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 a BANG P. 4



SCREEN
 SCENE



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York's hospitals most underfunded in GTA: alliance

MIKE ADLER
 Staff Reporter

As the province tries to meet health care needs in the growing suburbs around Toronto, York Region will become the real test, says a lobbyist for 905-area hospitals.

"York is the most deficient in terms of available service and funding," Jim Armstrong, executive director of the GTA/905 Healthcare Alliance, warned this week.

This week, the Alliance told the powerful Health Services Restructuring Commission, whose final word on the future of "905" health

care is expected within two months, that its initial recommendations won't provide enough funding or specialized health care services in the growing regions.

"People in York Region are having to travel further for services," added Armstrong on Tuesday.

"We need to provide basic and appropriate specialized services to our residents closer to home," added Virginia McLaughlin, chair of the Alliance, which represents 16 hospitals including Markham Stouffville.

The lobby group plans to meet with restructuring commissioners next month and "hopes to be working with them" on a joint study of 905-area needs for car-

diac care, dialysis, orthopedics and other services, Armstrong said.

Armstrong added, however, that the commission's recommendations will strongly boost the level of chronic and long-term care in

HEALTH

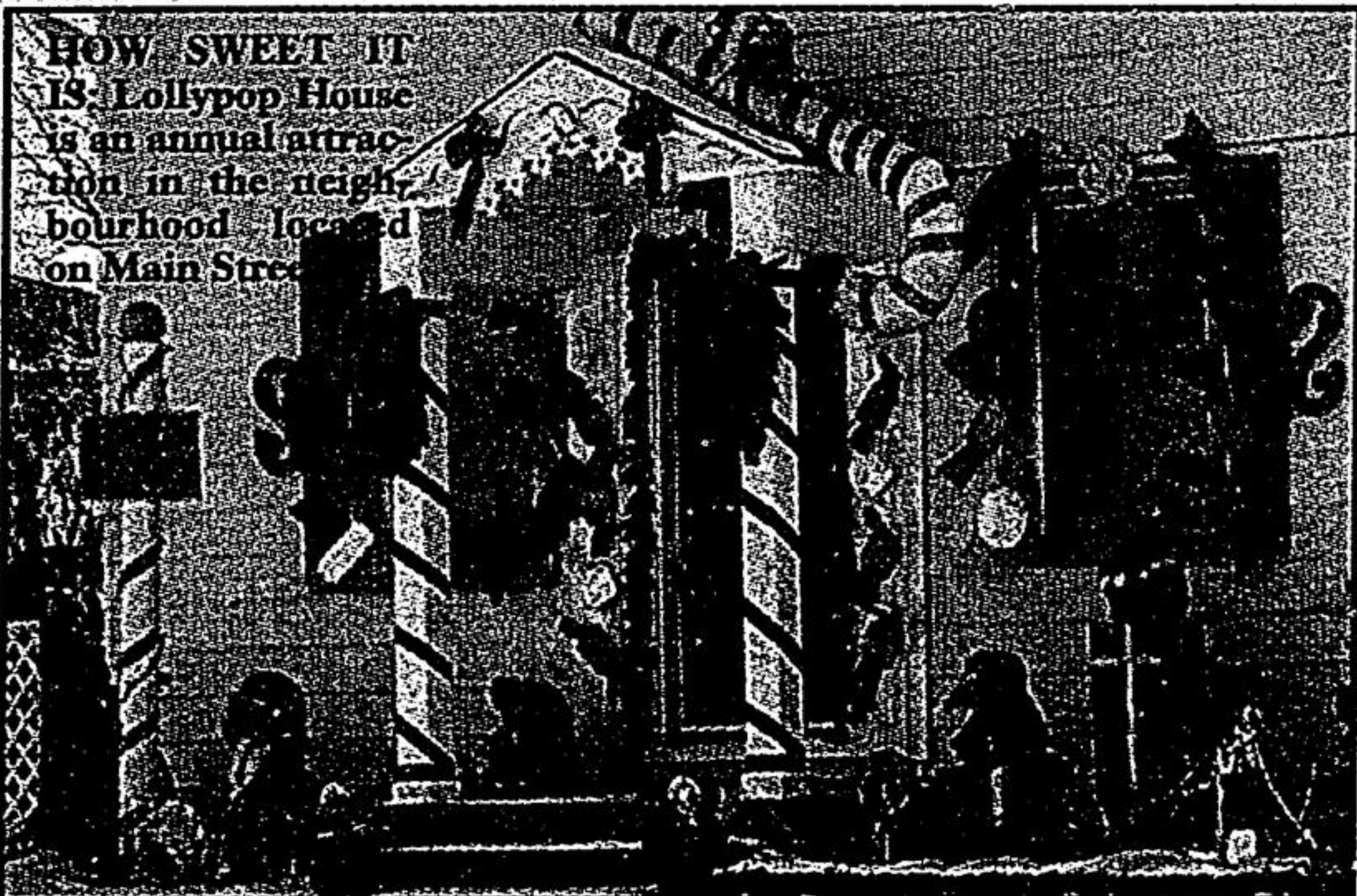
the regions.

Last month, chair Duncan Sinclair said the commission's aim in restructuring health care is to build the best plan for the Greater Toronto Area, because municipal boundaries are often irrelevant for patients.



MUSIC TO OUR EARS: Daniel Latner plays the violin for shoppers at the Stouffville Country Market during the festive last-minute shopping season.

Photo by CHERYL JOHNSON



HOW SWEET IT IS: Lollypop House is an annual attraction in the neighborhood located on Main Street.

@random

■ Heise Hill Brethren In Christ Church will ring in 1998 with its New Year's Eve Gospel Sing, Wed., Dec. 31, 11760 Woodbine Ave., Gormley from 8-10 p.m. Entertainment fea-

tures The Sellwoods, Hilltop Vocal Band and The Wrights Refreshments and fellowship following the program. Everyone is welcome.

The St. John Ambulance Brigade is looking for enthusiastic people of all ages to help their community while learning useful skills. Being a member of the St. John Ambulance brigade provides people with important skills that could one day save a life. The only qualification

needed are a valid first aid certificate and a desire to help people. Call 1-800-268-1677 for more information.

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