

Stouffville Sun-Tribune

THURSDAY, APRIL 24, 2003 ■ SERVING THE COMMUNITY OF WHITCHURCH-STOUFFVILLE ■ 36 PAGES/\$1 INCLUDING GST

16 Music Mania's 43rd show kicks off tonight at Stouffville Secondary.

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Only ER, obstetrics open due to SARS

BY KATHLEEN GRIFFIN
Staff Writer

York Region hospitals, while still reeling from the impact of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome, are slowly bringing services back on track.

Markham Stouffville Hospital's emergency room and obstetrics unit are open, but that will be it until next week at the earliest, spokesperson Pam Brodie said.

"Because of the number of SARS patients in the building, which include some staff, it hasn't been as fast as we would have liked," she said, adding while four patients were discharged Monday, seven remain in hospital, one in serious condition in the ICU.

HARD ON COMMUNITY

"We know this has been really hard on our community, but we have to be extra careful," Ms Brodie said.

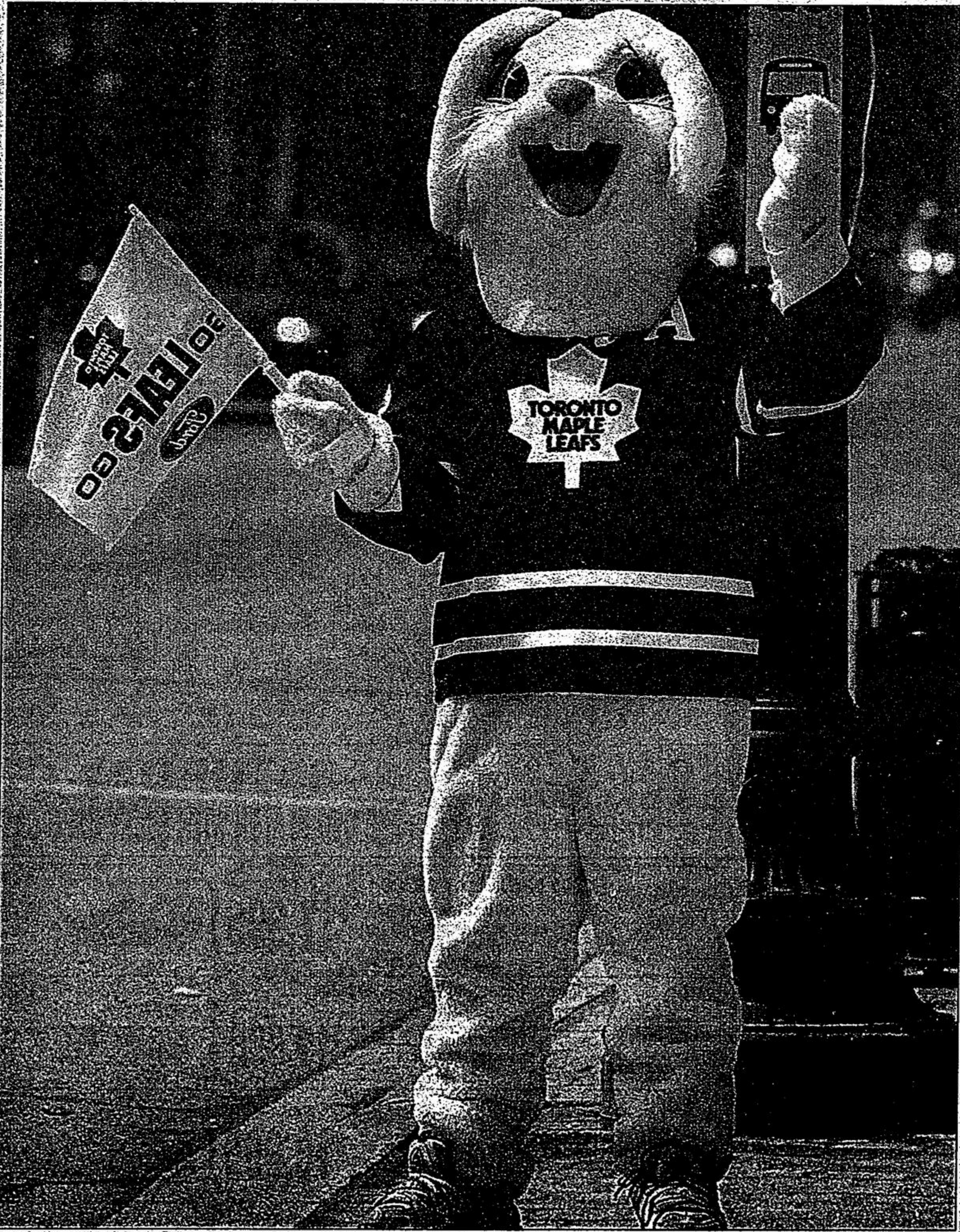
Visitor restrictions remain in effect at the facility, as well, limited to relatives of critical care patients, parents of small children and partners of women in labour, she added.

SARS screening continues at Markham Stouffville and, unless it's an emergency, patients are advised to call the hospital before arriving.

For more information, call 905-472-7000 or visit www.msh.on.ca.

For SARS information, call Telehealth Ontario at 1-866-797-000 or York Region's Health Connection at 1-800-361-5653.

The York Region SARS clinic for people who think they may have the virus, is open seven days a week between 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. at 6824 Hwy. 7, east of the Ninth Line, in Markham.



Bandwagon hopper

Gilmour the Leaf bunny waves to drivers along Main Street during the BIA easter egg hunt in downtown Stouffville Saturday. The Unfortunately for Gilmour, the Leafs were eliminated from the Stanley Cup playoffs Tuesday in Philadelphia. More photos on page 8.

BILL ROBERTS PHOTO

TREE TIME

Stouffville family says it's innocent of destroying 1,000-plus trees

BY MIKE ADLER
Staff Writer

Three sons of a Stouffville farm family and a company in Concord each face 332 charges of destroying trees last month on a Pickering property.

The company, Rosebank Farms Inc., has told the City of Pickering it is guilty, but farmer Chris Burkholder says he and brothers Richard of Stouffville and Ryan of Kitchener are innocent.

"We certainly did not want the trees out of there. We did not want that bush cleared out," Mr. Burkholder insisted in an interview. He and his brothers owned the land near Taunton and Altona Roads when the tree-cutting occurred March 19 to 21.

The Stouffville man also said he and his family made several attempts to stop the cutting, which city investigators found reduced more than 1,000 trees, mostly white pine or cedar, to stumps.

"We told them to stop; it did not stop," Mr. Burkholder said, suggesting he and his brothers have no relationship with Rosebank or knowledge of the company.

Rosebank was charged after the firm wrote to the city March 31 saying it has properties under contract for purchase in the area and admitting trees were "harvested" to provide a local farmer with fence posts.

It is not clear to us if we have done anything wrong," Rosebank's president Phil Colucci said in the letter, offering to "make reparation should you

See ENVIRONMENTALISTS, page 5.

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