

Get checked for cancer: Acton

From page 1.

seems timely now," he said. "And at some point I wanted to get the message out there. If it makes a difference in one person's life, it's been successful."

"It doesn't matter if you go to the doctor tomorrow or a year from now, you're going to get the same diagnosis. If you wait, you're going to wish you went that first day. And the news isn't necessarily going to be bad. I know I should have gone to the doctor earlier."

Mr. Acton will miss four or five road games while taking radiation treatments. He thanked his wife, Susan, his four children, and the Leafs for helping him through the past two months.

Mr. Acton did not disclose what stage his cancer was in or when it was diagnosed, but prospects for a full recovery are excellent.

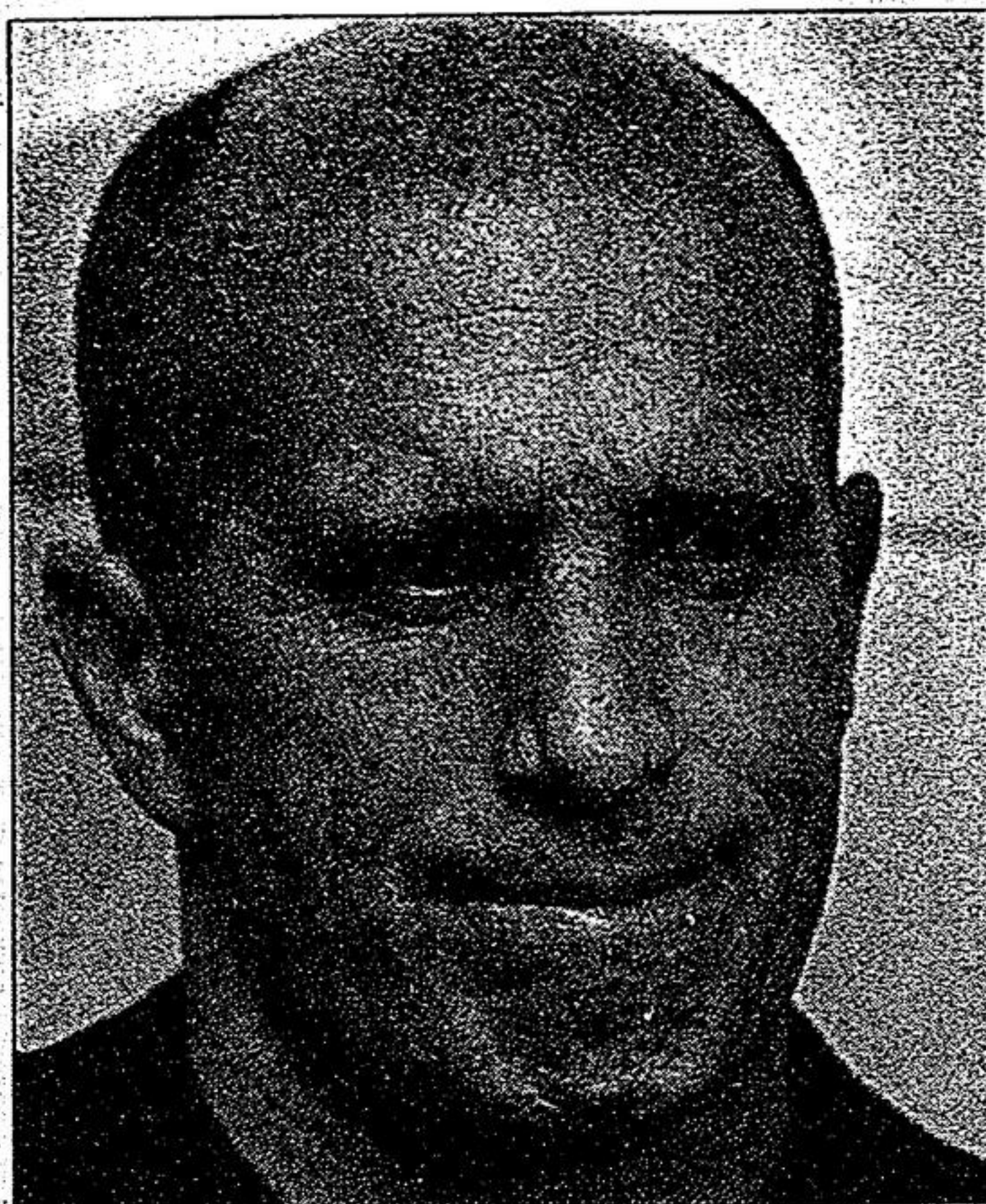
"If you're going to have cancer, this is the one to have because of the potential for a cure in the early stages," said Maple Leafs team doctor Darrell Ogilvie-Harris. "If it is caught early enough, the cure rate is 95 per cent, meaning that within 10 years, the body is free of cancer in 95 per cent of cases."

