

# Stouffville Sun-Tribune

THURSDAY, MAY 5, 2005 ■ SERVING THE COMMUNITY OF WHITCHURCH-STOUFFVILLE ■ 36 PAGES/\$1 INCLUDING GST



**25** Music Mania takes bow after 45th Stouffville show

Opinion .....	6
Education .....	15
Calendar .....	8
Sports .....	29



STAFF PHOTO/BILL ROBERTS

## Does whatever a spider can

Tristan Hayward, 3, makes it out of the smoke demonstration in Sparky's Bedroom during YorkKids safety day events at the York Region Community Safety Village in Bruce's Mill Conservation Area Saturday. The new village officially opens May 14 with tours from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

## York hospitals feeling funding gap

BY CHRIS TRABER  
Staff Writer

York residents are being shortchanged to the tune of \$554 each in hospital funding, according to a report released Tuesday by the GTA/905 Healthcare Alliance.

The average Ontarian gets \$1,183 a year in total health care funding, excluding OHIP payments and contributions to drug plans. York Region residents get \$629.

The State of Hospital Care in the GTA/905, 2005, the first comprehensive accountability report on the status of hospital care in the regions surrounding Toronto, states York Region gets \$251 million less in hospital funding than the provincial average. The shortfall is

\$544 million across the GTA.

"That represents \$212 less in (GTA/905) per capita funding than what other regions of the province receive to deliver hospital care," alliance executive director Tariq Asmi said. "For York residents, on a per capita basis, the gap is \$554. We are now feeling the effects of this historic underfunding."

On average, each York resident gets \$366 a year for hospital acute care, compared to a provincial average of \$704.

In contrast, York taxpayers contribute \$169 million in health care premiums to Ontario's \$2.2-billion health budget.

"The numbers are unbalanced," Southlake Regional Health Centre president Dan

Carriere said. "My thinking is that this isn't something that relates to any particular government. Rather, it's something that's been building for the past 15 years or so.

"We've been cost efficient and it's not a matter of trying to get ahead of the curve. Rather, it's an issue of getting closer to the provincial average. That would mean significant improvements in health care."

The report, gleaned from data provided by member organizations, including York's three hospitals, the Ministry of Health and Ontario Hospital Association, identified two glaring concerns.

See CARE, page 13.

LEBOVIC UNHAPPY GERANIUM APPROVED

## Hwy. 48 site wins big box fight

BY HANNELORE VOLPE  
Staff Writer

The big box complex proposed for Hwy. 48 south of Ringwood got Whitchurch-Stouffville council's unanimous approval Tuesday night.

A 160,000-square-foot Wal-Mart store will be one of the major tenants in the 467,000-square-foot retail and commercial space to be built by Geranium Corporation. The complex could also include a 68,000-square-foot Canadian Tire and similar-sized home improvement centre.

The original plans called for a Wal-Mart that was 50,000 square feet smaller. The total area of retail and commercial space won't change. Other stores will be made smaller to accommodate the larger Wal-Mart.

A similar proposal by Lebovic Enterprises Ltd. on Ninth Line south of Stouffville was turned down by council.

Presentations were also made Tuesday by Hillmount Properties Ltd., for the Stouffville Country Market lands, and Anderson Haulage Limited, which had proposed a big box development on its lands on Main Street.

"All of these commercial developments should be approved. Eighty-two per cent of our tax dollars are supported by residential taxes. That has to change," Helene Johnson, president of the Whitchurch-Stouffville Chamber of Commerce, said.

The proposal by Geranium also received support from the downtown Stouffville Business

See LEBOVIC, page 20.

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