



8 Ballantrae students, songwriters raise voices for tsunami victims

Opinion6
 Total Home11
 Sports13
 Classified18

Hospital's first MRI eliminates road trips
Ailing ex-councillor needed \$3.4M tool

BY JOAN RANSBERRY - Staff Writer

Markham Stouffville Hospital is poised to launch its \$3.4-million magnetic resonance imaging service.

No one is more pleased to see it than Markham resident Gordon Landon.

The former York Regional councillor took ill in 2002. Suffering severe pain in his right leg, a doctor called for an MRI, a diagnostic tool for a wide variety of ailments including multiple sclerosis, spinal column compression and brain tumours.

FOUR-MONTH WAIT

While Mr. Landon was pleased the service existed, he was disappointed to learn it couldn't be carried out at Markham Stouffville Hospital. Not only did Mr. Landon have to wait four months, he had to travel to Southlake Regional Health Centre in Newmarket to have the procedure done.

"Although I could still walk at that time, I was in a great deal of pain," Mr. Landon said. "It's a long trip when you're hurting. Also, it was a long walk once I got to the hospital. I realized then how difficult it was for people to go through this."

A second MRI was required. It meant yet another long wait. By the time it was done, Mr. Landon

See MORE, page 7.

MONEY FROM YORK REGION FOR TSUNAMI VICTIMS LIKELY SPENT

Province asked to probe aid

BY PATRICK MANGION - Staff Writer

An Aurora councillor is calling for a provincial investigation of the region's \$500,000 donation to tsunami victims.

Councillor Evelyn Buck looked on Thursday as regional council ratified a finance committee decision from earlier this month without comment. The cheques, \$375,000 to

the Canadian Red Cross and \$125,000 to World Vision, were sent before council formally approved the donation.

"I'm not saying we shouldn't be giving where the need exists. It should be from the right level (of government)," Ms Buck said.

York's Red Cross branch received the donation Jan. 10 and the money has likely already been spent to help

victims of the tsunamis in southern Asia, said Carol Law, the charity's community services co-ordinator.

"The donation, as with all donations, was processed and deposited immediately," Ms Law said.

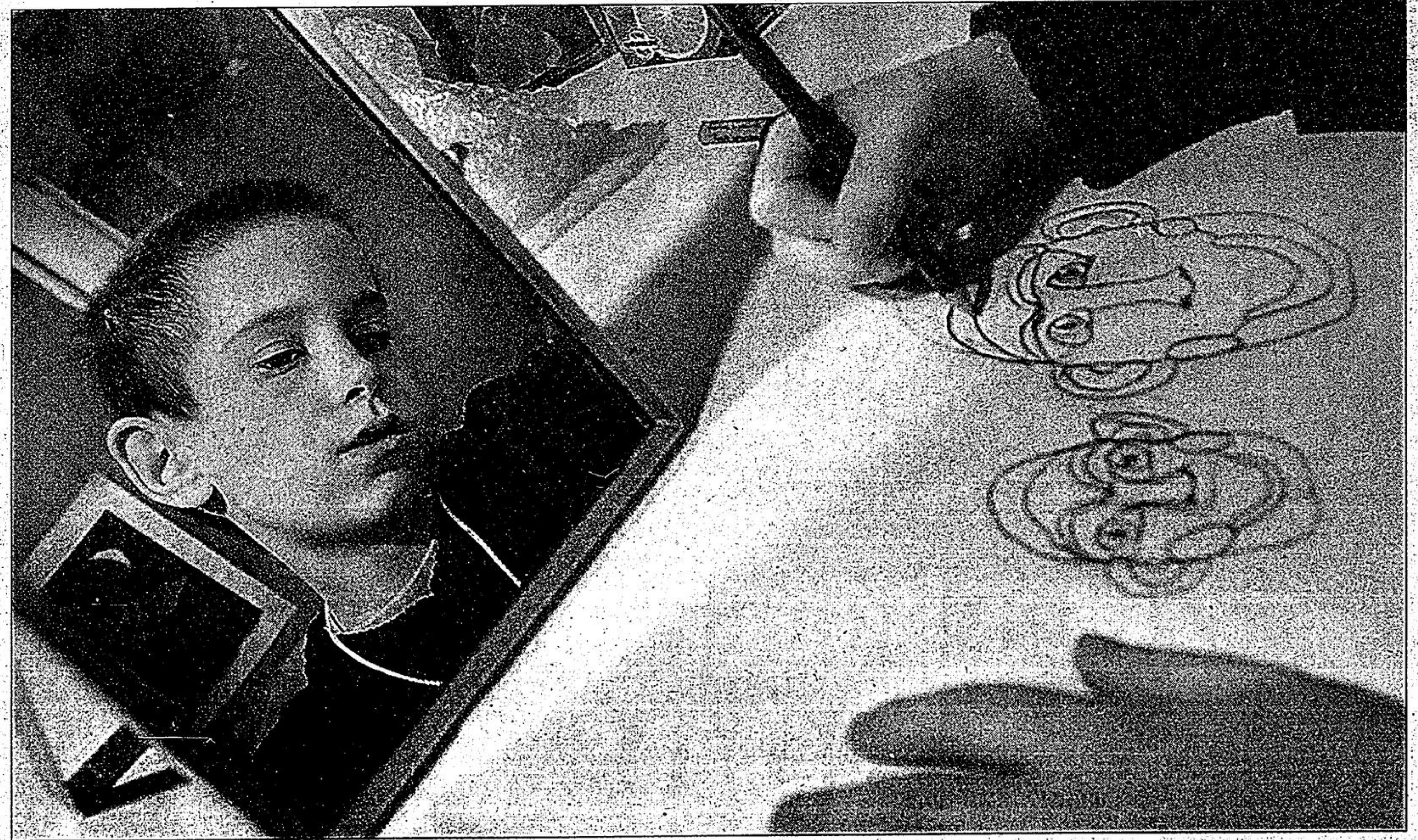
But Ms Buck is now appealing to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs to intervene.

"The region brook no interference from any member of the

public. They don't consider themselves accountable to anybody," she said.

While international aid has traditionally been the domain of the federal government, the region's donation was permissible under provincial law, said Debbie Chen-Yin, the ministry's manager of municipal performance and accountability.

See PROVINCIAL, page 10.



STAFF PHOTO/BILL ROBERTS

GOING MOBILE

Gavin Masterson, 8, checks his reflection in a mirror as he draws his self-portrait while creating a wire mobile of his face during Latcham Gallery's morning art classes for children at the Silver Jubilee senior citizens club.

Seaway Pools & Hot Tubs
 27 HERITAGE RD., MARKHAM
 294-8030
 beachcomber

MARKHAM Honda
 8220 KENNEDY RD. MARKHAM
 905 477-2451
 www.markhamhonda.com

\$68⁸⁸* WINTER PERFORMANCE PACKAGE

For peak performance this summer, don't open your hood to strangers. Bring your vehicle home to Honda for a comprehensive multi-point inspection, plus a Genuine Honda oil and filter change.

BRING IT HOME TO HONDA

*Available for most Honda models. Taxes not included. Provincial environmental fees, if any, excluded.

HONDA GENUINE PARTS & SERVICE

Sutton GROUP
 Town and Country Realty Ltd.
 640-0888