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**22** Dickson Hill Public School closes this week with a sendoff for current, former students.

**COMMUNITY CALENDAR**

**EVENT:** Whitchurch-Stouffville Strawberry Festival  
**WHEN:** June 26-July 1 (strawberryfestival.ca)  
**WHERE:** Downtown Stouffville and Memorial Park



**20** Stationary spots: New book profiles York Region's five restored train stations.

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# Stouffville Tribune

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## DEWING NAMED IN LAND SALE LAWSUIT

*Former CAO says he did nothing wrong*

Merlin Dewing, Whitchurch-Stouffville's former chief administrative officer, is one of a number of people named in a lawsuit in which the provincial government is charging a public land sale is embedded in corruption, kickbacks and bid-rigging.

The lawsuit involves a 36-hectare parcel of land which was put on the auction block in Bowmanville five years ago. The Ministry of the Attorney General and the government's real estate arm, the Ontario Realty Corp. (ORC) state in an amended lawsuit that St. Stephen's Estates bought the land for \$1.7 million. Since then, they'd gained \$34 million from residential development.

The lawsuit claims ORC was "misled" about the value of the land and the sale's terms were "wrongful and unconscionable."

The Attorney General's Ministry and ORC, which filed their original lawsuit two years ago, have amended and expanded their claim and are now seeking \$47 million in damages for alleged bid-rigging, fraud, kickbacks, conspiracy and breach of fiduciary duty primarily during the late 1990s.

The number of defendants in the 343-page lawsuit has now tripled and the incidents of alleged corruption in land sales and environmental cleanup have doubled.

See EX-CAO, page 9.

HEALTH CARE NUMBERS IMPROVE DESPITE SHORTAGE OF DOCTORS, MONEY

## RANKING AMAZES HOSPITAL

BY LISA QUEEN  
 Staff Writer

York Region is a good place to get sick in.

The communities of Markham and Richmond Hill have jumped six places on an annual health-care report, a result at least one hospital president finds surprising in light of

the area's high growth and funding pressures.

"I think, overall, given the tremendous growth and stress on York Region organizations and the fact we're not funded adequately in York Region, for the work we do, I think it's an amazing achievement the rating we have achieved," said Dr. Jim

MacLean, president of Markham Stouffville Hospital.

The hospital serves Markham, southern Whitchurch-Stouffville and the surrounding area.

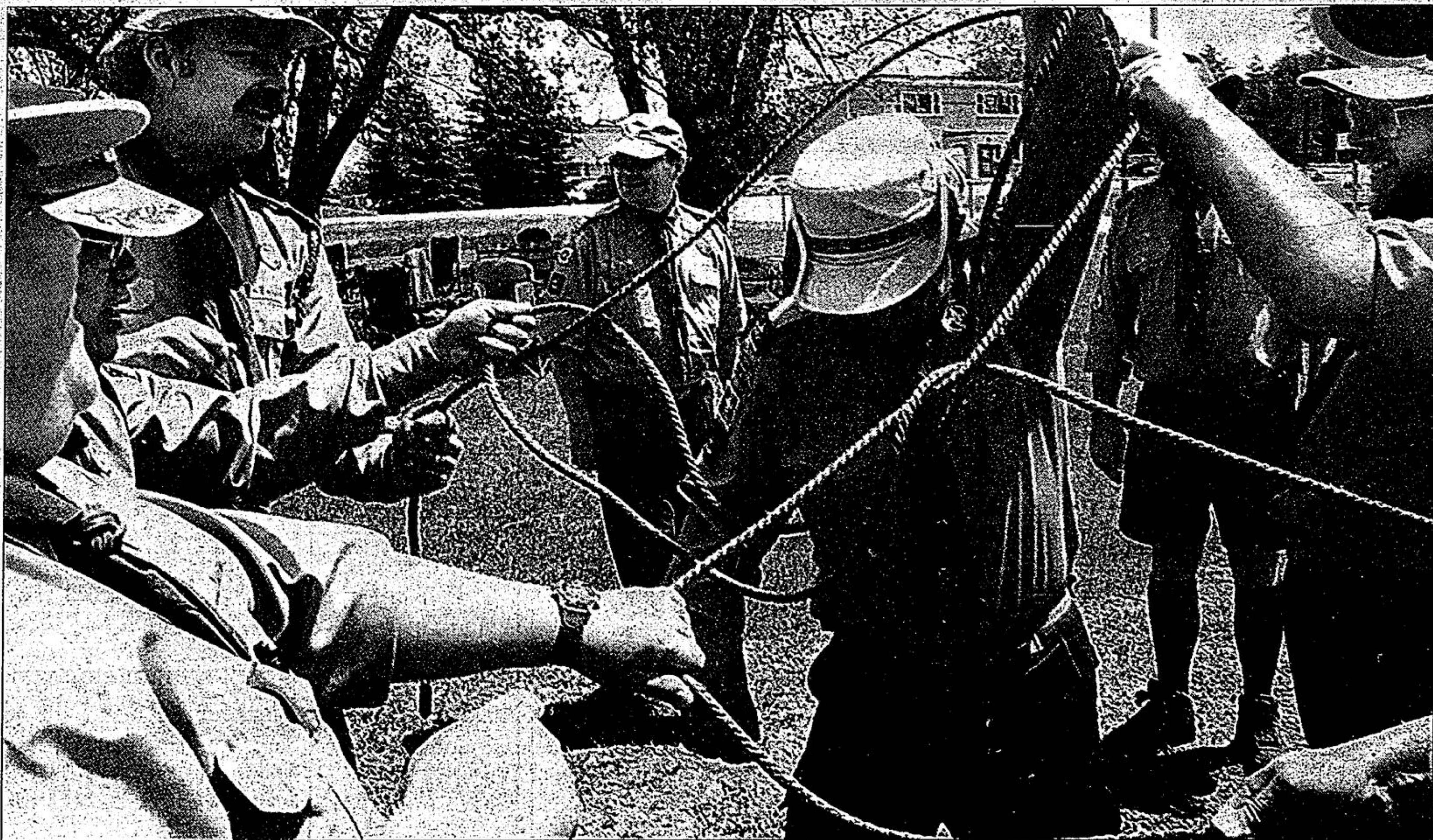
He was responding to Markham/Richmond Hill's showing in this year's Macleans magazine Health Report based on data from the Canadian

Institute for Health Information (CIHI). The study groups the two communities as one area.

Markham/Richmond Hill ranked 12th out of 54 centres studied across Canada, up from its 18 standing last year.

Southwest and northern York Region aren't identified in the

See RESIDENTS, page 22.



STAFF PHOTO/SJOERD WITTEVEEN

### DO 'KNOT' TRY THIS AT HOME

Volunteer leaders attending the South Lake Simcoe group scouter training course learn some rope tricks during a team-building exercise at the Vandorf Community Park recently. The scouting centre is located on Woodbine Avenue across from the park.

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