Same-sex marriage still debatable: clergy

BY CHRIS TRABER Staff Writer

So, the same-sex marriage debate is over, right?

Tuesday's 158 to 133 vote in the House of Commons approved Bill C-38, making same-sex marriage legal nationwide and guaranteeing the rights of religious institutions to decide their own marriage policies.

Case closed, right?

Some clergy, such as Father Michael Machcek of St. Patrick's Catholic Church in Markham, are concerned another legal battle is looming.

'There is a fear that there will be civil litigation because people may feel their rights are being violated (by being denied a church ceremony)," he said.

'The government could punish us by taking away our status as a registered charity. But that's just number 84 on our list of concerns."

PRIDE York Region chairperson Kevin McBean sees the same possibility.

"Because of all the challenges and because it's an exclusionary practice, (civil litigation) wouldn't surprise me. It would be a logical next step.

There's specific language around the performing of the ceremony. External to that, denying access to a church or parish hall for the reception could be discriminatory based on sexual orientation, said Mr. McBean, whose nonprofit organization educates and advocates on behalf of the gay and lesbian community.

"Personally, it is an issue, but he right to marriage is more important," he said.

"If that's their belief, it's their right to hold that belief. What's key is not to have one human right cancel out another."

Jaffari Islamic Centre Imam Syed Rizvi is confident the new law will not impact his congregation.

"The Islamic faith does not allow, accept or recognize same- sex marriage," Imam Rizvi said.

"I don't think there's any likelihood of any member of the Muslim community approaching me. I have not been asked, nor would I perform a marriage between people of the same sex if I were asked. The bill, as I understand it, gives all faiths that option.



"The Qur'an denounces homosexuality. We, as a Muslim community, have issues with changing the definition of marriage."

Bridle Trail Baptist Church won't be offering same-sex marriages either, Rev. Timothy Ngo said. "No same-sex marriages, based on our beliefs and Bible teachings. On that we stand firm," he

Rev. Ngo, whose congregation is largely Chinese-Canadian, said he has counselled individuals on the issue but has not been asked to preside over a same-sex marriage.

"If I were approached, I would say no," he said.

"If they were Christians, I would suggest they go to the Bible. Besides, our Chinese culture is founded on strong, traditional family concepts."

