

# TIMEX®

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## Council to work on doctor shortage

From page 1

care practices are partially or completely closed to new patients.

Doctor shortages in other communities are affecting Whitchurch-Stouffville. Dr. Izso said. When residents move away from Whitchurch-Stouffville, they soon learn they can't find a doctor in their new community.

The solution is to continue to visit the doctor in Stouffville.

"The shortages in other places makes it even more difficult to serve the new people moving in here," Dr. Izso said.

The shortage of doctors "could be an issue" facing the new Whitchurch-Stouffville council in the coming year, Mayor Sue Sherban said.

"There's a need for more doctors," she said. "We will have to address that in the next year. We'll have to look at ways to bring new and young doctors to our town."

Attracting doctors to a new area takes some doing, she said. "Doctors like a turn-key set-up," she said. "They like to come into places that are equipped for them. We'll have to make sure there are places available."

Helping young doctors establish themselves in a community poses a problem, Dr. Izso said. "If you do for one group, you'll have

to do for the ones that are already here. If you don't, there will be some sort of upset," he said.

The results of a recent Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care survey of more than 400,000 Ontario residents indicate the top priority for improvement in our health care system is increasing the number of physicians and nurses.

*The shortages in other places makes it even more difficult to serve the new people moving in here.*

"There is ample evidence of widespread discontent among patients regarding access to general and family practices, specialists and new medical technologies. Crowded emergency rooms, long waiting lists and transportation of patients to the United States for treatment have become the norm," the OMA reported.

Many Stouffville doctors are also approaching retirement age.

"The local doctors have addressed the issue that our doctors are aging," Mrs. Sherban said. Dr. Izso said the average age

of a Stouffville family doctor is about 60 years. "Yes, we're getting older," he said.

Aging doctors is not an isolated problem. The OMA reported that in 1995, 60 Ontario physicians retired. Five years later, in 2000, this figure skyrocketed to more than 400.

National data maintained by the Canadian Medical Association shows family doctors retire earlier than specialists and female physicians retire much earlier than male physicians. The average age of retirement for a female doctor in 2000 was 59 years. This, combined with the fact one in four family doctors and one in three specialists are currently 55 and older, bodes poorly for future physician supply.

It's estimated the shortage of 1,585 physicians in Ontario affects more than 900,000 residents. This shortage is expected to increase to between 2,400 and 3,400 physicians by 2010, depending on the degree of government action," the OMA report says.

"Ontario's current physician shortage is projected to almost double within 10 years. As a result, it is anticipated that between 1.4 million and 2 million Residents will be seriously hindered in their access to medical treatment," it said.

## York Region offers additional community flu clinics Get the vaccine, Not the flu!



*It's not too late to roll up your sleeve and get your flu shot.*

York Region Health Services is offering three more community flu clinics on the following dates:

Newmarket	Markham	Vaughan
<b>Monday, December 8th</b> 4:00 to 8:00 p.m. York Region Administrative Centre Great Hall 17250 Yonge Street, Newmarket	<b>Thursday, December 11th</b> 4:00 to 8:00 p.m. Markham Civic Centre 101 Town Centre Blvd. Markham	<b>Tuesday, December 16th</b> 4:00 to 8:00 p.m. Vaughan Civic Centre Hearing Room 2141 Major Mackenzie Dr., Vaughan



Stay healthy this winter. Experts agree that getting a flu shot is the best way to avoid the headache, muscle aches, cough, sore throat, fever, fatigue and weakness caused by the influenza virus. And getting a flu shot means that you won't spread the virus to those around you, especially to babies, the elderly and the chronically ill who could develop severe complications. Some could even die.

### Did you know?

Since the beginning of October, influenza outbreaks in Europe and North America have been attributed to a new variant of the influenza virus called A-Fujian. Experts agree that this year's flu vaccine will offer some cross-protection against the A-Fujian virus, as well as other flu strains active in our community.



*Get your flu shot from your family physician, walk-in clinic or come to one of the community flu clinics.*

For further information call York Region Health Services Health Connection at 1-800-361-5653 or visit [www.region.york.on.ca](http://www.region.york.on.ca).



York Region



Stouffville Kinsmen Club

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Coming Fall 2004

## 2nd Annual LAWNMOWER RACE

For race registration or sponsor information contact Frank McGillan (416)892-4111 or Scott Schlusser (416)471-9823

Look for the Sun-Tribune Citizen of the Year and Sports Person of the Year in Saturday's Stouffville Kinsmen Santa Claus Parade. Vehicles courtesy Houston Ford

A message from The War Amps  
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