is often as different as our fingerprints. Clockwise, from top, left, Chris Wood, Jonathan Brand, Ed Skinner and Kristy Laing were bundled up against Saturday's cold in a variety of headgear.

Photos/STOERD WITTEVEEN

## Testa project draws approval from all sectors

By **JULIE CASPERSEN**  
 Staff Reporter

A proposed \$10 million project, slated for downtown Stouffville, is drawing nothing but praise.

Last week during a public hearing at the Whitchurch-Stouffville municipal office, local Mayor Wayne Emmerson asked the public if anyone would like to oppose a plan for large seniors apartment complex and an indoor public swimming pool, the question was answered with total silence.

However, when the mayor asked if anyone wanted to speak in favor of the plan, there was plenty of response.

Rob Shannon, president of the Whitchurch-Stouffville Chamber of Commerce, encouraged the local council to put the wheels in motion to see the project build. Shannon suggested the com-

plex would enhance the downtown area.

Helene Johnson, a local senior, said the names of 685 local seniors in need of housing are on a list now.

"Seniors don't ask for much. They don't have any children going to school," said Johnson. "I think this is a great complex."

Sue Sherban, representative of a local swimming pool committee, told council that the citizens group is more than pleased to see a pool included in the proposal.

Local resident Ron Schell, a man in his late 30s, said he hopes the seniors housing project will be up before he becomes a senior citizen.

After the public meeting, local council voted in favor of a zoning amendment needed to accommodate the project. Testa wants to begin construction as soon as possible.

## Stouffville children can expect measles shot soon

The war against measles has begun. Close to 130,000 children in York Region are about to roll up their sleeve to get vaccinated against red measles.

From February to June, school-aged children from Junior Kindergarten to Grade 13 will attend measles clinics which are being set at local schools, including those in Stouffville.

Rebecca Metcalfe, director of York Region's community health nursing, stressed that the goal is to eliminate measles by the year 2000.

To do this, however, health officials need full public support. "We need help," said Metcalfe. "Ontario has had more cases of red measles than any-

where in North America," she added.

Red measles can be a very serious disease. "It can cause blindness, hearing trouble, brain damage, pneumonia and even death," stressed Metcalfe.

York Region had measles outbreaks in '91 and '92 with 198 and 335 cases respectively.

Due to the nature of red measles, 1996 is projected to be a "significant outbreak year" for measles in York Region, said Metcalfe.

Measles is both a "serious and contagious" disease, Dr. Karim Kurji, York's associate medical officer of health, is reminding everyone. Death occurs in one in every 3,000 reported cases and

one in 1,000 cases suffer brain damage, said the doctor.

Before an effective vaccine was available, almost every Canadian child experienced the disease. Measles was the leading cause of deafness and hearing impairedness in children. Worldwide, one million children still die of measles every year, Kurji said.

Up until now, students should have had one dose of red measles vaccine before attending school anywhere in Ontario. That dose works for 90 to 95 per cent of children. By the time this clinic is over, 100 per cent of the children will be protected against measles, said Metcalfe.


In York Region, in mid-January, consent forms were sent home with all students. Parents and guardians have already completed, signed and return the forms to school. If there's anyone who hasn't returned the signed forms, they're asked to do so immediately.

Students in Grade 7 and up can sign their own consent form.

Kurji is pointing out that there is "no evidence" to support claims that the current vaccine is a danger to children's overall health. "Serious adverse effects from the vaccine are rare, occurring in less than one in very million doses."

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