

STOUFFVILLE READERSHIP SURVEY

What you think matters to us — and you could win dinner!

In our on-going effort to ensure The Stouffville Sun/Tribune continues to be your community's first source for news and information, we would appreciate hearing your responses to the following questions.

Please return completed surveys by Dec. 2 to The Stouffville Sun/Tribune, Attn: Editor in Chief, 34 Civic Ave., Stouffville ON L4A 7Z5 or fax 905-640-8778.

The survey can also be done online at stouffvillesun.com.

1. Which of the following newspapers do you read regularly?

- Toronto Star
— Globe & Mail
— National Post
— Toronto Sun
— Stouffville Sun
— Stouffville Tribune
— Stouffville This Month

Additional comments?

2. Which newspaper do you prefer to read for local news?

3. How many times a week would you prefer to receive your local newspaper?

On which days?

Would you prefer to receive the newspaper by e-subscription?

4. Please rank the following topics of interest in order of importance (choosing a maximum of 10).

- ____ local residents' achievements
____ municipal council
____ local businesses
____ consumer information
____ reviews of movies, plays, videos
____ opinion columns
____ photo features
____ local history
____ local athletes
____ agriculture
____ sports scores
____ calendar of events
____ breaking news stories online
____ religion and faith
____ diversity and culture
____ crosswords
____ horoscopes
____ contests
____ reader polls
____ panels, forums, seminars

Name _____

Address _____

Phone number _____

E-mail address _____

Age _____

Occupation _____

How many years have you lived in the community? _____

Primary language in your household? Cultural background? _____

How many children reside in your household? Ages? _____

5. Are you interested in reading news and information of a regional focus in your local newspaper eg. education, health, politics?

Stouffville man on road to recovery from rare illness

From page 1.

Guillain-Barre Syndrome (GBS).

Caroline went to the internet for help and found information on a GBS support group and related sites.

She also compared experiences with another Stouffville resident who had endured a bout with GBS many years earlier.

"Nothing is without risk," Mr. Claman noted. There were four cases of Guillain-Barre syndrome in Canada last year.

Out of the 9.8 million flu vaccines given in 2001, Health Canada recorded a total of 1,800 cases of adverse effects, including headaches, fever, loss of appetite and soreness at the injection site.

Up to 3,000 Canadians die each year from influenza, most of them seniors and people with chronic conditions such as diabetes, asthma and cancer, according to Dr. Allison McGeer, director of infection control at Toronto's Mount Sinai Hospital.

Before receiving the flu vaccine, Mr. Claman loved to hike and snowshoe with his two dogs through Whitchurch-Stouffville's rural settings, including the Stouffville reservoir, the surrounding forests and Bruce's Mill Conservation Area.

Now he goes to Joint Venture Fitness on Stouffville's Main Street three times a week for therapy to build up his strength just so he can hold his dogs' leashes.

