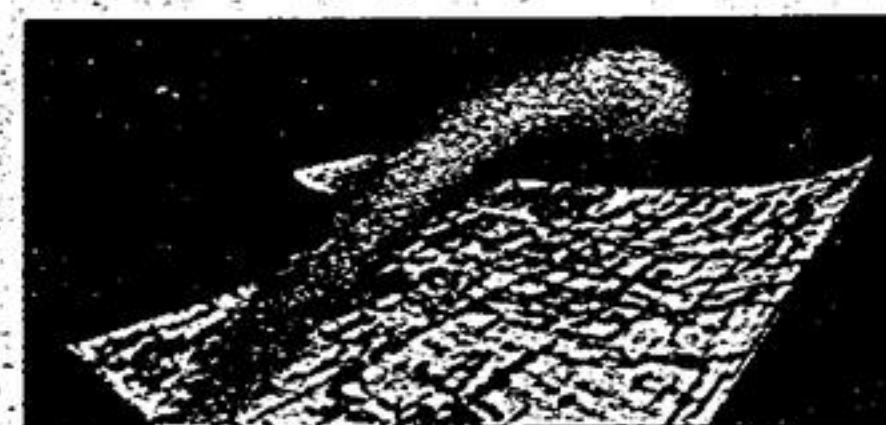


INSIDE: Letters 6
 Ransberry ... 7
 Calendar 20
 Classified 25

16 Along the Black River: Cruising through the home of moose, bear and otter.

ENTERTAINMENT CALENDAR

EVENT: Music Mania 2002
WHEN: April 25-27, 8 p.m.
WHERE: Stouffville District Secondary School



21 Welcome to golf course country: Region is a world leader in number of courses.

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THURSDAY, APRIL 11, 2002

TO REACH US: (905) 640-2612

Rare flu outbreak hits Bloomington nursing home

Residents monitored, visitors screened

BY HANNELORE VOLPE
 Staff Writer

Whitchurch-Stouffville is the only municipality in York Region that currently has an Influenza A outbreak in a long-term care facility.

Green Gables Manor, on the Ninth Line in the community of Bloomington, reported the outbreak to York Region's Public Health Department last Thursday. One person is confirmed as having the Influenza A virus, while another 12 residents with upper respiratory infections were being closely monitored.

There are 47 residents at the facility and 60 staff members.

"No deaths have been reported and none required hospitalization," said Kim Clarke, York Region's media health educator. "The outbreak was contained very quickly."

Visitors to the facility are requested to wash their hands before entering the building and when they leave. Anyone who already has an upper respiratory infection is discouraged from visiting residents. The affected resident has been isolated to prevent the further spread of infection.

Last year's flu season was extremely mild, said Patrick Casey, York Region's director of corporate communications, with nine long-term care facilities across Ontario reporting Influenza A. This year, there have

See FLU, page 15.

The puck stops here this weekend, boys



STAFF PHOTO/SJOERD WITTEVEEN

Stouffville Clipper peewee goalies Liz Knox (pictured here during a practice Tuesday) and Jake Balsdon will try and backstop the Clippers to a provincial title this weekend at the Ontario Hockey Federation championships at the Stouffville Arena. Local high school students have helped organize the town's first OHF tournament. See story on page 23.

Elderly care crisis looming?

Town's 75-plus population will increase 152% by 2021

BY LISA QUEEN
 Staff Writer

York Region must find more long-term care beds or develop new ways of accommodating the frail elderly to handle a 200-per-cent increase in seniors predicted over the next two decades.

York's reputation as a region of young families will change dramatically by 2021, says Shawn Turner, the region's director of long-term care.

The number of seniors aged 65 and over will jump 190 per cent to 212,100 from the 2001 tally of almost 73,000.

The number of seniors over age 74 will skyrocket 217 per cent to 90,500, up from the 2001 level of 28,500.

Mr. Turner warns there won't be nearly enough beds to accommodate the growing numbers.

But Deborah Egan, executive director of CHATS (Community Home Assistance to Seniors) is worried too much emphasis is put on institutionalizing seniors rather than providing a continuum of care to keep the elderly in their homes as long as possible.

No country in the world institutionalizes its seniors more than Canada, she said.

"Long-term beds should be the last resort, not the first resort. I don't think we have looked enough at what other models can support people."

Ms Egan urges all levels of government and service providers for the elderly to consider

See KEEP, page 10.

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