

# Stouffville Sun-Tribune

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**17** Stouffville churches shipping love to needy in Africa, Ukraine

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STAFF PHOTO/BILL ROBERTS

## Parading imposters

1st Stouffville Scorpions Scouts were judged the most humorous entry in the Stouffville Kinsmen Santa Claus Parade along Main Street in Stouffville Saturday. The real Santa and his sleigh also took part in the 85-entry parade. For more pictures, see page 21. For Jim Thomas' view see his column on page 7.

## Area hunting grounds vanishing

BY MIKE HAYAKAWA  
 Staff Writer

The most challenging part of hunting in York Region isn't finding prey.

The real hunt comes trying to track down land to conduct the activity legally, without being hassled.

Hunters here are, after, white-tailed deer, wild turkeys and waterfowl.

"I always say the hardest part of hunting in southern Ontario is in hunting for a place to go hunting," said Wil Wegman, a Ministry of Natural Resources spokesperson from the Aurora district office.

Mr. Wegman knows of people who move from the northern reaches of the province to

southern Ontario and are surprised to find the limited amount of public land where hunting is permitted.

"They find it a culture shock when they are looking for a place to go hunting. It's not like where they lived back up north, where there's plenty of crown land to go hunting," he said.

To some extent, hunting opportunities in York Region are dwindling, confirmed John Almond, a fish and wildlife technical specialist with the ministry's Aurora office.

"One only has to look at the continual loss of rural land to urbanization for a reason.

Unfortunately, with the exception of the Oak Ridges Moraine and conservation planning around the Oak Ridges Moraine, a lot of

development will continue to occur around Newmarket, Aurora, Richmond Hill, Markham and Stouffville. These are centres that are close to the city and will continue to be developed," Mr. Almond said.

Major corridors like Newmarket-Aurora, Holland/Landing, and Keswick are expanding and with the 404 (highway) eventually going to Beaverton, that will bring more settlement to those areas in the future. Once developed, we won't be hunting in these places. Urban planning and hunting don't go together," he said.

As rural land is turned into urban neighbourhoods, municipalities have no choice but

See BOW, page 20.

TWO PHYSICIANS MOVE, ONE TEL

## Druggists feel doctor shortage 'crunch'

BY HANELORE VOLPE  
 Staff Writer

The shortage of doctors in Whitchurch-Stouffville means pharmacists are counselling patients more often regarding symptoms, over-the-counter medications and general health information.

"We are already feeling the crunch," pharmacist Farid Wassef of Guardian Houston Pharmacy in Stouffville said.

Within the past two years, two doctors moved their practices from Stouffville to Markham and another doctor was unable to continue his practice due to illness.

Some local doctors are not taking new patients. The doctor shortage was an issue in the municipal election.

"Throughout most of the province, a lot of pharmacists are picking up the slack with different programs," said Kim Cochrane, spokesperson for the Ontario Pharmacists Association. "Their role has somewhat shifted over the past number of years," she said.

The doctor shortage is being felt even more as people move beyond the suburbs to communities such as Stouffville, Mr. Wassef said, and pharmacists have to step up to the plate.

As a pharmacist who uses both traditional and alternative therapies including nutrition and lifestyle counselling, he believes pharmacists have to educate the public and the medical community about what they are doing.

He advocates a team approach between the two professions so that

See PHARMACISTS, page 19.

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