



16 Winter rallies a fun race against time, elements

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# Stouffville Sun-Tribune

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## Business as usual at body rub parlours

*But some owners taking precautions*

BY MARTIN DERBYSHIRE  
Staff Writer

For the most part, it was business as usual for York Region body rub parlours this week, despite police linking a weekend triple homicide in Markham to their trade.

Christy, a Polish immigrant and massage attendant at the Majestic Spa on Don Park Road in Markham, just blocks from the Mirage Spa where police suspect the murders occurred Saturday, said she is definitely concerned.

"Of course I am scared," she said, her voice shaking, struggling with the language.

Majestic Spa screens clients and has security cameras throughout, easing some of her fears, Christy said.

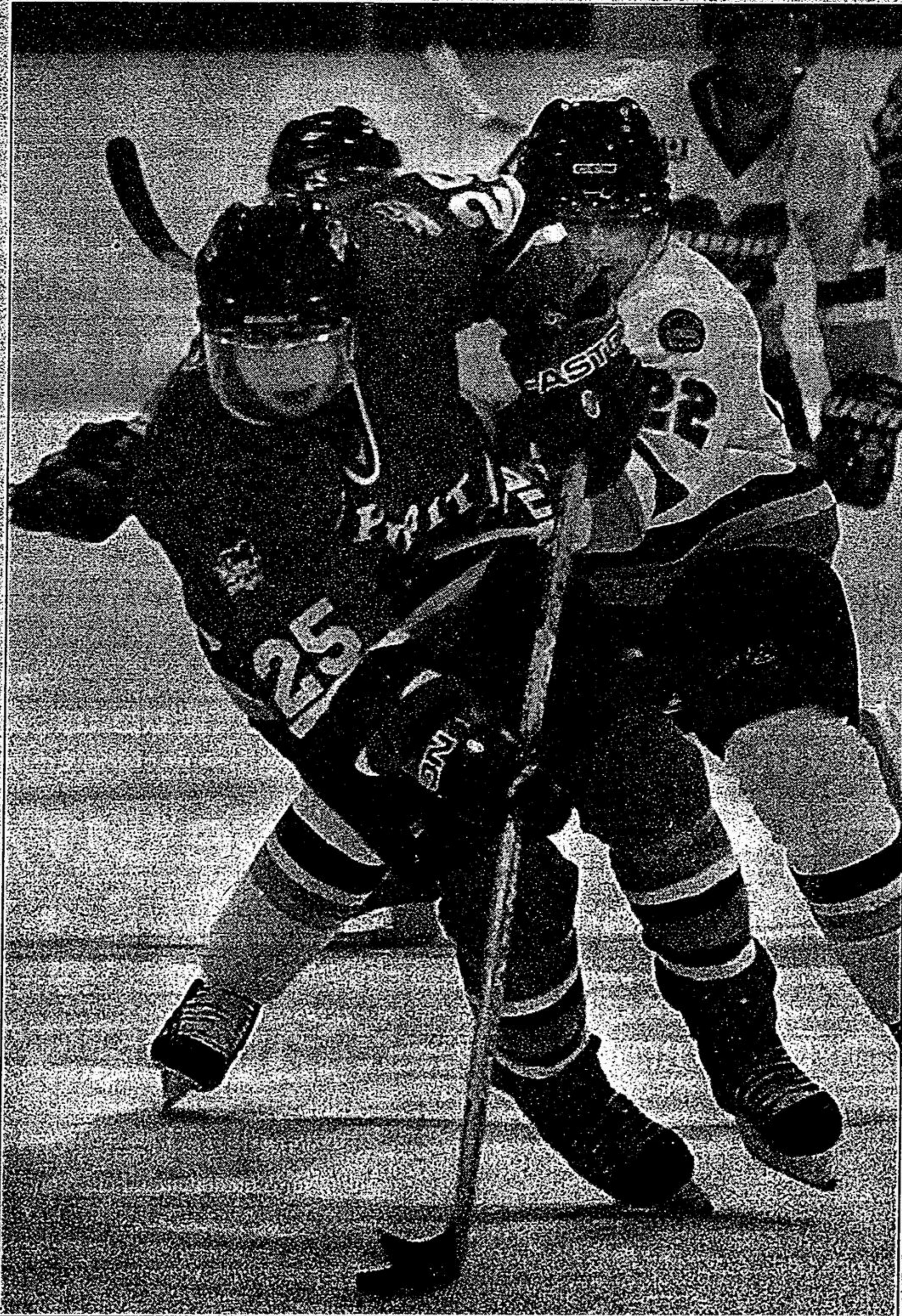
Meanwhile, sitting behind the front desk of a Vaughan massage parlour in a revealing white teddy, body rub attendant Tiffany seemed unaffected by the incident, which police said involved the shooting of two female body rub employees and a male friend.

"It's horrible," she said, "but it doesn't make me scared to come to work."

Work for her is inside a small, cheaply furnished unit of a non-descript industrial plaza. It is one of about 100 similar body rub parlours.

See BODY, page 5.

## Puck pied piper



STAFF PHOTO/MIKE BARRETT

Stouffville Spirit forward Shane Baxter leads a parade of pursuing Thornhill Major Islanders during Thursday's Provincial Junior A Hockey League playoff battle at the Stouffville Arena. Thornhill won the game 6-4 and tied the series 2-2. See page 15 for details.

## Cost to keep police \$6M

*Deal was part of contract, Barrow*

BY ROY GREEN  
Staff Writer

Whether it's called retention pay, recognition pay or a police allowance, taxpayers are forking out almost \$6 million in bonuses to encourage York Regional Police officers to stay on the job.

The three-year contract signed by the police board last September called for 2003 bonuses of 3 per cent for officers with eight years on the job, 4 per cent for 17 years service and 5 per cent for 23 years service — which added \$1.2 million to last year's police budget.

In 2004 and 2005, the retention bonuses are at 3 per cent, 6 per cent and 9 per cent, which adds \$4.2 million to the 2004 budget and about \$300,000 in 2005, over and above regular salary hikes and cost-of-living increases in the contract.

"I'm very concerned about the ripple effect of this decision on police forces across the province; it has a huge impact in 2004 and 2005 — forever," Markham Mayor Don Cousens told the region's finance committee this week — a meeting called to deal with the \$140-million 2004 police budget.

"When you made a decision which had such an impact on the 2003 budget, did you ask us?" Mr. Cousens, finance committee chairperson, asked police services chairperson Dave Barrow.

See OTHER, page 13.

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