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5 Former Stouffville municipal offices won't become Clock Tower Theatre: Council

COMMUNITY CALENDAR  
EVENT: March Break activities, entertainment  
WHEN: March 11 to 15 (905-640-2395)  
WHERE: Whitchurch-Stouffville Public Library



20 Goin' to the Games: York Region athletes head for Salt Lake and Guelph

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## SDSS grad carries flag at Paralympics tonight

Skier Ludbrook the toast of Team Canada

BY JIM MASON  
Editor

A native of Whitchurch-Stouffville will carry the Canadian flag into tonight's opening ceremonies of the Paralympics in Salt Lake City.

Mark Ludbrook, 35, was selected Tuesday by his fellow Canadian athletes to be the flag bearer. This is the fifth Paralympics — three summer and two winter — for the alpine skier, who now lives in Whistler, B.C.

"This is one of those moments in my life that I will never, ever forget," Mr. Ludbrook told Canadian Press.

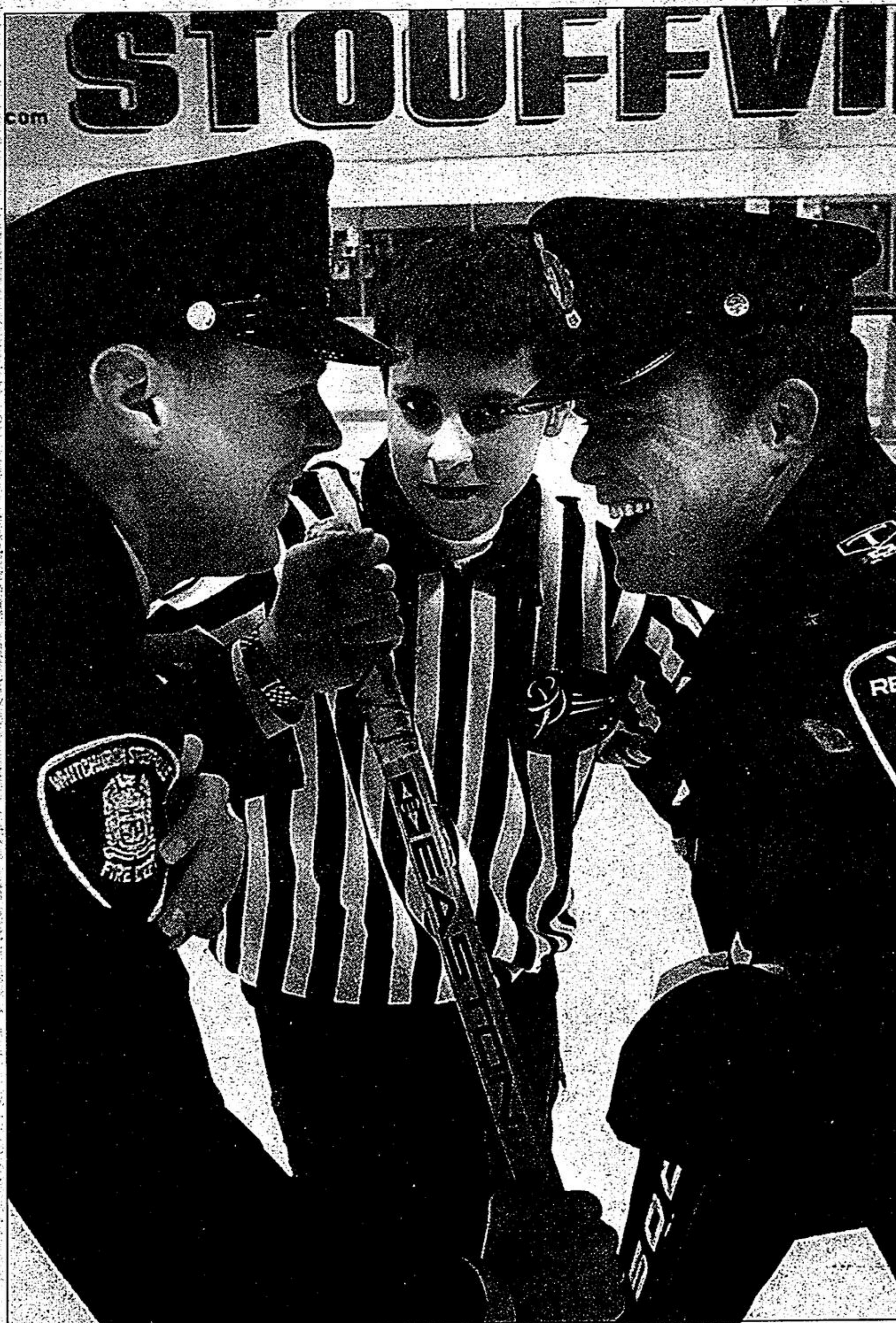
Mr. Ludbrook is one of 27 Canadian athletes who will compete at the Games. Competition begins Friday and ends March 16. Some 430 disabled athletes from 36 countries are competing in alpine and cross-country skiing, biathlon and sledge hockey.

Mr. Ludbrook lost a foot as a youth in a snowblowing accident. He grew up at Island Lake, a small community on Durham Road 30 north of Stouffville and east of Ballantrae. After graduating from Stouffville District Secondary School, he attended Brock University and swam for the St. Catharines' school's varsity team.

Mr. Ludbrook moved to British Columbia, started a

See PARALYMPIC, page 22.

## Policing the police and firefighters



STAFF PHOTO/MIKE BARRETT

Things could become nasty in the annual charity hockey match to benefit Big Brothers of York between the Whitchurch-Stouffville Firefighters and York Regional Police on Tuesday, March 12, from 6 to 9 p.m. at the Stouffville Arena. Already, Little Brother Adam Hallahan, 14, has to break things up between firefighter Joel Fletcher (left) and Const Larry Stevenson. Admission is \$4 for adults, \$2 for seniors and an article of food bank food for children.

## Teacher killed in snowy crash

Brown Hill resident dies in two-vehicle Hwy. 48 accident

BY LISA MEHAK  
and  
JOAN RANSBERRY  
Staff Writer

Poor driving conditions due to Wednesday's early-morning snowfall may have contributed to a traffic accident that claimed the life of a woman on the Markham/Whitchurch-Stouffville border.

Rhianon Shepherd, 28, was driving her Dodge compact south on Hwy. 48, just south of Stouffville Road when it was struck by a northbound sports utility vehicle.

Ms. Shepherd, a phys-ed teacher at Markham District High School, was pronounced dead on arrival at Markham Stouffville Hospital.

The other driver was taken to the same hospital with non life-threatening injuries.

Weather conditions could well be a contributing factor in the collision, said Whitchurch-Stouffville Deputy Fire Chief Tim Beckett. At least five centimetres of snow fell throughout York Region and that "made driving very slippery," he noted.

Police and firefighters responded to "a slew of collisions" across York Region during Wednesday's early hours, reported York Regional Police Const. Steve Morrell. "We had accidents all over the place," he said.

While OPP carried out the accident investigation, York Region police assisted by closing Hwy. 48 for seven hours.

On Stouffville Road west of Hwy. 48, two minutes from the scene of the fatality, a BMW smashed into a utility pole.

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