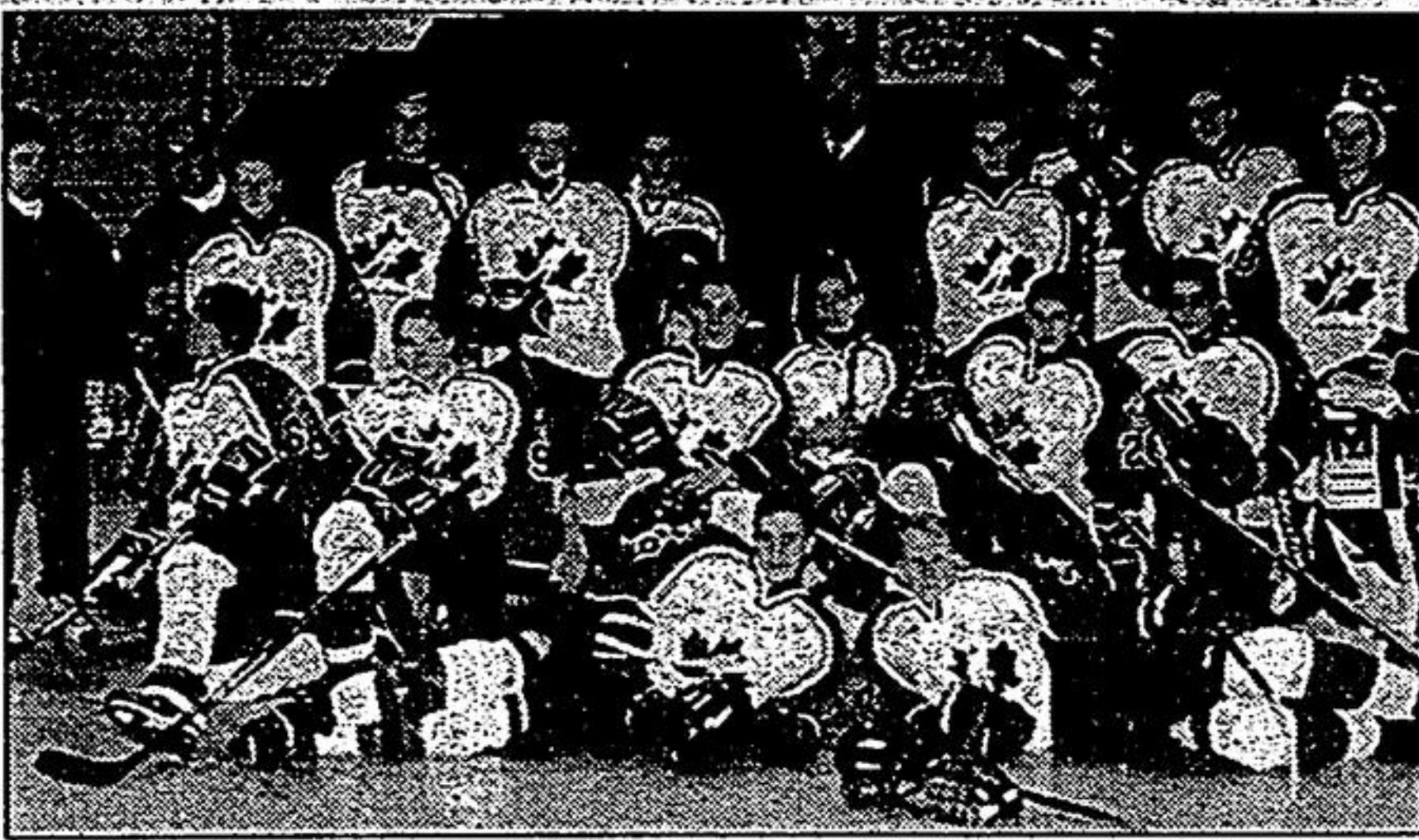


COMMUNITY



Stouffville Bantam Clippers pose in Europe for a team photo during the 12-day unforgettable trip with family and friends and competition.

# Clippers take to European ice, culture

BY MICHELLE ZIMMERMANN  
SPECIAL TO THE TRIBUNE

It was the trip of a lifetime. Thirteen days of cultural experiences, sightseeing wonders and lots of hockey. The Clipper hockey players and family headed Dec. 26 to our first destination, Prague, Czech Republic.

After a short and bumpy flight, we were greeted by our tour guide, who took us on a tour. Prague is known for its architecture, churches and synagogues that date back as far as the 13th

century. We then headed to the town of Melnik for our first game. Our boys played great despite the hitting from behind, extensive stick fouls and referees that see a different game than we are used to. The interpretation of the rules in Europe, as we soon discovered, are a little different than in North America. The score was Stouffville, 11, Melnik, 2.

The next day we endured a seven-hour drive to Munich, Germany. The next day we took a short drive to

Fussen in the German Alps. From there we went to the famous Neuschwanstien Castle. To reach the castle entrance required a 1.5-km walk up hill. Next stop was the home of the German Ice Hockey Federation and site of the 1992 World Junior Championships for our second game.

The biggest shock was that the team we were scheduled to play was made up of mostly 15 and 16 year olds. This was a trend that we would encounter

See TEAM, page 19.

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