

# Stouffville Sun-Tribune

SATURDAY, MARCH 29, 2003 ■ SERVING THE COMMUNITY OF WHITCHURCH-STOUFFVILLE ■ 40 PAGES/\$1 INCLUDING GST



5. Recognize her? Police can't ID woman found wandering in Stouffville.

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## York rapid transit may be moving by 2006

Money in budget for local GO trains

BY MIKE ADLER  
 Staff Writer

By the summer of 2006, rapid transit in York Region may be worthy of the name.

Three years is enough time to build rail separations on GO Transit's Bradford and Stouffville lines — giving commuters to Toronto more trains and fewer delays — and for the first widely spaced stations of GO's inter-regional bus-rapid-transit system to appear along the Hwy. 407 corridor.

This week's budget statement promised Ontario would match federal and municipal dollars for GO's BRT and other improvements. The federal government pledged \$435 million for GO and York Region transit Wednesday.

But the biggest changes for travellers in the region should come through the Quick Start program.

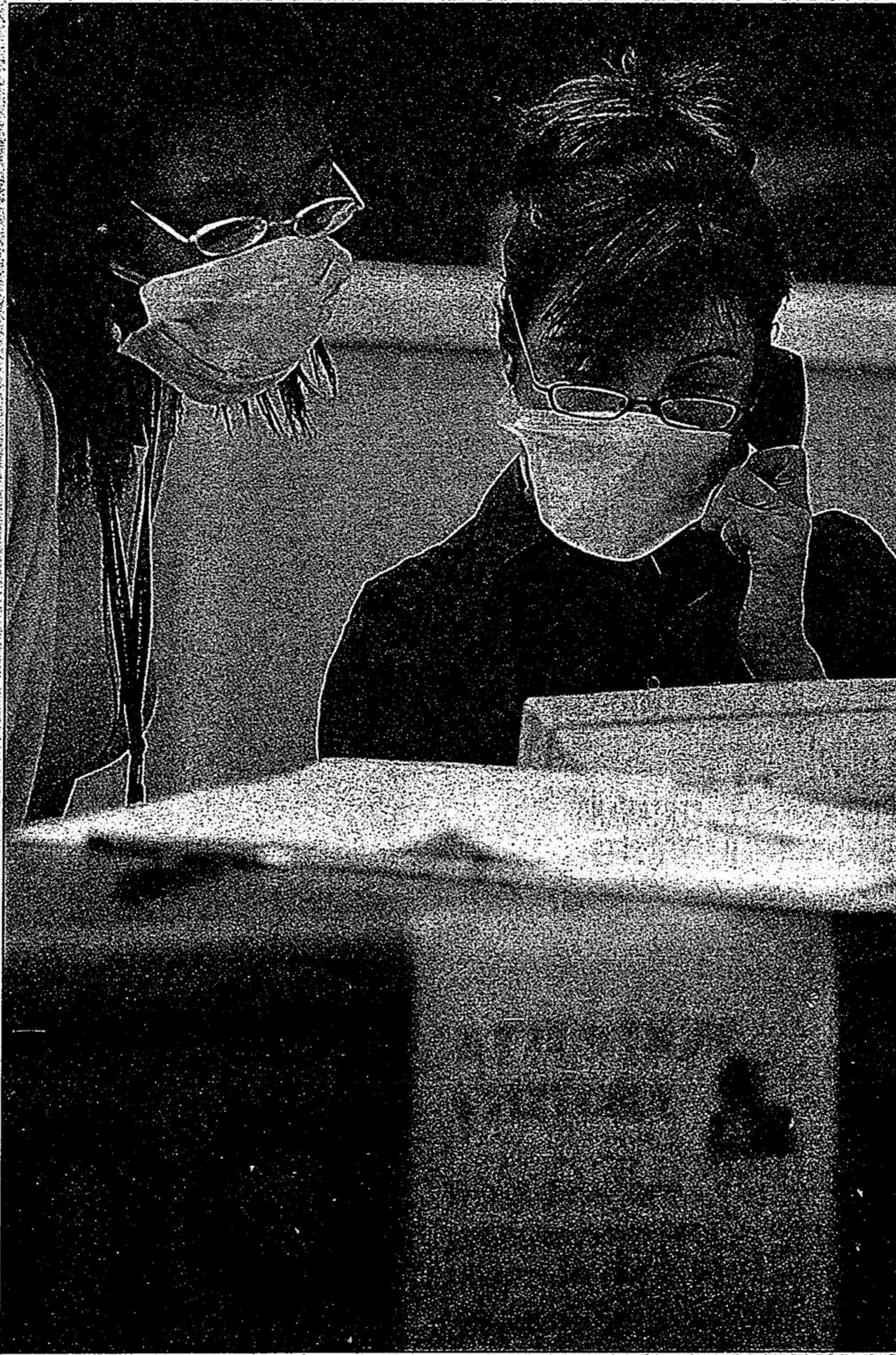
For \$150 million — the cost of a one-kilometre subway tunnel — the region and its private partners will cover 80 to 90 kilometres of bus routes that have all the features of rapid transit.

In three years, Quick Start will place approximately 69 transit stations, one or two kilometres apart along selected major roads, each with a ticket vendor and a name.

"It will not be a mud puddle

See QUICK, page 9

## Taking precautions



STAFF PHOTOS/JOERD WITTEVEEN

Yvonne Rowan (right), community resources co-ordinator, and Judy Weir, community resources secretary at Markham Stouffville Hospital, wear protective masks Thursday because of SARS-related precautions. There are four suspected local cases of SARS.

## SARS scare hits hospital

Four cases confirmed so far, clinic to open in Markham

BY KATHLEEN GRIFFIN  
 Staff Writer

Markham will be the location for a special clinic to treat people in York Region suspected of having Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome.

Four confirmed cases of SARS have turned up at Markham Stouffville Hospital, prompting severe restrictions in visiting, emergency and outpatient care.

"We are functioning on an emergency basis right now," said Dr. Jim MacLean, MSH president and chief executive officer.

Parents upset, children back from Hong Kong not banned from school/page 3.

Staff members were directing traffic away from the building Thursday afternoon as it scrambled to follow strict provincial directives aimed at halting the spread of the highly contagious disease.

Ontario declared a provincial health emergency Wednesday.

Dr. MacLean confirmed Friday the York Region SARS clinic will be housed in the old Versa-Care building at 6824 Hwy. 7, at the Ninth Line.

"The aim is to have it open by Saturday or Sunday," he said.

Fire and municipal officials were inspect-

See LOCAL, page 3.

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