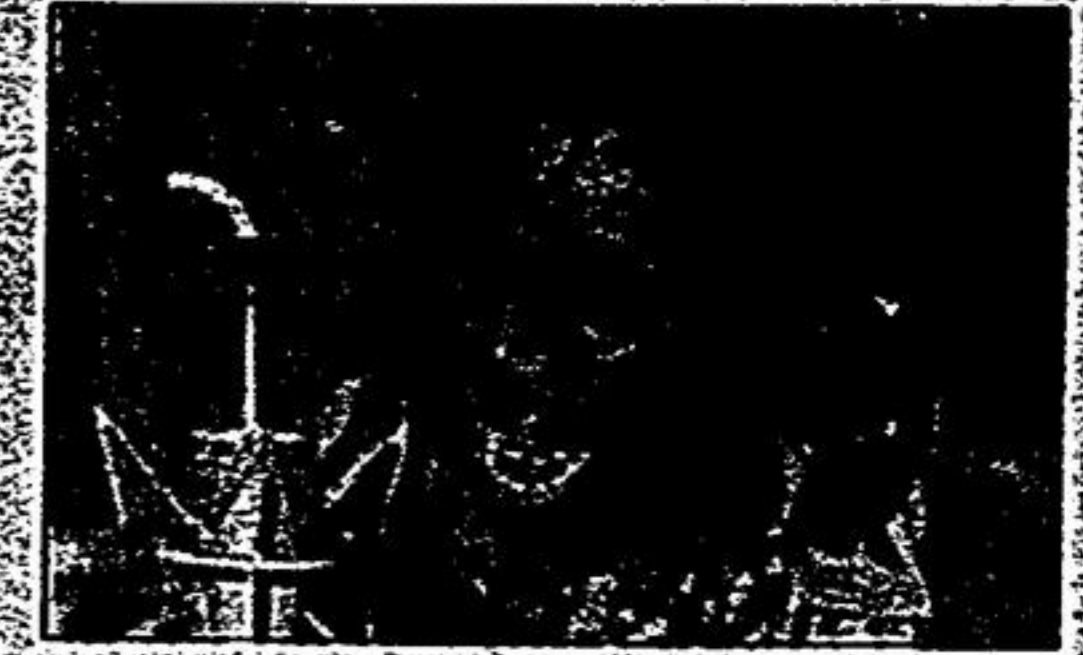


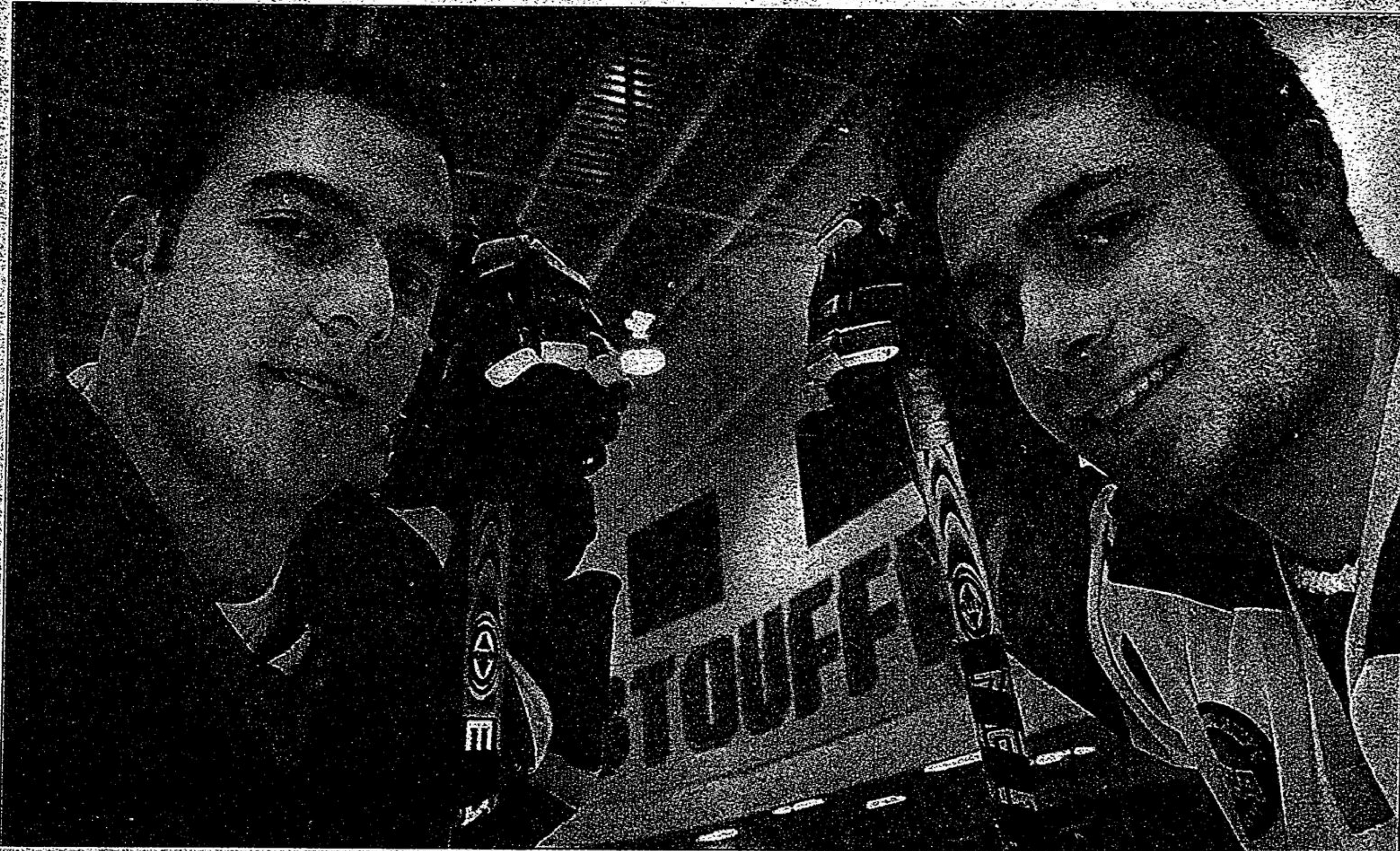
Stouffville Sun-Tribune

THURSDAY, DEC. 18, 2003 ■ SERVING THE COMMUNITY OF WHITCHURCH-STOUFFVILLE ■ 36 PAGES/\$1 INCLUDING GST



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STAFF PHOTO/MIKE BARRETT

Brothers to battle

Brothers Joseph Lombardo, left, of the Stouffville Amateur Hockey League All Stars and Michael Lombardo, captain of the Stouffville Spirit, face off Dec. 29 in a charity game benefitting cancer sufferer Janice Lovett and accident victim Luke Anderson, both of Stouffville.

Cancer sufferer keeping it simple

BY JOAN RANSBERRY
Staff Writer

Janis Lovett works hard at living a simple life.

The Whitchurch-Stouffville woman doesn't give much thought to materialism. Instead, her priority is family.

Mrs. Lovett's husband Steven and her nine-year-old son James share the lifestyle. It's a lifestyle adopted after doctors told Mrs. Lovett she had breast cancer Jan. 2, 2001.

Since then, the 34-year-old woman has undergone three surgeries for breast cancer and three surgeries for secondary cancers as well as chemotherapy and other treatments.

Last week, Mrs. Lovett underwent surgery

again, this time to remove cancerous tumors from her back.

Before she agrees to any surgery or before she takes a new therapy or even a pill, she does her research. Every decision linked to her health is based on education.

'LIFE WILL SPIT YOU OUT'

"I promised my family, I will make informed decisions," Mrs. Lovett said. "I have stood my ground. If you don't, life will spit you out."

The Lovetts live in an apartment in a country home on the Tenth Line. Its warmth and charm suit this small family. Mr. Lovett works for a local freight company and is able to be

home evenings to help his son, a student at Glad Park Public School, with his homework.

"We've down-sized a lot," Mrs. Lovett said. "It doesn't matter. You can't peg your life on things."

