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**7** Stouffville mourns the death of a community volunteer supreme — Cliff Aiken.

**ARTS & CULTURE CALENDAR**  
**EVENT:** Keith Acton Night with the Jr. A Spirit  
**WHEN:** Thursday, Jan. 11, 7-30 p.m.  
**WHERE:** Whitchurch-Stouffville Rec Complex



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FOUR, FIVE-YEAR TERMS FOR WHITCHURCH-STOUFFVILLE MEN

## KIDNAPPERS GO TO PRISON

BY JOAN RANSBERRY  
 Staff Writer

A botched kidnapping has landed two Whitchurch-Stouffville men in prison.

Even though a Newmarket judge dismissed or withdrew a number of criminal charges, including attempted murder, Robert Gray, 24, of Lakeshore Rd., Musselman's Lake and Matthew White of Church St.,

Stouffville are on their way to federal prison. The men were sentenced following a preliminary hearing held in Newmarket Nov. 29.

Gray was sentenced to five years for kidnapping and an additional two years for assault with a weapon, to run concurrent. White, meanwhile, pleaded guilty to one charge of kidnapping and was sentenced to four years. White also pleaded

guilty to assault with a weapon and was sentenced to prison for an additional two years to run concurrent.

Gray and White were charged in late October after a 19-year-old Newmarket man told police he'd been apprehended in Newmarket and taken to an undisclosed spot in Durham where he was beaten. Police were told that during his

escape, the victim dodged bullets.

York Regional Police reported that the kidnapers demanded the victim contact his family to arrange for money to be handed over in exchange for his freedom. The victim was not able to secure a promise of money, police said.

Gray and White were apprehended that night without incident on Davis Dr. near Warden Ave.

## Truckers, gas stations lose in latest gasoline wars

Dropping crude prices helped at the pump

BY SARAH PARKER  
 Staff Writer

A dip in the price of crude oil has sent gas prices down to the sixty-cent range but Sunys station owner John Guizzetti isn't smiling.

"It's a disaster," he said. Although Guizzetti admits the lower price is good for consumers, "I can't operate this way," he said.

The wholesale price the Thornhill businessman pays changes constantly but has increased steadily over the past year. With high taxes to pay as well, he rarely makes enough on every litre to cover operation costs or to pay his six employees.

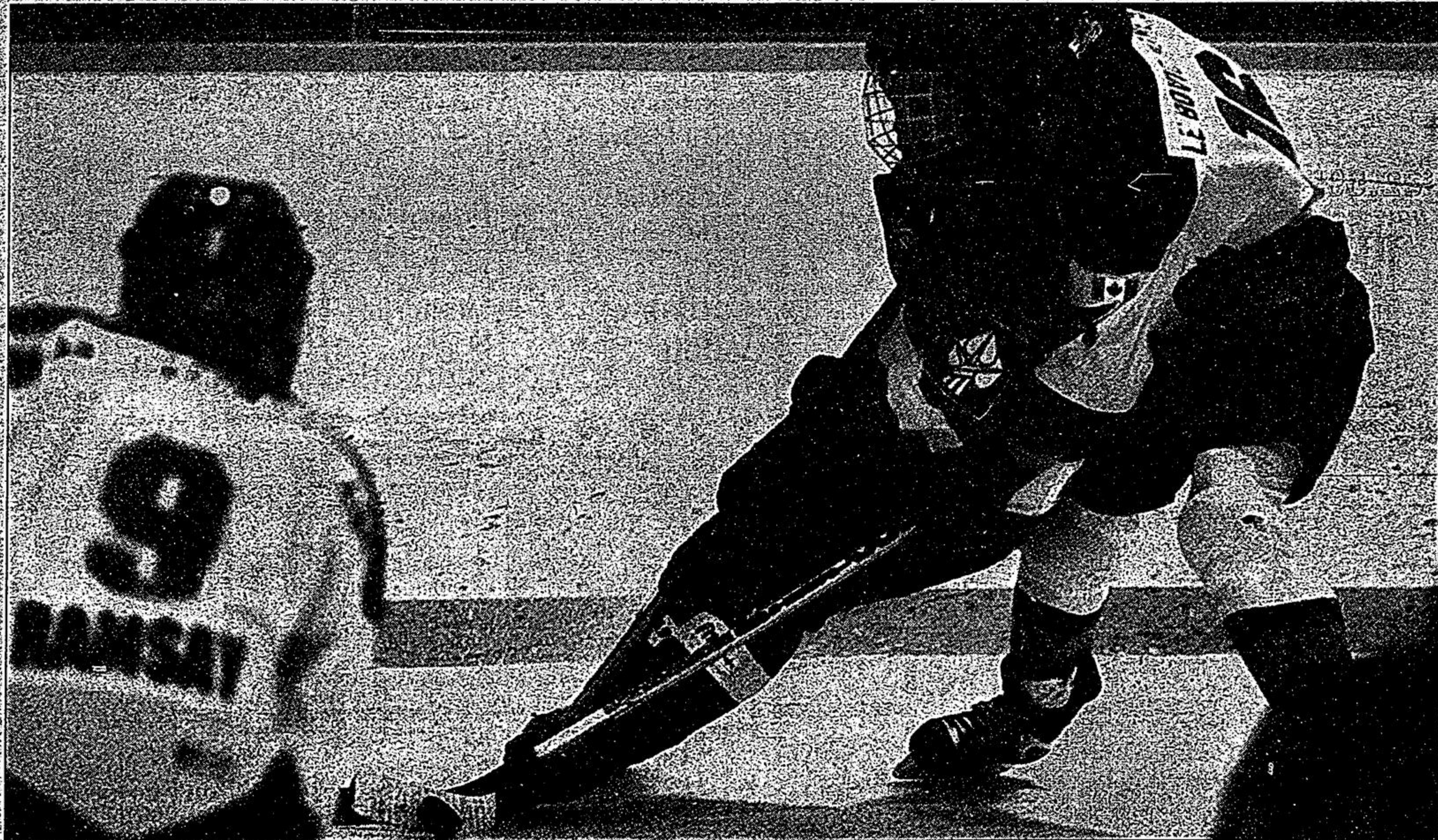
However, there is nothing abnormal about this trend or slip in price, said Bob Clapp, vice-president of the oil industry lobby group called the Canadian Petroleum Products Institute.

"It's the normal market forces at work. The supply and demand balance is back to normal."

Most gas stations in recent days have set their price at 67.9 cents a litre. Guizzetti was selling at 60.7 cents but it was costing him 61.6 cents a litre.

He must sell gas at a lower price to stay afloat next to his nearest competitor, an 18-pump Petro-Canada mega-station.

Yesterday, he changed his price to 67.5 cents and is now



STAFF PHOTO STEVE SOMERVILLE

### INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Joe Pagnani, of the Stouffville Spirit (right) carries the Czech Republic's Tomas Sedlak into the corner in Tuesday's exhibition match at the Rec Complex. The Czechs outdistanced the home team 4-2. At left is Stouffville forward Mike Ramsay. For more on the rough game played in front of a crowd of 700, see page 20.

See GAS, page 10.

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