

Stouffville Sun-Tribune

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Stouffville church construction in six weeks

BY JOAN RANSBERRY
Staff Writer

Construction of the \$5-million Stouffville Missionary Church in Stouffville's east end is expected to begin in about six weeks.

The new Stouffville Missionary Church will be built by fall 2004.

While municipal officials put the finishing touches on approving a building permit for the 650-seat structure, truck loads of bricks and other building materials are about to arrive on the five-acre property just south of the Stouffville Country Market on the 10th Line.

The church family is "very excited" about the prospect of moving into a new place of worship, said Hugh Dodd, chairperson of the elders pastoral team.

The church has outgrown its 100-year-old current location on Main Street.

A "For Sale" sign sits on the front lawn of the building. "We've had a few parties showing an interest in it," Mr. Dodd said.

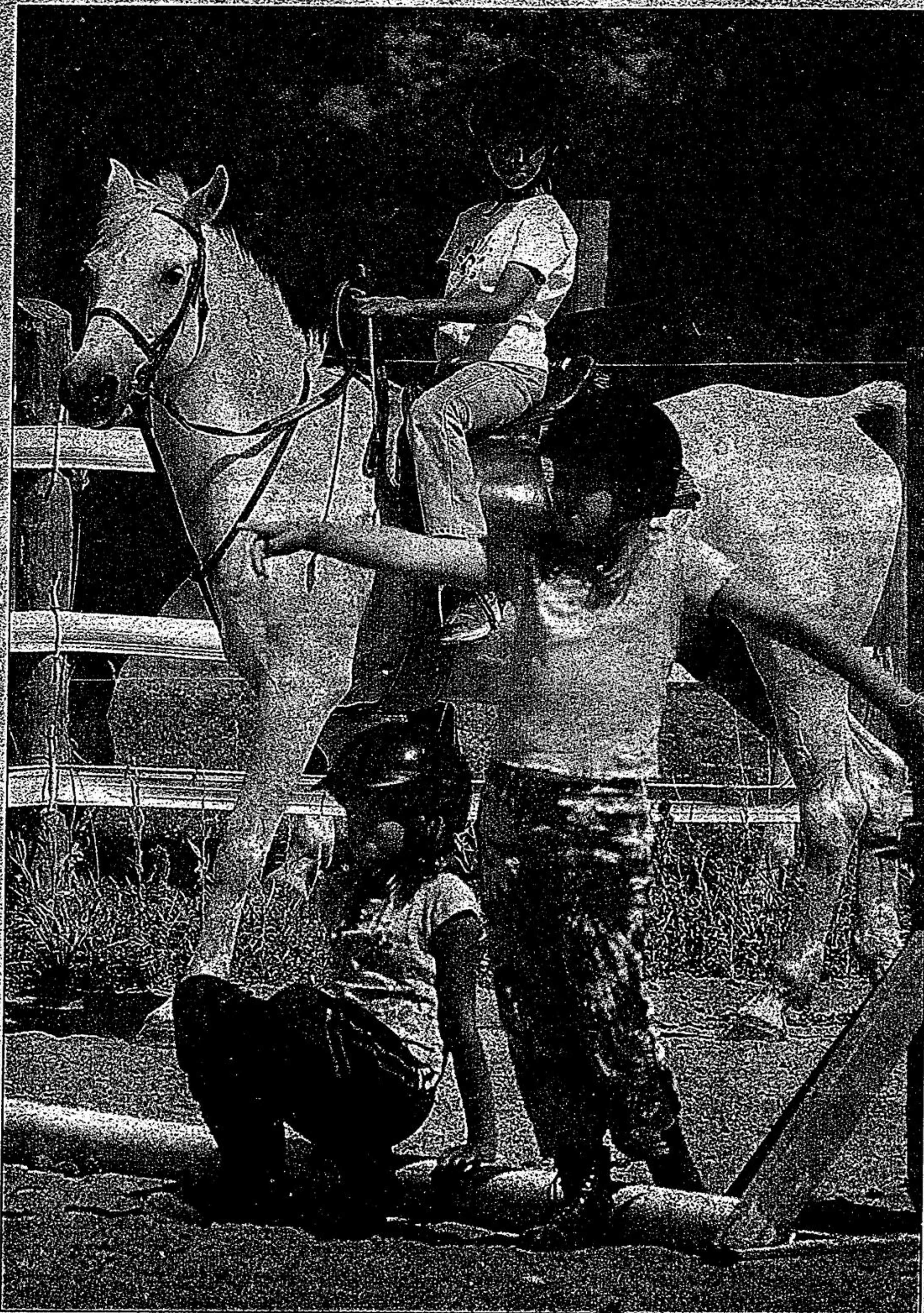
Two weeks ago, to make sure they were on the right track, church officials had a reaffirmation vote. The congregation voted "over 90 per cent to sell and to move," said Mr. Dodd. Project co-ordinator Richard Powell said the exterior of the new church will be brown brick.

Included in the plan is a 300-vehicle parking lot and a soccer pitch. Not included are the traditional church bells.

"The landscaping has started," Mr. Powell added. "It will be done soon."

Last year, Whitchurch-Stouffville council approved a zoning change

See SENIORS, page 8.



STAFF PHOTO/SJOERD WITTEVEEN

Just horsin' around

Parents attended as day campers showed what they learned about riding horses during a show at the Warden Equestrian School on Warden Avenue in Whitchurch-Stouffville last week. On Gus the horse is Melissa McBride, while Laura Janzen points out other riders to friend Sarah Castonguay.

MARKHAM-STOUFFVILLE IN DEBT

Hospital funding injection not enough

BY LISA QUEEN
Staff Writer

While York Region's hospitals are grateful Premier Ernie Eves will forward much-needed cash this week, officials warn GTA hospitals risk slashing health care services and cutting staff if long-term funding needs aren't met.

"We're happy with the money the government has promised this week. It will put some Band-Aids on it," said Jane Watson, the chairperson of the GTA/905 Healthcare Alliance.

"But I can really say we just aren't where we thought we would be. It's extremely frustrating."

Ms. Watson, whose group lobbies for hospitals in York, Durham, Halton and Peel regions, warned patients face longer line-ups in emergency rooms and cancelled elective surgeries if the province doesn't increase funding.

She said this year's SARS crisis made the precarious economic situation of hospitals even worse.

But while Oak Ridges MPP Frank Klees said his government is committed to boosting hospital spending, he cautioned hospitals must learn to live within their multi-million dollar budgets.

What is unfortunate is some hospitals have spent with no regard to their budget. If their budget was X, they would spend X-plus and come back to the ministry and say "Give us another \$10 million more."

Mr. Klees pointed out Mr. Eves has promised to forward \$282 million to Ontario hospitals by the end of this week, with another \$198 million

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