Said Mr. Acton: "That's the goal and I've been given every indication that that goal can be achieved. I've been given lots of reason to be very optimistic."

He thanked Stouffville residents for thinking of him.

"I'm sure everyone was wondering and I'm really appreciative of everyone's concern and compassion," he said. "I can feel that in Stouffville. It's a great community where people support each other."

Mr. Acton, a Whitchurch-Stouffville Minor



KEITH ACTON: Toronto Maple Leafs assistant coach and Stouffville resident tells the media he has cancer Thursday.

Hockey Association graduate, played for 15 years in the NHL. He represented the Montreal Canadiens in the 1981 NHL all-star game and won a Stanley Cup with the Edmonton Oilers in 1988.

Since retiring in 1994, he has been an assistant or associate coach with the Philadelphia Flyers, New York Rangers and the Leafs.

— With files from Torstar News Services

THE FACTS ON TESTICULAR CANCER

• Testicular cancer can almost always be successfully treated if it is found early.

• Testicular cancer, or cancer of the testicle, may show itself in two ways. It can cause one of your testicles to enlarge or it may create a lump in your scrotum. In addition, you may feel some pain with the swelling. Although it is possible for any man to develop testicular cancer, it is still quite rare.

• Testicular cancer accounts for only about one per cent of all cancers in Canadian men, although its incidence is increasing in frequency. Testicular cancer is, however, the most common form of cancer in young men. Most of the men who develop it are between the ages of 19 and 54.

• Testicular cancer is not contagious — you can't 'catch' it from another person. It is not caused by injury to the testicles. In fact, its cause is not known, although research does show that some men are more likely to develop testicular cancer than others. These men are thought to be at "higher risk" and often fit one or more of the following criteria:

- undescended testicles at birth (cryptorchidism)
- a family history — that is, father or brother who developed the disease
- infection (mumps orchitis)
- Caucasian race

