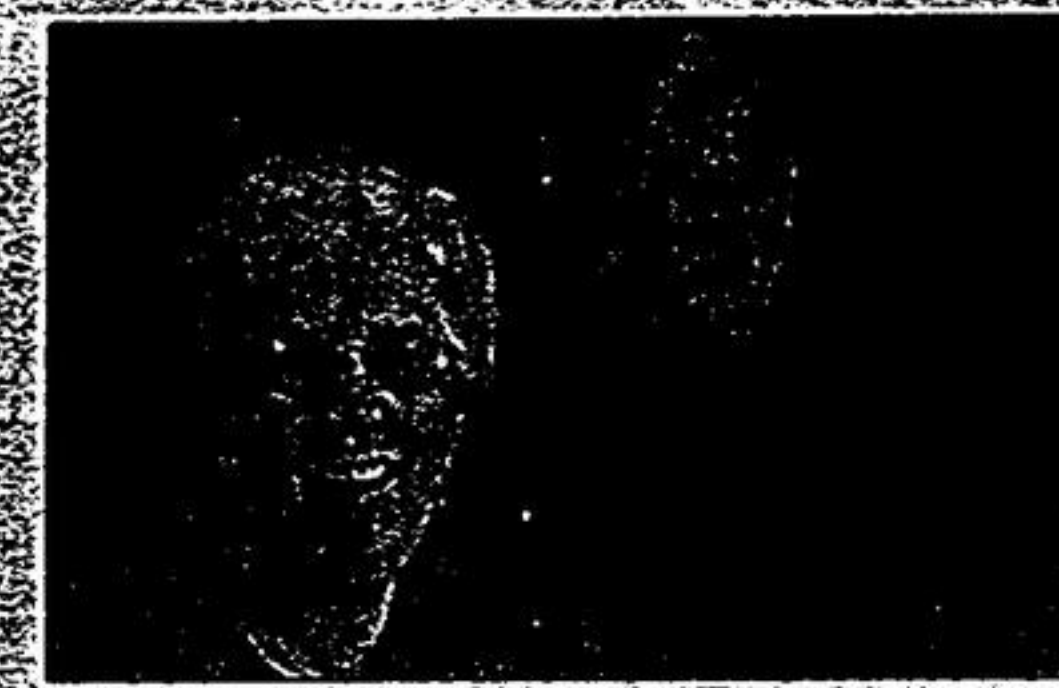


# Stouffville Sun-Tribune

SATURDAY, OCT. 11, 2003 ■ SERVING THE COMMUNITY OF WHITCHURCH-STOUFFVILLE ■ 36 PAGES/\$1 INCLUDING GST



**19** 45-year pen pal relationship led to marriage of Stouffville couple

Opinion	6
New You	15
Sports	22
Classified	23

## Shelves bare at many York Region food banks

*Long-term solution needed, activist*

BY LISA QUEEN  
Staff Writer

With a new Liberal government at Queen's Park and a municipal election around the corner, York Region poverty activists are lobbying politicians to meet the needs of the poor and hungry.

The campaign comes as York food banks face one of the most crucial Thanksgiving drives in their history.

Shelves are bare after a dismal Easter food drive hurt by the SARS outbreak last spring.

The food banks are basically empty. The shelves are basically bare, said Rosanne Rodgers, communications director for the York Region Food Network.

