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25 Vijay Singh and Annika Sorenstam are coming to play at Angus Glen this summer.

Whitchurch-Stouffville Public Library
ARTS & CULTURE CALENDAR
EVENT: Stouffville Historical Society meeting
WHEN: Wednesday, May 30, 7:30 p.m.
WHERE: Stouffville Train Station



22 Parents working as a team can make for a happier home, our families say.

SERVING WHITCHURCH-STOUFFVILLE SINCE 1888

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RESTAURANTS, THEATRES, MALLS BUTT OUT STARTING FRIDAY

COUNTDOWN TO SMOKE-FREE

BY PATRICK CASEY
 Staff Writer

A no-smoking policy is nothing new for customers and workers at three fast-food chains across York Region.

Since last summer, prizm brandz inc., a conglomerate that operates 680 KFC, Pizza Hut and Taco Bell restaurants in seven provinces, has endorsed a strict

butt-out program when it comes to tobacco use.

The restaurants are 100-per cent smoke free.

So prizm brandz's 19 York Region fast-food outlets will have no difficulty complying with the region's new no-smoking bylaw.

The second phase of the complex bylaw, which bans smoking in public places such as restaurants,

food courts, theatres, recreation facilities, bowling alleys, retail stores and shopping malls, comes into effect Friday.

"Our main objective was to clear the area of second-hand smoke for our employees," said Shanna Munro, the company's vice president for Eastern Canada.

"We wanted to create a good atmosphere to cook food without a

hint of smoke, but we also wanted a smoke-free policy without worrying about what municipality we are in. Regional and Toronto smoking bylaws are all over the map."

Taco Bell has been the company's leader when it comes to no smoking, banning the practice at its restaurants since 1993.

See COMPANIES, page 10.

'Thanks for the money, Queen's Park, but...'

York Region hospitals 'short \$22 million'

BY LISA QUEEN
 Staff Writer

Although they are grateful to be rewarded with provincial performance grants recognizing their efficiency, two York Region hospital presidents are warning their facilities are still being shortchanged \$22 million by Queen's Park.

On Thursday, Health Minister Tony Clement handed out \$120 million to 93 hospitals he said operated efficiently over the past two fiscal years.

Markham-Stouffville received \$450,000 while Newmarket's Southlake Regional Health Centre was handed \$723,365.

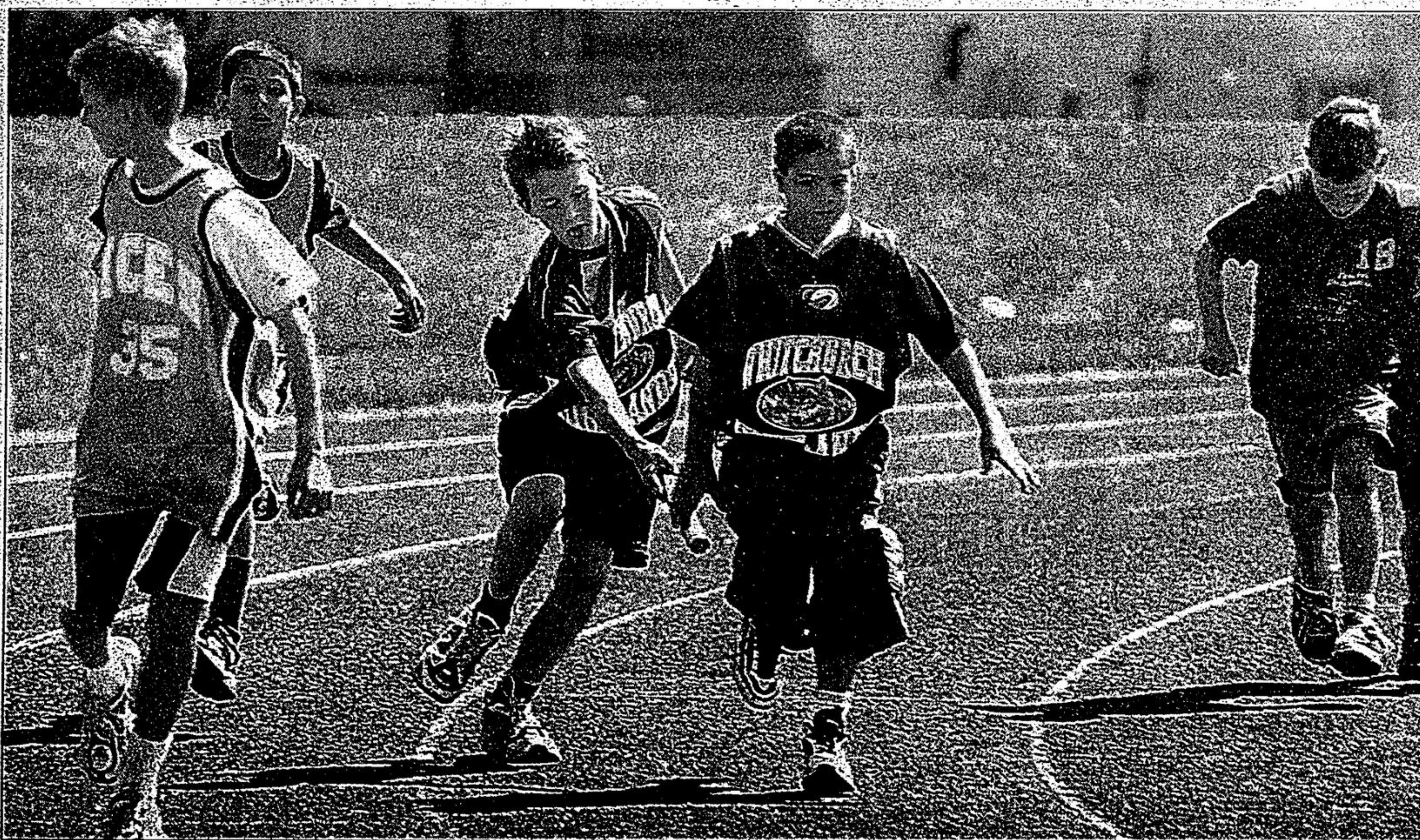
Milena Cormier, spokesperson for Richmond Hill's York Central Hospital, said the hospital was given \$2.9 million through an earlier round of grants in March.

Clement said the one-time funding ensures taxpayers are getting value for their tax dollars.

"We know that health care funding continues to increase, so we want to make sure the quality improves with the new funding," he told the Ontario Hospital Association's small hospital conference in Toronto Thursday.

This is an approach in funding where hospitals are recognized for their ability to put taxpayers' dollars to good use. By emphasizing value for tax dollars

See MARKHAM, page 9.



STAFF PHOTO/STEVE SOMERVILLE

MAKING THE PASS

Whitchurch Highlands' James McQuestion hands off to teammate Chris Monopoli in the junior boys' 400m consolation final at a York Region elementary school track and field relay meet on the Connell-Franklin Track at Stouffville District Secondary School Wednesday. The Highlands squad finished second in this race.

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