When life becomes so obviously precious, she draws on inner strength to find contentment.

Yes, it is an almost impossible time. But good things can come from bad. I work at trying to find the best that I can out of the day. I owe that to my family, to sit up and I take a breath of fresh air every morning. I get a glass of water or I get to go to town. If I don't, there's always tomorrow."

See HOCKEY, page 10.

DEMAND TOO HIGH FOR SUPPLY

Flu shots rationed in York Region

BY LISA QUEEN
Staff Writer

York Region's public health department is temporarily rationing flu vaccines to doctors' offices and medical clinics because it can't keep up with overwhelming demand, the director of infectious diseases control says.

"There is rationing. It's going out faster than it's coming in," Bill Mindell said.

"We can't fill everything they've asked for. But (we're telling them) 'Don't stop ordering it because we will fill it.' We're expecting more next week."

The department collects the vaccine from the province for the region and distributes doses to doctors and clinics.

Ontario, the only jurisdiction in the world offering every resident a free flu shot, has ordered 500,000 more units to bring its total to 6 million doses at a cost of more than \$30 million.

The order was increased because of high demand across the province, Ministry of Health spokesperson John Letherby said.

Mr. Letherby added York Region is the only jurisdiction he knows of that is rationing flu shots as more is manufactured.

"It's a supply issue," he said. "Meanwhile, supplies of the shot in the United States are dropping rapidly with at least 13 states facing flu outbreaks."

While Ontario has ordered sufficient quantities, Mr. Mindell said distribution can't keep up with demand, which has caused short-term rationing.

Signs have been posted at some

See FLU, page 11.

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