

Stouffville Sun-Tribune

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



15 Diversions: Buying toys children will play with after Christmas

Environment 3
 Opinion 6
 Sports 18
 Classified 19

Extra literacy work pays off for top school

Unfair to compare: Ballantrae principal

BY MARTIN DERBYSHIRE
 Staff Writer

Provincial tests results for third graders in Ballantrae Public School were tops in Whitchurch-Stouffville, but the school's principal says they shouldn't necessarily be compared to other schools.

"Of course we were very happy," said Mary Carnahan, whose school saw an average of 85 per cent of third grade students score either three or four on the Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO) tests administered last spring and released this week.

"This is the result of years of focussing on literacy across the school and we will continue to work on that, but it is just one measure of our students' achievements. Report cards are the other."

Four is the highest grade a student can score on the provincewide reading, writing and math exams. A three means the child generally demonstrates expected knowledge, understanding and application of skills pertaining to that subject.

Third graders at Ballantrae finished in the top 10 among more than 120 York Region District School Board elementary schools, but Ms. Carnahan has chosen to use the results as a way to examine what's happening inside the school, as opposed to

See TRUSTEE, page 4.

MARKHAM-STOUFFVILLE NEEDS MORE MONEY TO CONTINUE SERVICES

Hospitals face tough times

BY LISA QUEEN
 Staff Writer

Pressure to boost infection control measures is just one of the challenges facing cash-strapped Ontario hospitals, which are warning the new provincial government they require an additional \$350 million to \$450 million.

"I'm not optimistic we can continue to offer the services we offer

if we only receive a minimal increase in funding," said Markham-Stouffville Hospital president Dr. Jim MacLean.

"There is a growth in patient demand for services. Every 905 hospital and York Region hospital has population growth and an aging population."

Stricter infection controls will only make a tough financial situa-

tion worse.

"Anything we now have to do to augment infection control standards, we will really be challenged to do that when we have to do cost control," Dr. MacLean said.

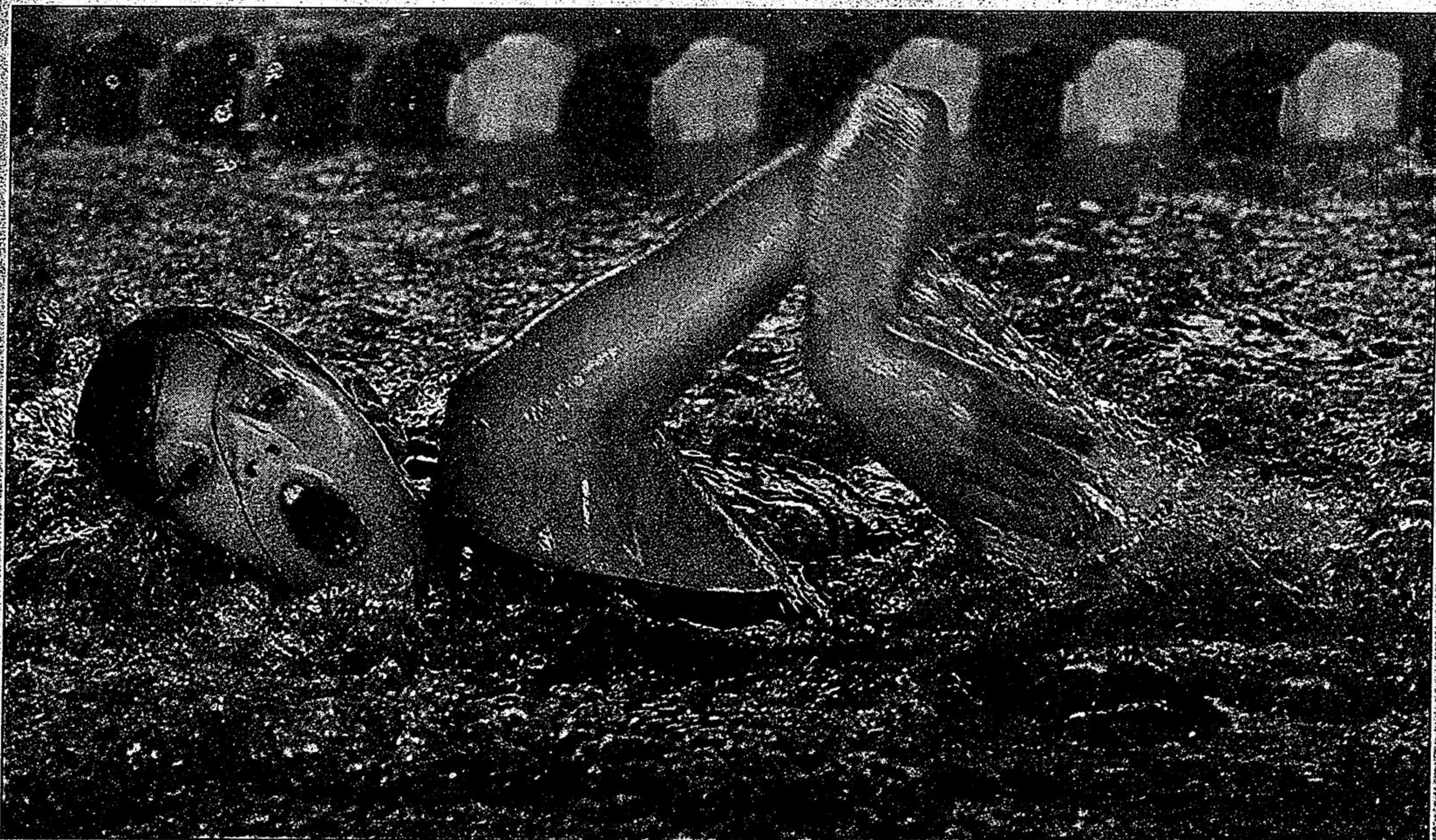
"I don't want to be any threat to people, but you can only do so much."

Although Premier Dalton McGuinty used his first throne

speech to urge funding partners in the health, education and social service sectors to "temper their requests" for funding in light of Ontario's \$5.6-billion deficit, hospital officials say patient care could be at risk without more money.

Ontario Hospital Association president Hilary Short said she appreciates the seriousness of the

See YORK, page 14.



STAFF PHOTO/MIKE BARRETT

UP FOR AIR

Stouffville's Brittney Williams, 11, churns through the water at a school swim meet hosted by Summitview Public School at the Lebovic Leisure Centre in Stouffville Thursday. Brittney attends Summitview.

Seaway Pools & Hot Tubs
 27 HERITAGE RD., MARKHAM
 294-8030

MARKHAM Honda
 8220 KENNEDY RD. MARKHAM
 905-477-2451
 www.markhamhonda.com

\$28⁸⁸* Genuine Honda Oil and Filter Change

MON-THUR PARTS AND SERVICE OPEN TILL MIDNIGHT

Includes premium quality 5W-20 or 5W-30 Genuine Honda motor oil, Genuine Honda oil filter and a new drain plug gasket.

QUICK LUBE SERVICE No Appointment Necessary

Available for most Honda models. Taxes not included. Provincial environmental fees, if any, excluded.

Sutton GROUP

Town and Country Realty Ltd.
 640-0888