— Canadian Cancer Society



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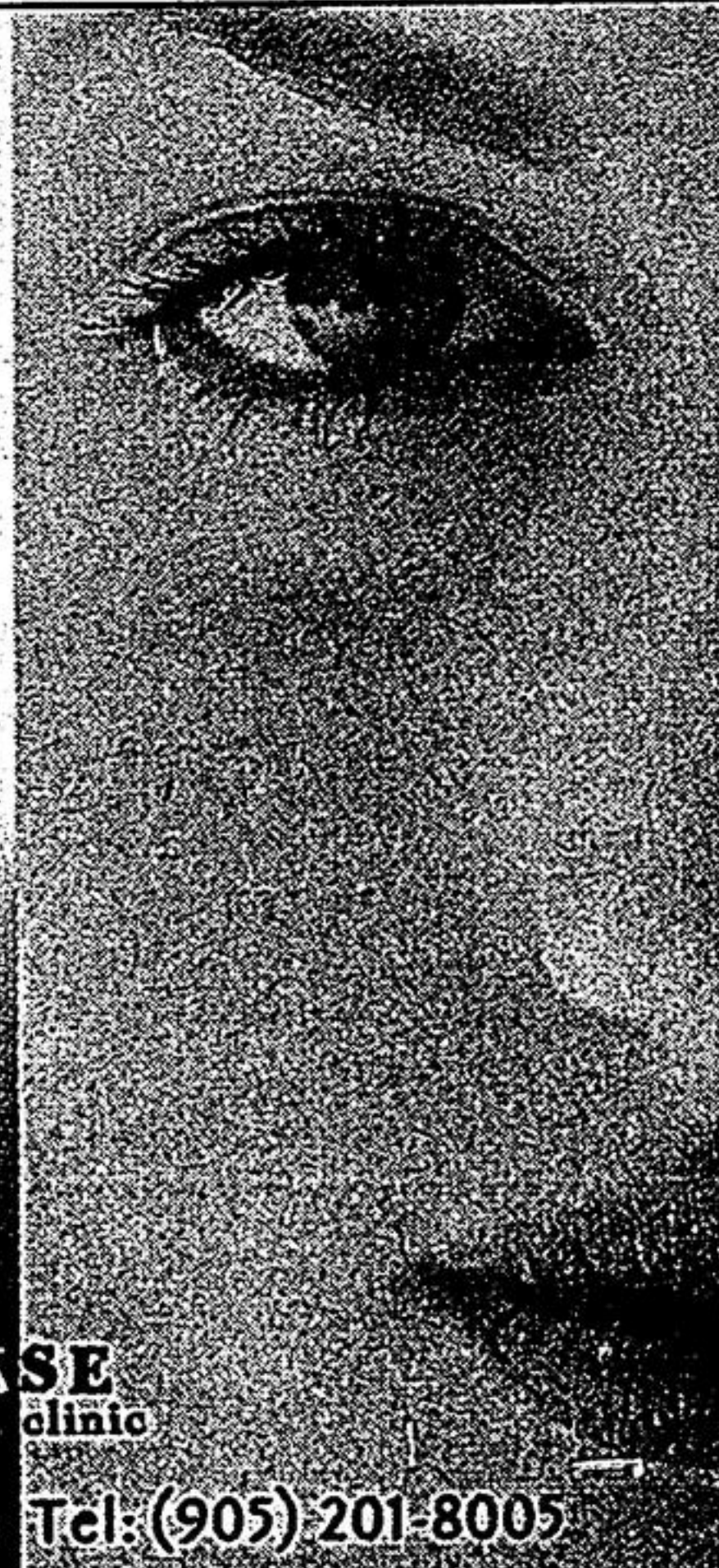
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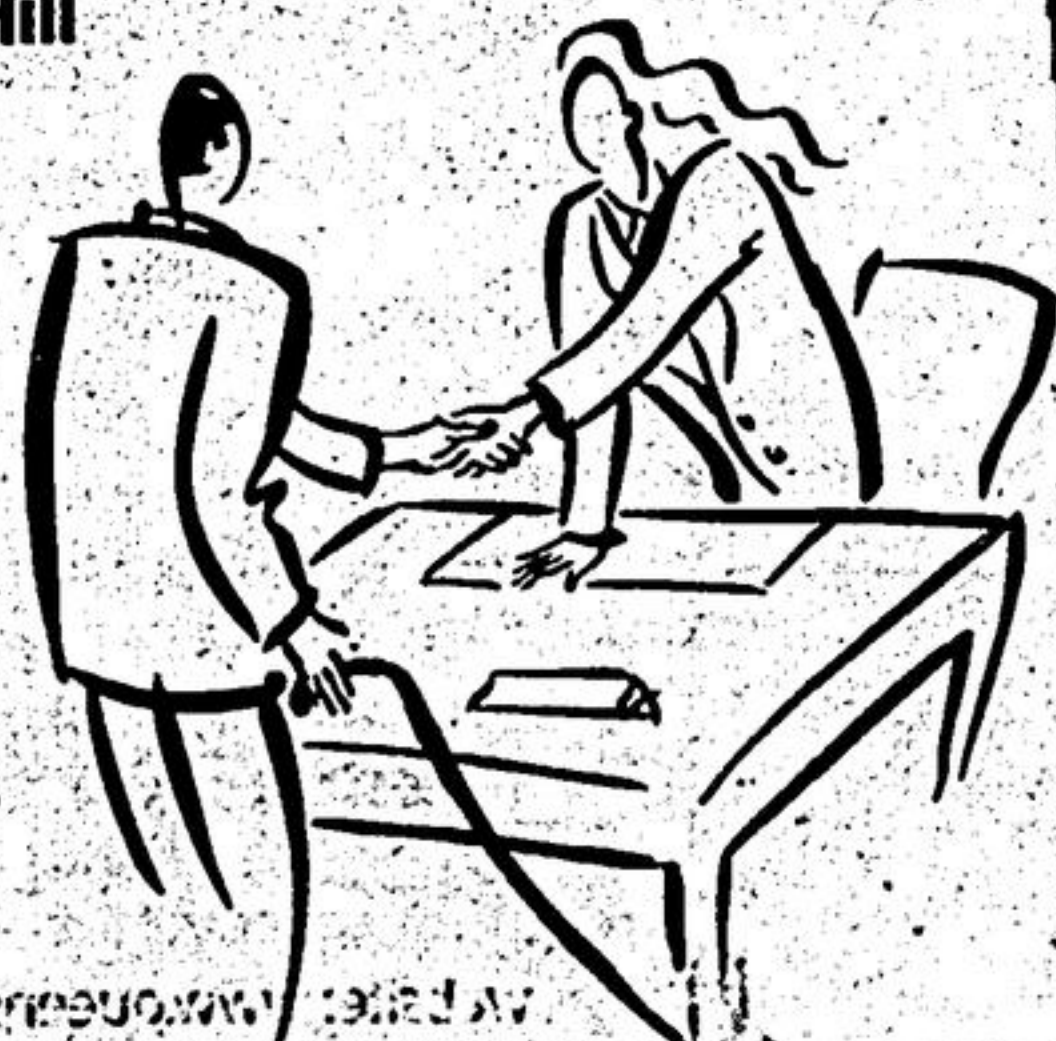


