

**INSIDE:** Opinion 6  
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**26** A Spirited effort helps double the count on the Wexford Raiders at the rec centre

**COMMUNITY CALENDAR**  
**EVENT:** Charity billiard games for Mullings trust fund  
**WHEN:** Sunday, Jan. 31, noon to 11 p.m.  
**WHERE:** Stouffville Billiard & Sports Bar, Ringwood



**22** Now entrenched in the national spotlight, York Region's Emanuel Sandhu goes for gold.

Whitechurch-Stouffville Public Library **STARVING WHITCHURCH-STOUFFVILLE SINCE 1888**

# Stouffville Tribune

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TO REACH US: (905) 640-2100

**POLITICS:** Some residents hit with 100 per cent tax hikes under new assessments

## Residents fight tax hikes

BY LISA QUEEN  
 STAFF WRITER

Conspicuous by their absence last fall, York-Region homeowners are beginning to fight back against tax increases caused by Ontario's new property tax system.

Georgina resident Joel Slan, a Toronto real estate investor, said thousands of residents have been hit with tax hikes of 100 per cent

or more because of a province-wide reassessment of all properties.

But he said the plight of homeowners has been ignored, while municipal and provincial politicians have catered to the business community.

"Businesses with large tax increases were mostly near each other, like those in the older downtown. This made it easy to

organize — through their BIAs, they could link up with others in like circumstances," said Slan, one of three residents to complain about hefty tax increases at a regional council meeting Thursday.

"In contrast, residents with large tax increases were spread out across the map in nine lower-tier municipalities. They had no way of linking up because they

had no data."

On the other hand, Slan said Toronto made tax information on individual properties available to the public.

That allowed Toronto residents to rally, resulting in council agreeing to phase in tax increases and decreases over five years.

"In any case, when it came to

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## Widow attends funeral on stretcher

Mother holds baby boy for first time since crash

BY JOAN RANSBERRY  
 STAFF WRITER

Tears of joy and sorrow fell in the chapel at Sunnybrook Health Science Centre yesterday.

Suffering serious multiple injuries and lying on a stretcher, Angelina Mullings of Stouffville was escorted into the chapel for a memorial service held for her husband yesterday morning. While saying good-bye to her husband, Steve Jackson, 32, Angelina was handed something special — her eight-day-old newborn baby boy, Kennedy Jackson.

Angelina had last seen her baby one week ago, a few hours before the two-car crash on Main Street killed her husband.

The 29-year-old newly-wed and first-time mother is expected to be released from Sunnybrook to a rehabilitation centre in two weeks, friend and colleague Sandy Cole told the *Stouffville Tribune* Monday.

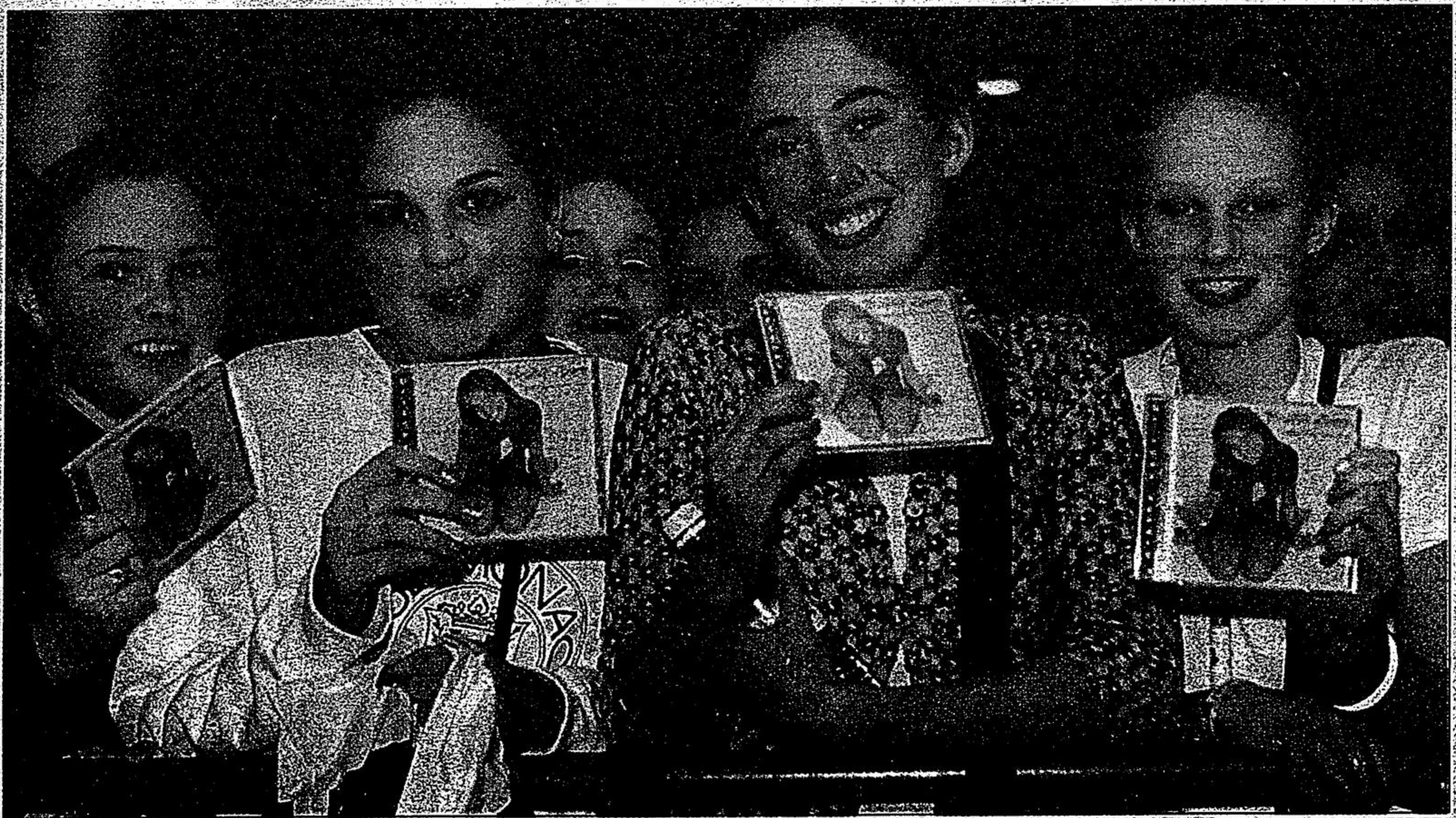
The accident took place when the couple was returning home to their Main Street apartment — just hours after Mullings was released from the Markham Stouffville birthing unit and after visiting their newborn son Kennedy.

Kennedy will remain in hospital for as long as needed, officials have stated. The baby weighed six pounds at birth. In the past six days, he's gained seven ounces.

"He's absolutely gorgeous. He's got an appetite," said Mullings' best friend, Shurnette Francis, of Toronto.

"Seeing him is doing wonders for Angelina."

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STAFF PHOTO/SJOERD WITTEVEEN

### WORTH THE WAIT

Britney Spears fans camped out at Markville Shopping Centre yesterday afternoon waiting for the pop star to perform and sign autographs. Here, from left, Stouffville fans Jillian Goodbrand, Miranda Oliver, Suzanne Post, and Lindsay Hill, all 14, brandish their new Britney Spears CDs while waiting for the entertainer to arrive. They waited more than six hours in line.

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