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3 New Stouffville citizens group wants growth slowed down, services in place for newcomers.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR
EVENT: A Midnight Clear: Christmas play
WHEN: Dec. 13, 14 and 15, 7 p.m. (905-887-5651)
WHERE: Springvale Baptist Church, Stouffville Rd.



24 Got noxious neighbours? Buyer beware for those living next to factories.

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TO REACH US: (905) 640-2612

Toronto staff blamed by CAO at MFP inquiry

'Critical' information missing from report

BY DAVID NICKLE
 Metroland Staff Writer

Senior Toronto staff who recommended a costly computer leasing deal were being "less than full and frank and accurate" York Region's new CAO told an inquiry into the deal, Friday.

Michael Garrett, who was Toronto's chief administrative officer while the deal was being inked, was on the stand at the Toronto Computer Leasing Inquiry for the second day.

On Thursday, Mr. Garrett, who worked in Toronto for about 18 months, told the inquiry as that city's chief administrative officer, he bore the ultimate responsibility for staff actions.

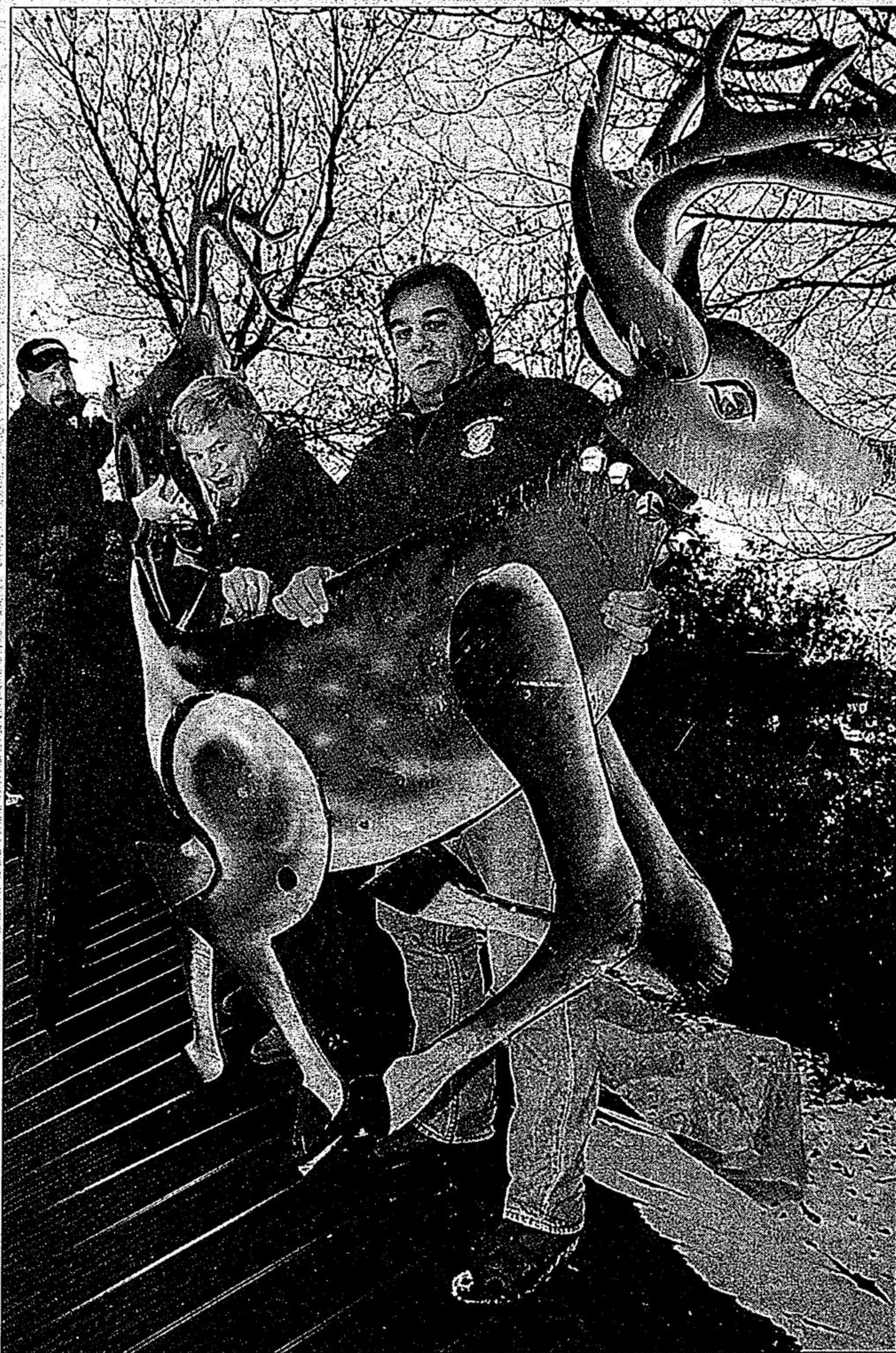
But on Friday, under questioning from commission counsel Ron Manes, Mr. Garrett's assessment of those staff, former treasurer Wanda Liczyk, Y2K head Lana Viinamäe and former information technology director Jim Andrew came out.

Ms. Liczyk and Mr. Andrew both recommended Toronto council go ahead with a plan to lease \$43 million worth of computer equipment from MFP Financial Services.

The recommendations to council didn't, however, include information Mr. Garrett identified as "critical". That information included the fact the 4.3-per-cent

See SENIOR, page 9.

REINDEER READY FOR TODAY'S PARADE



STAFF PHOTO/SJOERD WITTEVEEN

Kinsmen Club of Stouffville members (from left) Doug Marshall, Bruce Gribbon, and Frank McGillan prepare Santa's float for today's Kinsmen Santa Claus Parade. The parade runs along Main Street, starting at 2 p.m. from the Tenth Line and heads west through downtown Stouffville ending at the Novopharm plant. There are 70 entries, up from 58 last year.

Norwalk hits hospitals hard

Markham Stouffville scrambles to deal with re-directed patients

BY LISA QUEEN
 Staff Writer

A highly contagious gastrointestinal virus has forced one York Region hospital to close its emergency department, a second to redirect non-critical ambulance patients and left the third scrambling to care for an influx of sick residents.

Hospital administrators fear the situation may get worse this week before it gets better.

The Norwalk virus is an acute stomach bug that leaves its victims with watery diarrhea, vomiting, cramps, mild fever, chills, sore throat and headaches.

Symptoms typically appear 24 to 48 hours after contact with the virus and the illness usually lasts 24 to 48 hours.

"It is an unpleasant illness but it's not life-threatening," said York Central Hospital's new chief of staff Dr. Richard Schabas.

"Norwalk is probably the most highly contagious of illnesses to show up in institutions of our kind. The worst of this may not be over."

York Central took the most extreme measures of York's three hospitals Thursday night after the virus struck.

Meanwhile, Southlake Regional Health Centre in Newmarket began Friday redirecting non-critical ambulance patients to Markham Stouffville Hospital and Barrie's Royal Victoria Hospital.

While the hospital's emergency department

See NORWALK, page 10.

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