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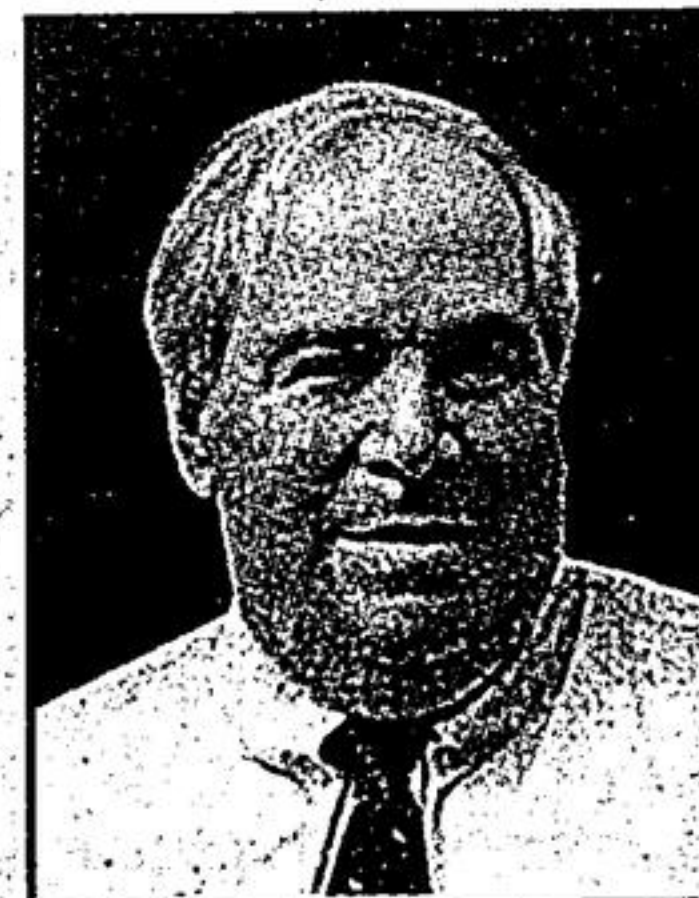
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