

Newsmakers

February trip was nearly deadly for Stouffville man

A Stouffville man was one of 100 Canadians stricken with a life-threatening, mystery disease while on a vacation in Mexico in mid-February.

Although 10 months have past, Bob Bowman is still

recovering. A few days after arriving in Mexico, the 49-year-old electrician experienced severe stomach cramps and vomiting.

Withering in pain, his wife

Henrike got him to hospital. Within minutes, Bowman's condition turned critical. He underwent life-saving surgery in a hospital in the Yucatan Peninsula.

He was then airlifted to

Toronto, where he underwent emergency surgery again.

A few days later, Bowman returned to the operating room when, once again, doctors saved his life.

Court cases, including one

for Bowman, are pending.

Erin Chapman

Erin Chapman has always loved books, so it came as something of a shock when Whitchurch-Stouffville Library told her she was not eligible to carry her own library card.

The problem? Erin was four-years-old and library policy dictated that cards could be issued only to those aged 7 and up. Since the youngster had already held cards from libraries in North York and Australia, however, she and her mother, Patricia, decided to challenge the ruling.

Further investigation revealed that neighboring libraries were more flexible. Uxbridge does not have a minimum age requirement and Markham, in conjunction with Markham-Stouffville Hospital, actively encourages new mothers to sign their babies up through the Born to Read Program. The impasse was resolved to everyone's satisfaction when the library board rescinded the age restriction at a regular meeting. Erin now proudly carries her own library card and has paved the way for other youthful readers to do the same.



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