

# Stouffville Sun

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## EDITORIAL

# Our happy hospital

January has been an excellent month for Markham Stouffville Hospital and the area residents who use its services.

First, a survey of patients gave the Ninth Line hospital some of the best marks in the province

Wednesday, the province formally approved a \$120 million expansion of the hospital.

The public-private partnership plan will see, among other improvements, an expanded emergency department, a six-bed cardiac care unit and a new diagnostic imaging facility.

The expansion will create a full-service health care campus that includes construction of a wellness centre for preventative and alternative health programs, a larger ambulatory care unit and a new surgical centre, all of which will be linked to the original hospital building. Having private money invested means the new centre will be built sooner.

The new services will become even more vital as the existing population ages and more older adults move into new nursing homes and developments like the Ballantrae Golf and Country Club in Whitchurch-Stouffville.

Anyone who has visited Markham Stouffville knows expansion is needed. Hallways are cluttered with equipment. The emergency ward seems perpetually crowded. Yet, the hospital managed top-ranking marks in this month's provincial report card.

"We are the only hospital in Ontario with top-ranking marks in the last two report cards," said MSH president and CEO Dr. Jim MacLean. "Markham Stouffville Hospital has proven its ability to adapt to new ways of doing things."

"That the project has received final approval not only serves the community, but demonstrates (the government's) commitment to innovation and accountability."

The hospital, which opened 13 years ago, was planned for a population of 77,000, but there are now 230,000 residents in the area. It was built to handle 1,800 births a year, in 2001 staff delivered 2,722 babies. The diagnostic imaging department (X-rays, ultrasounds, CT scans) was designed to provide 30,700 exams a year — but 108,233 were performed in 2001.

It's time our hospital experienced the growth spurt the communities it serves already has.

And with thousands of new residents coming to Stouffville in the next 15 years, the need will only increase.



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

# America should have weapons inspections

To the Editor:

I believe the time has come for:  
1) Non-American citizens of the world to request a change of regime in the United States of America.  
2) For the Americans to submit to thorough United Nations sponsored weapons inspections, including the Pentagon and White House.  
3) That the American government give an account of how many trillions of dollars have been spent on the military, also what has been given to other nations of the world in food aid, health aid etc. in the past 10 years.

We, in Canada, should request that our government make similar comparisons available to us.

My point is that I wish our national leaders would get their priorities in order and use our tax dollars for the universal good of mankind and not for our possible annihilation.

John C. Reesor  
Stouffville

# Tax dollars shouldn't pay for abortions

To the Editor:

Once again I participated in the "Sanctity of Life" Sunday on Jan 19, 2003.

To hear once again fact after fact about what a fetus actually is, from the moment of conception, makes it difficult to understand how and why we are still murdering the unborn.

Society now says the fetus is being used for stem cell research. Then why not use adult stem cells? The adults can also have their own stem cells frozen for future use.

Why then are we promoting abortion? Especially when many of our young people are sexually active and using abortion as a means of birth control. I hope they are being told of the options that they have, that babies can be given for adoption rather than aborted.

Society has been screaming for "womens-called-rights" for years, never taking into consideration the long-term results. Women have never been deprived of their rights. Women have been given the privilege of carrying the unborn child.

Who knows what child has been deprived of life? A future Prime Minister? A doctor who may discover a cure for some mysterious disease? A teacher, who in turn will teach others?

My tax dollars are being used for abortions. Governments do not have the right to use those dollars for something that I so strongly object to.

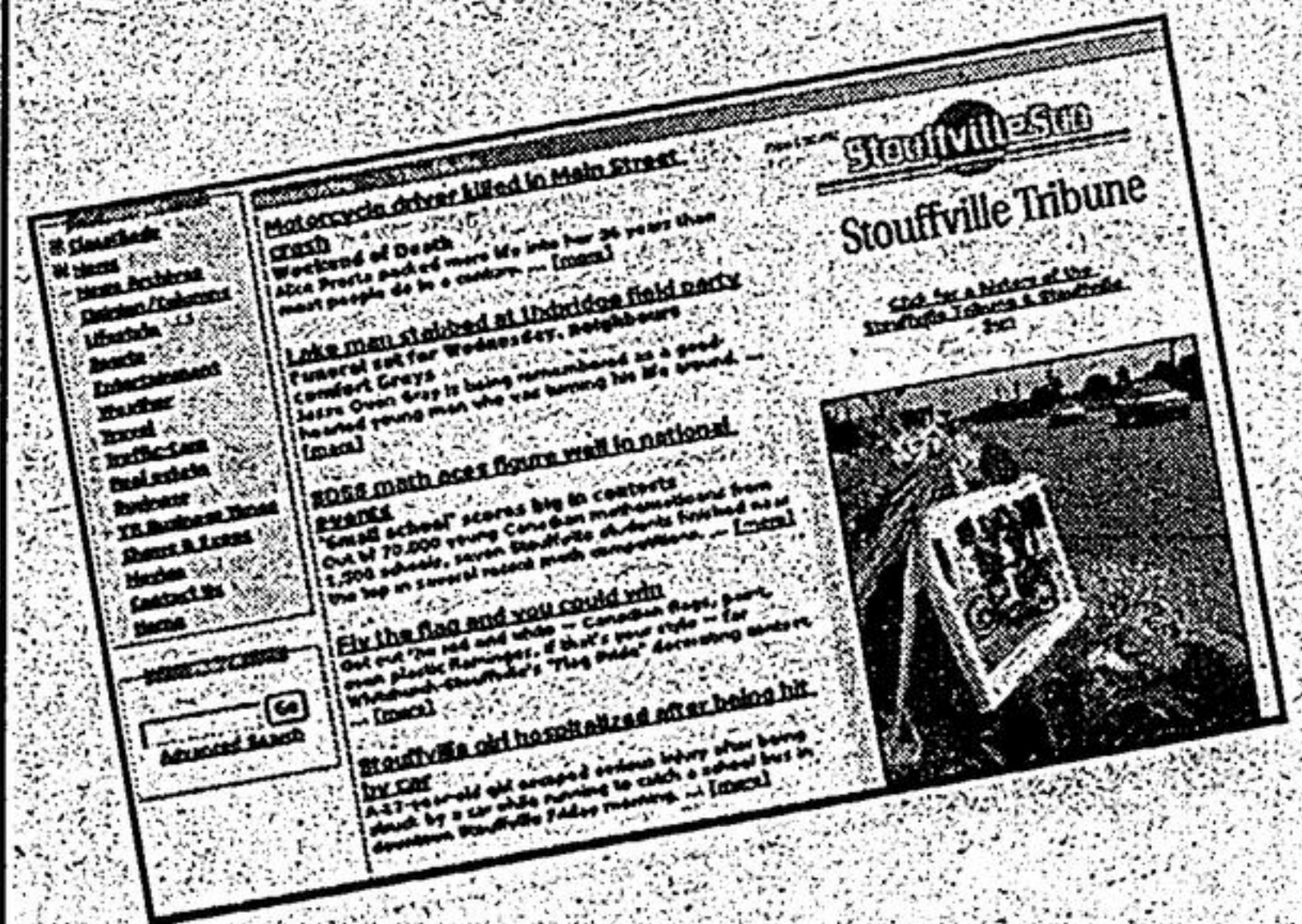
Doris Robertson  
Stouffville

## FLASHBACK



**THE OLD RINK:** Precision skaters from the Stouffville Figure Skating Club compete at the old Stouffville Arena — on Park Drive where the skateboard park now stands — in 1983.

STOUFFVILLE SUN FILE PHOTO



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