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19 15-year-old has impressive debut with Stouffville Spirit in front of NHL scouts.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR
EVENT: Stouffville Kinsmen Santa Claus Parade
WHEN: Saturday, Dec. 7, 2 p.m.
WHERE: Main Street, Stouffville



17 Kids, do your homework before heading off to hockey school this year.

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URBAN MAYORS WARN ONTARIANS: 'THERE'S ONLY ONE TAXPAYER'

'Hydro users will pay for gift'

BY KATHLEEN GRIFFIN
 Staff Writer

While taxpayers may be celebrating the province's plan to cap hydro rates and send consumers rebates — even those customers who aren't paying their bills — the celebration may be short-lived.

Markham Mayor Don Cousens, along with other large, urban mayors, is warning both the province

and the people there is only one taxpayer — and the money for rebates and other planned legislative changes has to come from somewhere.

"The whole thing has been done very quickly without any discussion with the people running the system," Mayor Cousens said. "And I personally find it offensive to send \$75 to people who haven't even

paid their bill."

He said since Premier Ernie Eves promised not to cut off those who fail to pay their bills until at least March, many Ontarians are simply not paying, or paying late.

"We're very concerned with what may be happening," he said. "The province implemented the new system, now they're telling us we can't collect the hydro cost? Or

disconnect when people don't pay? Our receivables are up 50 per cent in the last 30 days."

While other factors have contributed to that increase as well, including the fact higher costs mean higher receivables and that retailers like Direct Energy have 45 days to pay Markham Hydro distribution costs rather than 15, the dif-

See WE, page 5.

Flu shot complication paralyzed town man

Stouffville resident still recovering year later

BY HANNELORE VOLPE
 Staff Writer

A Stouffville resident, who bared his arm for the flu vaccine to avoid a few days of possible illness last winter, ended up paralyzed and on life support for several months instead.

Now one year later, Brian Claman needs to use a cane to walk, tires easily and still has some paralysis in his fingertips. The 48-year-old's ordeal began last Nov. 18, when he contracted an extremely rare disorder, Guillain-Barre syndrome, 17 days after receiving his flu vaccine.

Although he'd heard the campaigns on television urging people to be vaccinated against influenza, "no one ever talked to me about complications of this magnitude," he said.

He's not against the flu vaccine, but wants people to be better informed about the risks.

He's been away from his work as security director for a downtown firm for a year and is looking to return early next year.

"It is a nightmare," Mr. Claman said. The illness affected not only him, but his wife Caroline, his son Danny and his parents and relatives as well. "They didn't know if I was going to live or die," he said.

He found that because the disease is so rare, many doctors know very little about



STAFF PHOTO/MIKE BARRETT

A CHILD IS BORN — AT THE CLOCK TOWER

The Clock Tower in downtown Stouffville is home to a living nativity production this week. The final shows go tonight and tomorrow from 7 to 8 p.m. From left in front are Amy Williams, Chantel Skinner, Stephanie Findlay and Kenny Davie. In back are Trish Stedman, Andrea Lott, Joanna Eagar and Ian Jenkins.

See STOUFFVILLE, page 3.

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