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**7** Toronto Maple Leafs assistant coach Keith Acton on medical leave from NHL team.

**COMMUNITY CALENDAR**

**EVENT:** Kids' dance, ages 8 to 13  
**WHEN:** Friday, Jan. 25, 7 to 9:30 p.m. (905-852-3449)  
**WHERE:** Ballantrae Community Centre



**26** Who needs sled dogs? Kicksledding has been big in Norway for nearly 200 years.

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RAISING ARENA RATES WILL COST TOWN IN ADDED POLICING OF YOUTHS: SHERBAN

## ICY ARGUMENT FOR COUNCIL

BY CAROL COOPER  
*Special*

The price of ice in Whitchurch-Stouffville stays frozen for now.

At Tuesday's town council meeting, councillors did not vote to increase user fees for Whitchurch-Stouffville ice time. Instead they deferred the matter to staff. As part of a bylaw to increase some fees charged by the town, a \$5 per hour

increase was proposed, bringing prime ice-time for minor sports to \$135 an hour on both pads of the Stouffville Arena.

Andy Cartwright, president of the Whitchurch-Stouffville Minor Hockey Association, asked council why other municipalities could charge less for their ice time. He pointed out that user groups such as his had assumed \$800,000 of the

second ice-pad's \$1.1 million cost in the late '90s through a debenture, as opposed to the town's contribution of \$300,000 and called for the town to become "more of a partner".

That debenture adds between \$17 and \$20 to hourly ice time, noted Mayor Wayne Emmerson. Without the debenture, the rates for Whitchurch-Stouffville ice time are comparable, he said.

Councillor Mark Carroll, supported the increase. He said because the arena is only used by some residents, it should pay for itself.

In arguing against the increase, Ward 6 Councillor Sue Sherban said, "I believe that minor sport is very important in our community. The fact is if we don't keep the kids in our arenas, we pay with

See COUNCIL, page 5.

## United Way campaign falls short of goal

First shortfall for York agencies since '93

BY LISA QUEEN  
*Staff Writer*

Despite extending its campaign into the new year, York Region's United Way has failed to meet its fundraising target for the first time since 1993.

The organization that funds 37 social agencies in the region has raised \$5.7 million since the campaign kickoff last September, \$300,000 short of its \$6 million target.

Tuesday's announcement came only five days after Toronto's United Way boasted it had surpassed its \$74.8-million goal by \$700,000.

York United Way executive director Wyn Chivers blamed the faltering economy, especially in the aftermath of Sept. 11, for the shortfall.

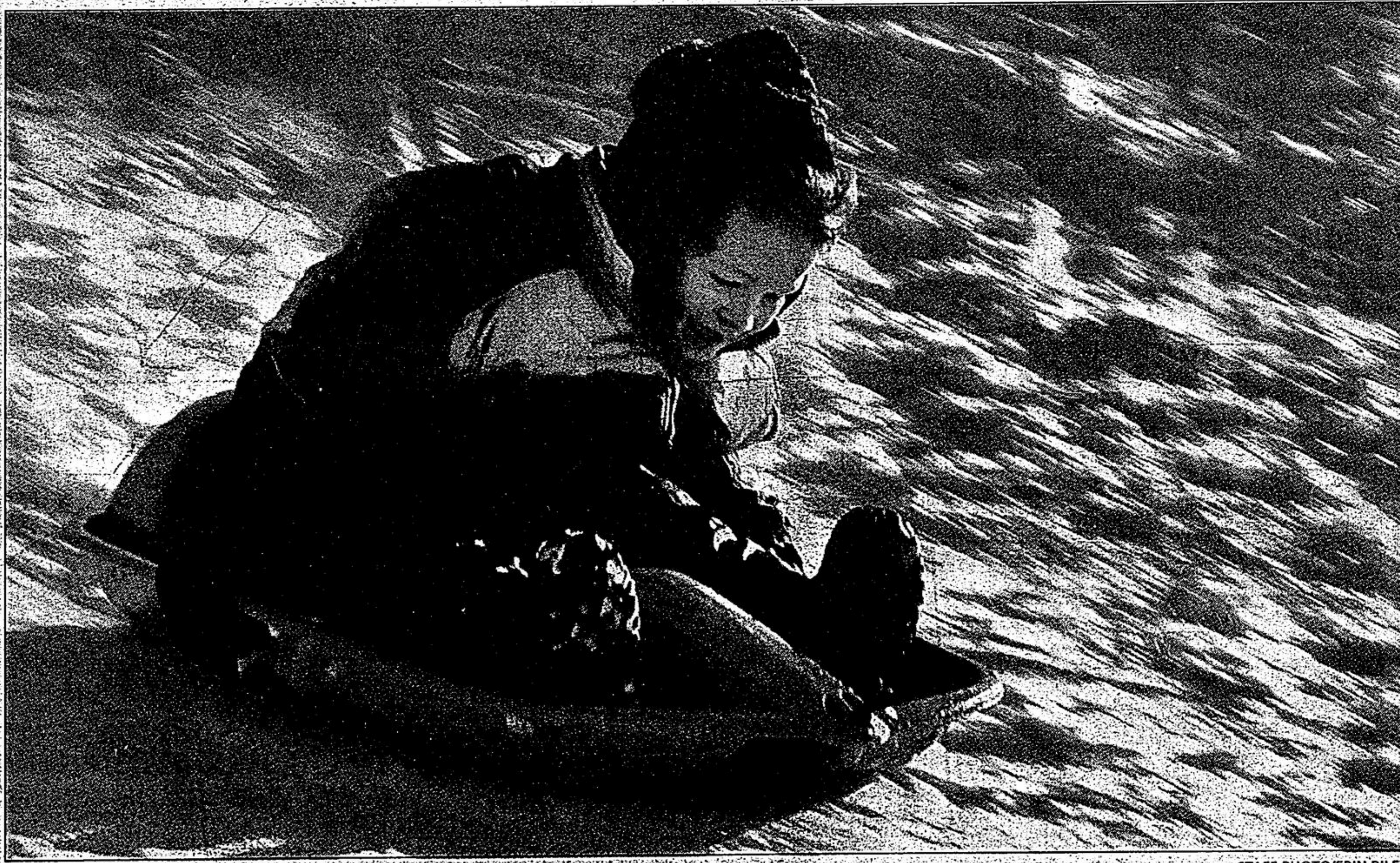
"Of course, I had hoped to meet the goal. But in this economy, I think we should feel extremely proud (to have raised \$5.7 million). I feel extremely proud of our accomplishments this year," she said.

"But you can't compare one community to another. The dynamics are different."

Although Toronto businesses helped the city's United Way surpass its goal, Ms Chivers said York's dominant high-tech sector has been hard hit by the economic slowdown.

The high-tech sector was off

See YORK, page 19.



STAFF PHOTO/ERIN RILEY

### COMING THROUGH!

Andrew Anschuetz, 4, enjoyed the sledding Tuesday on the Thicketwood Park hills in downtown Stouffville.

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