### FOCUS ON POLITICIANS

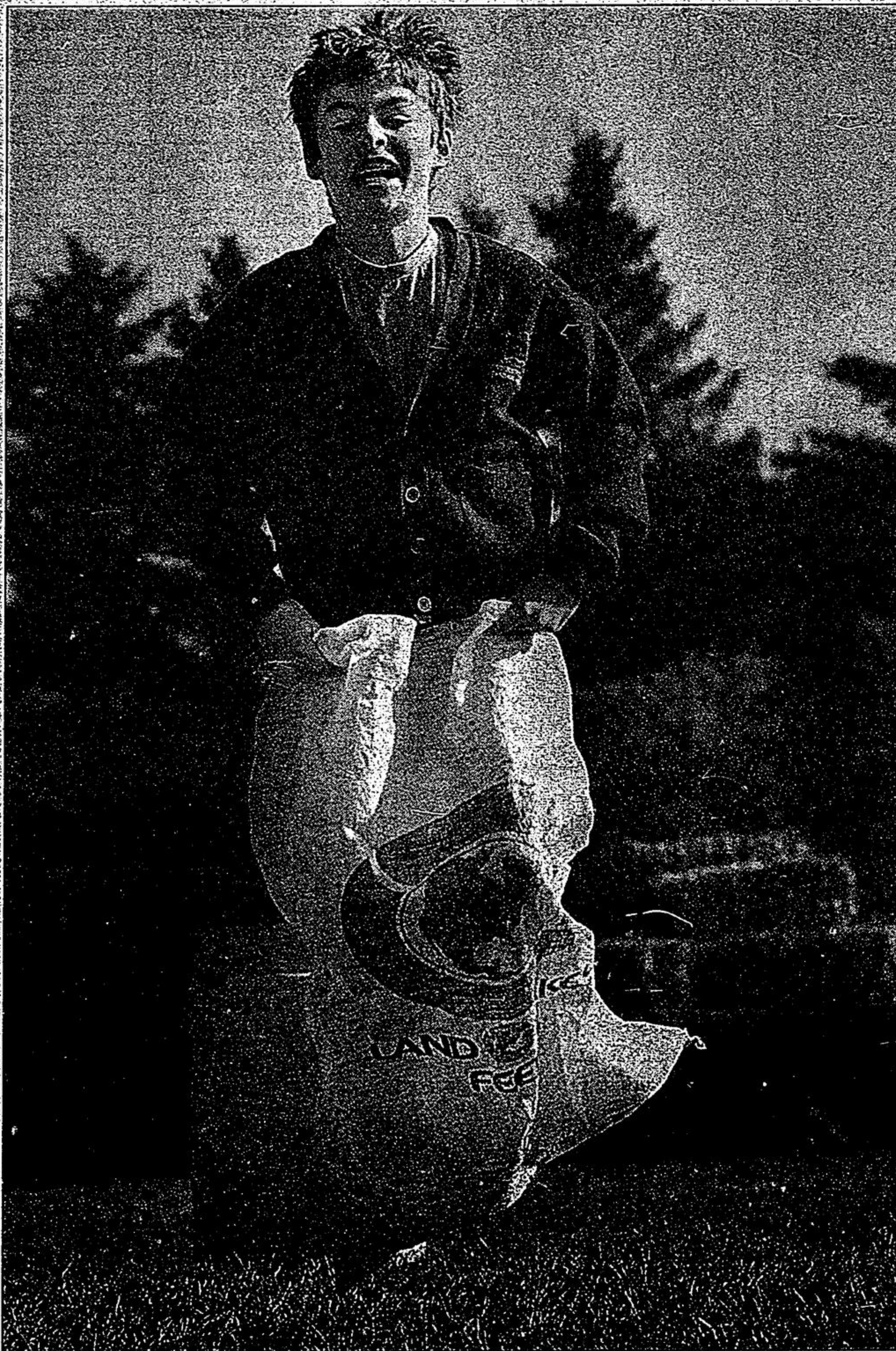
"We're focusing on getting the attention of politicians. We talk about the benefits of economic growth in Ontario and that's great, but it never seems to trickle down to the lowest wage earners."

Ms. Rodgers argued food banks were implemented in the 1980s as a stop-gap measure, but politicians have allowed them to become institutionalized by failing to meet the needs of society's most vulnerable.

Lisa DiSera, executive director of the network and a member of

See CHILD, page 16

## Harvest hop



STAFF PHOTO/MIKE BARRETT

John Sampson, 12, hops home in a potato sack race at Fall Harvest Day at Stouffville Christian School Wednesday. Students at the school, just east of Stouffville, assembled harvest gift baskets to be donated to residents of Parkview Village seniors apartments.

## 'Move fast on SARS plan'

*Push federal health agency, York Region experts say*

BY LISA QUEEN  
Staff Writer

Two medical experts at the centre of last spring's SARS crisis applaud a move to overhaul Canada's public health system to control infectious disease outbreaks.

While Dr. Richard Schabas, chief of staff at York Central Hospital where SARS closed the facility for 20 days, and Dr. Hanif Kassam, the region's associate medical officer of health, were often at odds over the way the SARS outbreak was managed, both want to see a new Canadian Agency for Public Health. They are also in favour of \$700 million in new federal public health spending by 2007.

Both initiatives were among recommendations from a federal advisory group, which on Tuesday released Canada's first report investigating the initial SARS crisis early last spring and the second outbreak in May.

The group, headed by University of Toronto dean of medicine, Dr. David Naylor, handed down 75 recommendations aimed at ending political infighting, lack of leadership and miscommunication that marred the handling of SARS.

"It is long past the time for all levels of government to take action on these issues," Dr. Naylor said.

"There is no question our ability to manage this outbreak nationally was impeded by inter-provincial squabbling and a refusal to share data."

Dr. Naylor urged political leaders to

See MEDICAL, page 13

**Seaway Pools & Hot Tubs**  
27 HERITAGE RD.  
MARKHAM  
294-8030  
Leachcomber HOT TUBS

**Protege Days CELEBRATION**

Protege Best New Car 2003 CAR DRIVER

Protege 5 Best New Car 2003 CAR DRIVER

APR Financing 48 Months ON ALL 2003's

ALL 2003's MUST BE SOLD!

THE MAZDA CREDIT CANADA PLATINUM RECORD WINNER FOR 2002

**MARKHAM MAZDA**

5396 HIGHWAY #7, MARKHAM

1-800-387-2222

**Sutton GROUP**

**Town and Country Realty Ltd.**

640-0888