

Stouffville Sun-Tribune

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13 Diversions: stars of the bars play for love of music, not money

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Hospital takes over Uxbridge facility

'Natural alliance' for health-care centres

BY MARTIN DERBYSHIRE
 Staff Writer

Markham Stouffville Hospital officially takes the reigns of the former Lakeridge Health Uxbridge Monday, completing the hospital's transfer almost four years after realignment plans were announced.

Markham Stouffville takes the keys from the Oshawa-based Lakeridge Health after coming to an agreement in March 2003 and finally signing the deal last month.

Once the agreement was made, transfer of what will now be known as Uxbridge Cottage Hospital, a site of Markham Stouffville Hospital took almost a year, but Markham Stouffville vice-president Lorne Zon says that is normal.

'SMOOTH PROCESS'

"Throughout this process there really hasn't been any stumbling blocks," he said. "Our goal was no disruption to staff or patient care and it's been a smooth process."

However, lengthy amalgamation talks that started in 2000 stalled a year later when the Markham Stouffville board reportedly balked at the \$1.8 million technology price tag that came with realignment.

Mr. Zon says since then, new and cheaper technology has

See HOSPITALS, page 15.

OAK RIDGES MPP AWAITS EVES' RESIGNATION

Klees set to seek leadership

BY JOAN RANSBERRY
 Staff Writer

Premier Frank Klees has a certain ring to it.

The Oak Ridges MPP is one step away from seeking the Progressive Conservative leadership.

Later this month, Mr. Klees, 52, is expected to officially announce his plan to seek the leadership of the provincial Tory party.

As soon as party leader Ernie Eves steps down, Mr. Klees said he will launch a provincewide leadership campaign within the Conservative party.

"Ernie (Eves) made it very clear," Mr. Klees said. "He is stepping down."

The Eves-led Conservatives were soundly defeated by the Liberals in early September. "He

(Mr. Eves) agreed to stay on to ensure a proper transition. We expect his announcement (to retire) to come sometime in January," Mr. Klees said.

Party officials are targeting June or September for a leadership vote. Mr. Klees prefers the fall.

"September would give me more time to prepare," he said. "It's a very large province."

The provincial Tories have just shy of 100,000 registered members. Each member can vote for the new leader. Meanwhile, leadership candidates, including Mr. Klees, are expected to sign up new members in readiness for the vote.

Mr. Klees' pre-campaign work has started. He has advised Mr. Eves and his caucus colleagues of his

See KLEES, page 12.



STAFF PHOTO/BILL ROBERTS

FIRST IN TOWN FOR 2004

Tanya and Scott McKinley pose with baby Andrew, the first Whitchurch-Stouffville baby born at Markham Stouffville Hospital in 2004 — at 7 p.m. Jan. 1. Also pictured are the other McKinley children, Daniel, 3, and Paige, 2, at their Hoover Park Drive home. For more, see story on page 5.

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