

Feet-dragging frustrates potential organ recipients

From page 10.

"It's really shocking to see it. How many lives can we save if you just sign that little card and give someone a second chance?" Borsa said.

Other factors contribute to the death

Tell us about your black role model

February is when the rich and spirited African heritage is celebrated throughout North America.

In York Region, we're giving students a chance to let the community know who they look up to within the black community.

The Economist & Sun/Stouffville Tribune is asking students, from elementary grades to high school, to tell us about their black role model, living or dead.

GREAT PRIZES

Celebrating black heritage dates back to 1915 in the United States, and February was chosen as the month to acknowledge the contribution of blacks because it's the birth month of Frederick Douglass, a civil war freedom fighter.

Essays should be no longer than 250 words, and winners will be chosen by our panel of community judges in two categories, elementary and high school. Great prizes have been lined up for the winning writers.

Submit your essays by Jan. 31 to Black History Month Contest, c/o the Economist & Sun/Tribune, 9 Heritage Rd., Markham, ON, L3P 1M3 or fax to 294-1538.

of potential organ recipients across the country.

Many misconceptions surround the practice, including the belief that prospective donors receive poorer medical care during a critical injury.

"There's absolutely no evidence of that any place in the world, because all health care workers are trained primarily to save lives," says Gary Cooper, director of Organ Donation Ontario.

"There's never been any basis for that kind of theory. But it's something that people just have difficulty with."

Cooper says superstition also plays a role.

"Some people are reluctant to sign their donor card because they believe if they do, it's going to lead to their death."

Reubeni and Borsa are fed up with the lack of attention to the issue. As donation levels continue to remain low, they and many others believe the government should take a more proactive role.

"I think the government can put aside a few extra dollars for people like

us who need that type of help," Borsa said.

While Health Minister Alan Rock says he will invest more resources and explore creating a national registry, the wheels of government turn slowly.

Marcello is meeting with both Premier Mike Harris and Prime Minister Jean Chretien to push the organ donation agenda and the creation of a national registry.

There are also plans in the works for him to do a cross-Canada trek this year starting in May to raise further awareness.

Meanwhile, people such as Reubeni endure the vital wait for an organ that will restore their lives.

"If you know that it's coming tomorrow, or the next day, you keep going," Reubeni said.

"But when the prospect of a kidney is far away from you, it is not that easy... Some people wait five years, so there's still a long way to go."

SCHOOL TOURS AT MARKHAM STOUFFVILLE HOSPITAL



A class of students and parents from the Montessori North School enjoy their tour of the Markham Stouffville Hospital. The tours are conducted by volunteers every Thursday of the school year. Teddy Bear a St. John Ambulance trained dog joined the class for this tour.



UNIONVILLE LIONS CLUB

Invites all residents of the Community and former Lions, Lioness, Leos to the grand opening of

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The Regional Municipality of York NOTICE OF UNDERTAKING PUBLIC COMMENT INVITED

Schedule 'B' Class Environmental Assessment
14th Avenue (Y.R. 71) from Birchmount Road to Kennedy Road (Y.R.3) Town of Markham

The Regional Municipality of York is undertaking a Class Environmental Assessment for roadway and operational improvements on 14th Avenue between Birchmount Road and Kennedy Road, in the Town of Markham. The undertaking is being prepared as a Schedule 'B' project under the Class Environmental Assessment for Municipal Road Projects.

Within the section of 14th Avenue, a continuous centre-left turn lane is proposed for operational improvements. This work will improve the circulation of traffic to adjacent properties along the section of 14th Avenue.

In order to carry out the work, a widening of the road allowance is required across the frontage of some properties located on 14th Avenue between the CNR tracks and Kennedy Road.

If you have any questions or wish to provide public input for incorporation into the planning of this project, please contact Peter Cholewa, P.Eng., Project Manager, Regional Municipality of York, Transportation and Works Department, 17250 Yonge St., Box 147, Newmarket, ON L3Y 6Z1 (Phone: (905) 764-6345, Ext. 5048 or Email: peter.cholewa@region.york.on.ca)

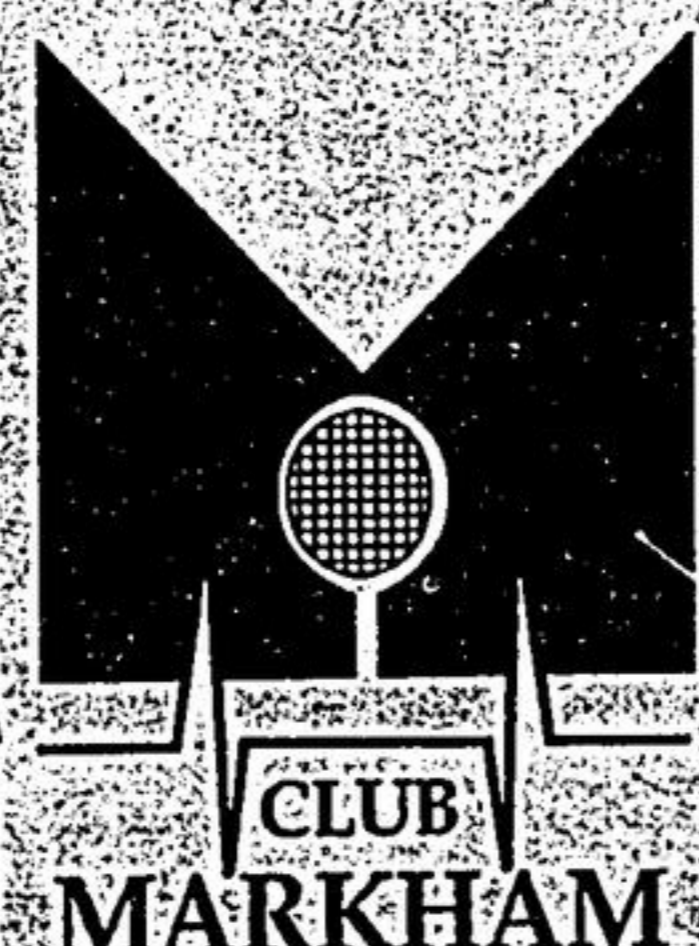
Public comment will be received until February 11, 2000. Subject to comments received and the receipt of necessary approvals, The Regional Municipality of York intends to proceed with the planning and construction of the project for completion in 2000.



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