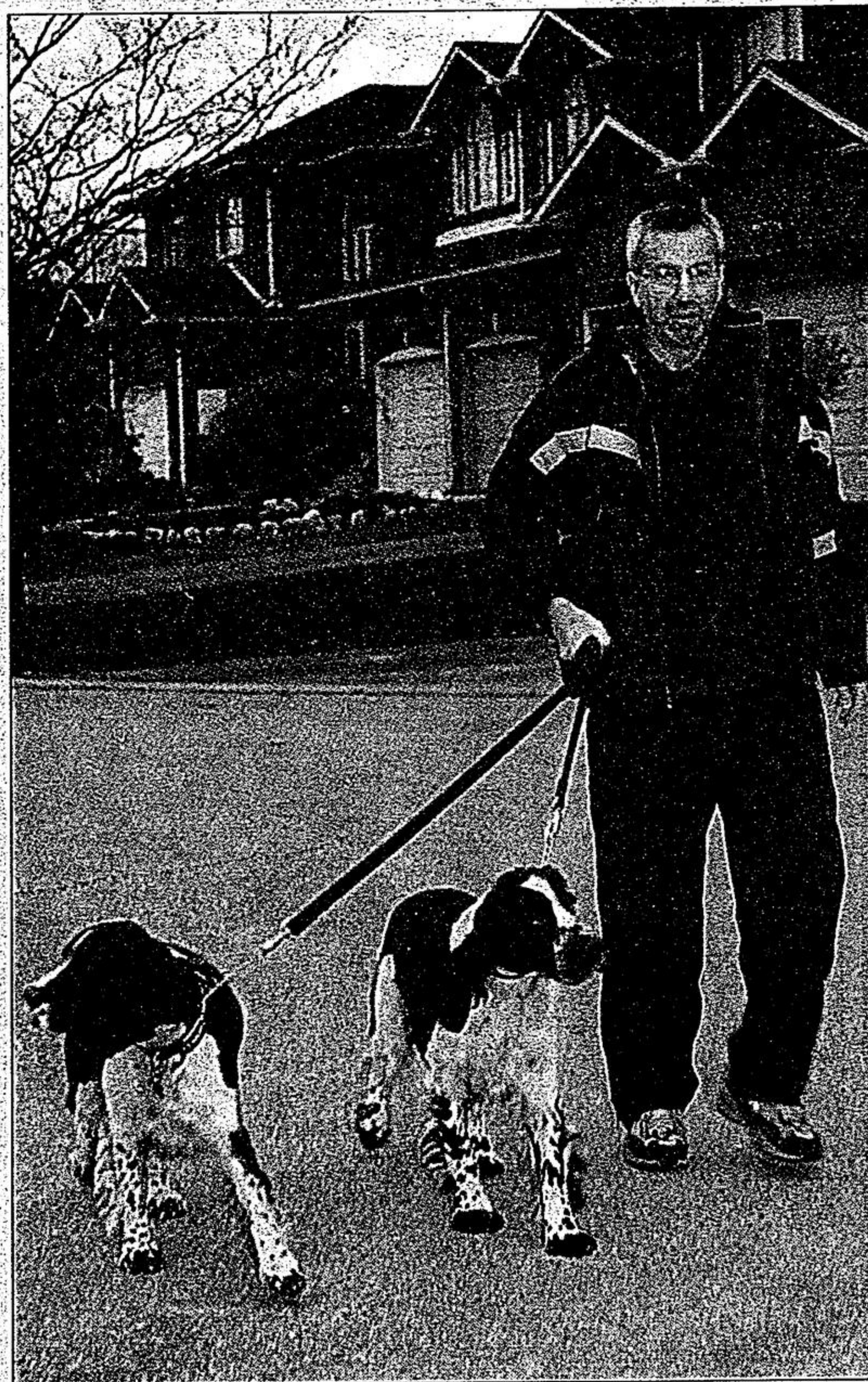
'Most people don't get as sick as I did. You get sicker and sicker until you hit a valley.'

Mr. Claman knew something was wrong last year on Nov. 17, when he developed a pounding headache and felt a sense of impending doom.

He was in Montreal visiting his family at the time. A feeling of lethargy and stress overtook him. He found it difficult to sleep that night and difficult to get out of bed.

He was able to walk into the Jewish General Hospital in Montreal and sign admission forms at 11 a.m. on Nov. 18, but "by 4 p.m. I couldn't walk any more," he said.

He was in hospital until mid-July of this year. The paralysis pro-



STAFF PHOTO/SJOERD WITTEVEEN

Brian Claman of Opal Court in Stouffville walks his English springer spaniels Puck and Sophie. A flu shot last year left him paralyzed. He is now only recovering from the experience.

gressed from his extremities and eventually shut down all his movement and his breathing.

He spent several weeks in intensive care. He couldn't talk, couldn't close his mouth or his eyes and required a tracheotomy.

Although he was completely paralyzed, he was completely lucid.

But because no one around him was receiving a response from him, they started talking around him rather than to him.

"Most people don't get as sick as I did," he said. "You get sicker and sicker until you hit a valley." He

describes the experience as "surreal".

The process then reverses itself and the person starts to improve gradually.

He spent several months at the St. John's Rehabilitation Hospital in North York and as an outpatient at Markham Stouffville Hospital.

When people marvel at how courageous or tough he is, Mr. Claman will tell them it's a like roller coaster ride.

"You are on the ride until it goes back to the station."

— With files from TorStar News Service

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