



17 It's all downhill for York Region toboggan fans on best slopes

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# Stouffville Sun-Tribune

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## Tsunami trauma hits York

Immigrants, residents require counselling

BY MIKE ADLER  
Staff Writer

Thousands of local families carry the pain of the Asian disaster and York Region must prepare to welcome thousands more people who may be traumatized, a group of social agencies says.

Special rules to speed emigration from tsunami-struck areas mean the region will soon have new residents, including hundreds of children, who need special counselling, said Ranjit Kumar, a leader of Rapid Reaction Initiative.

"A lot of work is being done overseas but this event has cascaded on to our shores also," said the Whitchurch-Stouffville resident, a United Way of York Region board member.

### DISPLACED BY DISASTER

Greater Toronto is home to the largest Sri Lankan community outside the South Asian nation. People displaced by the tsunami are most likely to settle in Scarborough and Markham, Mr. Kumar added this week.

"It is going to be a GTA problem."

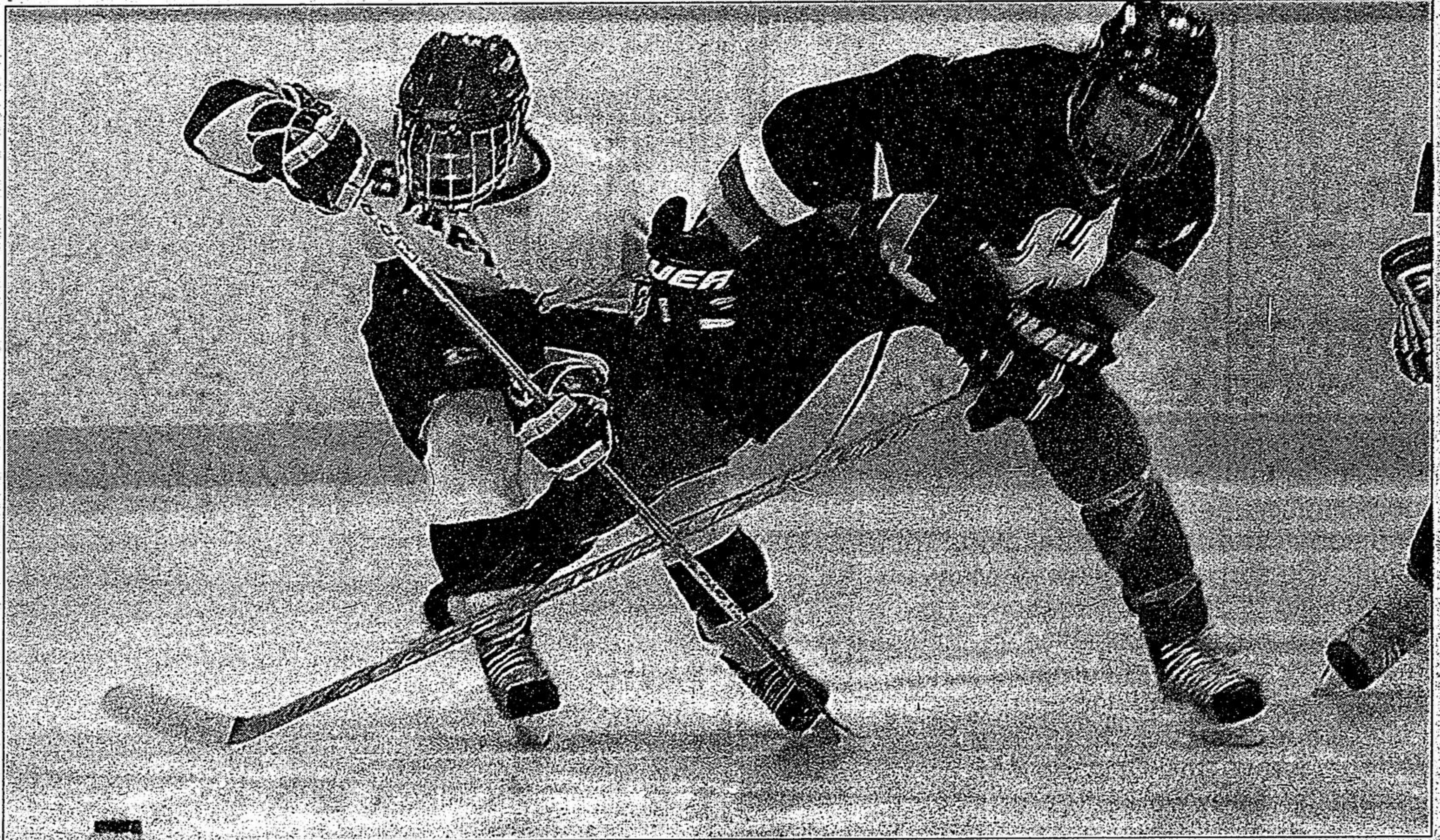
Meanwhile, thousands already in York are hurting, some of them having lost dozens of relatives.

"In a whole lot of families, children were utterly traumatized by this. It is a kind of mental health problem," Mr. Kumar said.

RRI members and the region's health and education providers

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## SPARTANS FELLED FOR FIRST TIME



STAFF PHOTO/SJOERD WITTEVEEEN

Stouffville District Secondary School Spartan Justin Hitchen (left) and Newmarket Huron Heights Secondary School Warrior James Livingston battle for the puck in York Region high school hockey action at Stouffville Arena Thursday. Stouffville suffered its first loss of the season, 5-3.

## CONSUMERS WANT CONTROLS ON BOOZE, MPP KLEES ARGUES

# Opinions mixed on alcohol in corner stores

BY PATRICK MANGION  
Staff Writer

Finance Minister Greg Sorbara's announcement alcohol could be sold in corner stores has sparked the same difference of opinion among York Region residents that killed the idea back when it was floated by the Mike Harris Conservatives and the David Peterson Liberals.

Aurora resident Edwin Carriere said Ontario should have followed

the lead of his native Quebec years ago.

Beer is sold in convenience stores, or dépanneurs, throughout Quebec, although it costs more.

"It's convenient. I think it's OK so long as they keep the LCBO and Beer Store," Mr. Carriere said.

But if it isn't broken, don't fix it, Valerie Winter said.

"I'd prefer things were left as is. I don't think we need to pick up our

alcohol with groceries," she said.

Without government scrutiny, alcohol sales in convenience stores could pose a safety risk, Biagio Dellelce said.

"I think they should keep things the way they are. It's controlled. With easier access, who knows what will go on," Mr. Dellelce said. "It will be easier for kids to get, that's for sure."

Oak Ridges Tory MPP Frank

Klees expressed similar concerns.

"The more proliferation (of alcohol sales), the less control you have," Mr. Klees said, adding accessibility is not a significant concern to most residents.

"Consumers want quality, accessibility and appropriate controls," he said.

Mr. Klees was part of the Harris Tory government that proposed

See BOOZE, page 10.

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