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3 Back-to-school is a good time to encourage healthier eating habits, says pediatrician.

SPORTS CALENDAR

EVENT: SDSS season-opening senior football game
WHEN: Today, 7p.m. (905-640-1433)
WHERE: Stouffville District Secondary School



31 Ballooning still a thrill, but urban sprawl hurts industry in York Region.

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Stouffville Tribune

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TO REACH US: (905) 640-2612

Hike GST to pay for health care: MacLean

Check out option, says hospital president

BY LISA QUEEN
Staff Writer

Ottawa should consider hiking the GST to 10 per cent to pay for quality health care, at least one York Region health provider says.

Dr. Jim MacLean, president of Markham Stouffville Hospital, believes increasing the controversial federal sales tax is one option that should be investigated as health care costs soar.

"I'm all in favour of supporting high-quality care and increasing revenues for the government to be able to do that," he said.

"If the GST works, then I would support that. But if it's some other vehicle (to raise funds), I would support that as well."

"At the end of the day, I'm biased because I work in health care and want to see our organization supported well and staff and high-quality care supported."

Dr. MacLean's comments came as federal Liberals rushed to kill rumours they will boost the GST to 10 per cent to pay for proposals from the Roy Romanow commission on health care. The commission is expected to release its recommendations in November.

His comments also come as a task force of health experts met again yesterday to discuss chronic underfunding of health services in York Region.

The task force blames Ottawa

See TAX, page 8.

Let's twist again



STAFF PHOTO/STEVE SOMERVILLE

Tom Clappison twists in mid-air at the Fall Classic BMX Competition at Over the Edge Skatepark recently. The popular park, located in Stouffville Memorial Park, attracts skateboarders, bikers and bladers from across southern Ontario.

Giant fix-up bill for citizens?

Failed town hall deal could cost taxpayers \$1.2 million

BY JOAN RANSBERRY
Staff Writer

Taxpayers in Whitchurch-Stouffville could face a \$1.2-million bill to restore the old town hall now that the deal to have a private firm take over the top floor of the century-old building has fallen through.

Negotiations between the town and Arrowsmith Bell and DiTata Co. came to an end Tuesday when Mayor Wayne Emmerson announced the deal was dead.

"We were forced to terminate the negotiations because of financial and operational obstacles," Mayor Emmerson said at a council meeting.

Talks between the town and the private architectural-engineering firm carried on all summer after the local firm was picked from a group of five candidates to take over the Civic Avenue structure.

It was vacated as a municipal building when the town moved its offices to Sandford Drive five years ago.

"We worked hard with the town, but we just couldn't come to a practical agreement and we were forced to terminate," said Bruce Arrowsmith, spokesperson for the firm.

The initial plan was to have Arrowsmith Bell and DiTata enter into a lease agreement with the town and to share the building's restoration cost.

The town was considering using the bottom floor as an arts and cultural centre, while the outdoor area, including the clock tower,

See TOWN HALL, page 12.

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