24 hours a day, 7 days a week

1-888-HSF-INFO

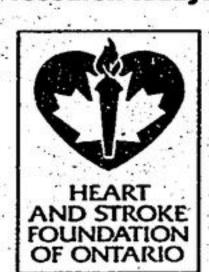
Call

to make your

donation towards

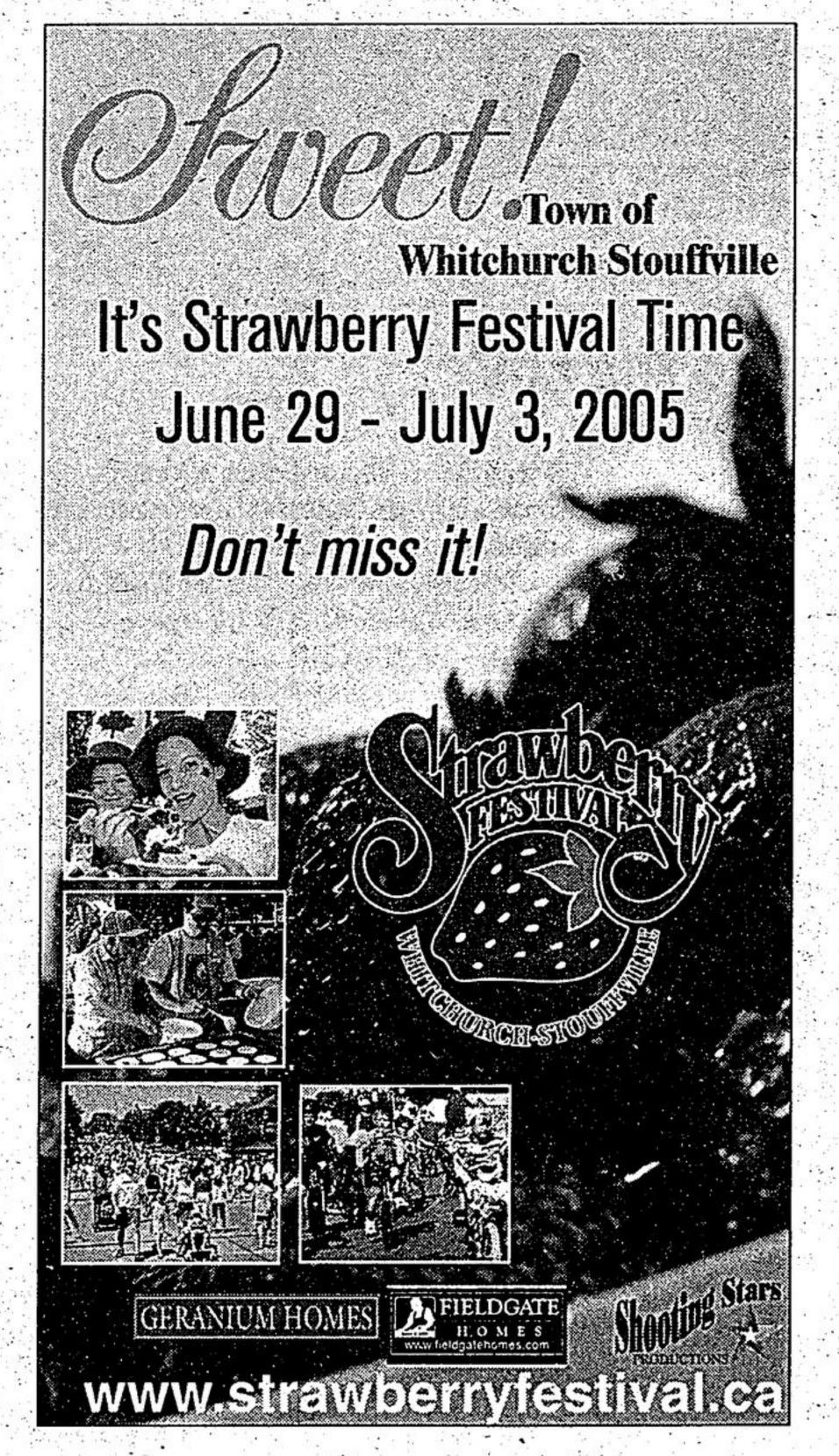
life-saving

research today!



Heart disease and stroke claim more than 79,000 lives each year in Canada.

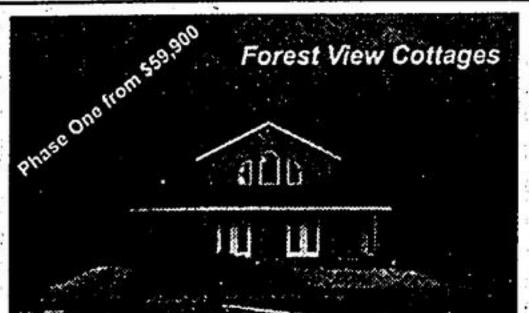
This message brought to you as a community service of The Economist & Sun-







Enjoy a \$650,000 cottage for a fraction of the cost



Join us for a tour of our model home and enjoy a BBQ

Affordable, maintenance-free log cottages near Bancroft Don't stay home this weekend wishing you could afford a cottage - visit our Open House July 1, 2 and 3 and find out how easy it is to enjoy a cottage cheaper than renting!

Just a short 2.5 hour drive from the GTA you can enjoy an 1867 Confederation Log Home on beautiful Baptiste Lake. Forest View Cottages offers hassle-free cottaging without maintenance concerns or the high cost of ownership. Thanks to our fractional-lease program, you can enjoy a spectacular cottage for five weeks each year for the next 50 years starting at \$59,900. That's cheaper than renting!

Open House: July 1, 2 and 3, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Watch the sunrise over Baptiste Lake ... join the kids as they splash along the beach ... go fishing for the big one ... it's all yours at Forest View Cottages.

386 Forest View Road • Information: 613-332-3173 • Visit: www.ForestViewCottages.com

and the same of th



"Callers never have to identify themselves or testify in court" "Cash rewards for anonymous tips that lead to an arrest" 1-800-222-TIPS or www.crimestoppersyr.ca

This message brought to you as a community service of The Economist/Sun-Tribune

RECYCLED TRANSPORTATION

HOUSTON FORD'S PRE-OWNED VEHICLES ARE "BEST OF THE BEST" AND COUNTRY PRICED TOO! **HERE'S 10 EXAMPLES**

Stock#	Year	<u>Model</u>	<u>Colour</u>	<u>Mileage</u>	<u>Price</u>
U3158	2002	F-150 Supercrew	Silver	55KMS	\$27,995
A3123	2004	LINCOLN LS Loaded	Green	16KMS	\$35,500
A3119	2005	FOCUS ZXW	Grey	15KMS	\$18,595
A3109	2004	EXPLORER Sportrac XLT	Silver	19KMS	\$27,995



Here is a BRAND NEW RANGER at used car price was \$27,860 BLOW OUT \$22,995!



A3116	2002	F-150 Supercab XLT	Black	58KMS	\$22,995
U3142	1999	WINDSTAR SE	Geen	117KMS	\$10,995
U3161	2002	WINDSTAR Sport	Silver	75KMS	\$14,995
A3149	2005	ESCAPE Ltd.	Silver	20KMS	\$27,995

HOUSTON FORD

5786 MAIN ST., STOUFFVILLE . .. 15 Minutes North of Markham off Hwy. #48 905-640-4541

OES YOUR RENTAL PROPERTY NEED MAJOR REPAIRS?



REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS

Residential Rehabilitation Assistance Program (RRAP)

Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) is providing an opportunity for landlords in Ontario under the Residential Rehabilitation Assistance Program (RRAP).



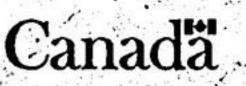
Limited funds are available in 2005 to repair or rehabilitate a rental or roominghouse property to a minimum level of health and safety or to convert non-residential properties into affordable rental or roominghouse accommodations.

Homeowners and private entrepreneurs owning existing family residential properties in Ontario may also apply for RRAP funding to create secondary suites or garden suites for low-income seniors and disabled adults.



Landlords must submit applications by 4:30 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time, July 29, 2005. Applications received after this time will not be considered. To obtain an application package, visit www.cmhc.ca/ontario, or call 1-800-704-6488 or e-mail rrap_ontario@cmhc-schl.gc.ca

Please note: Application submission does not guarantee financial assistance. Funding is available for "Off Reserve" properties only. Work started before loan approval is not eligible for funding.





see selections