



11 Haggis on the menu at night in honour of Burns

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Stouffville Sun-Tribune

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Stouffville's first baby early and late

BY JOAN RANSBERRY
Staff Writer

Whitchurch-Stouffville's first baby of 2006 came early.

While James George Barbesin was born at Markham Stouffville Hospital Jan. 8, he wasn't expected until Feb. 5.

Coming a week after the dawn of 2006, parents Helena and Warren Barbesin were surprised to learn their son is the town's New Year's baby.

Since James George made his grand entrance nearly a month early, his father, an avid hockey fan, will be able to hold his son while he watches the Toronto Maple Leaf-Ottawa Senators game Saturday. Sporting a Leaf hat, the little guy will be dressed for the game.

Liam McGuire of Mount Albert, born at 12:17 a.m., Jan. 1 at Markham Stouffville, became York Region's first baby of 2006, while Brayden Chiu, Markham's first 2006 babe, arrived 17 hours later at 5:17 p.m.

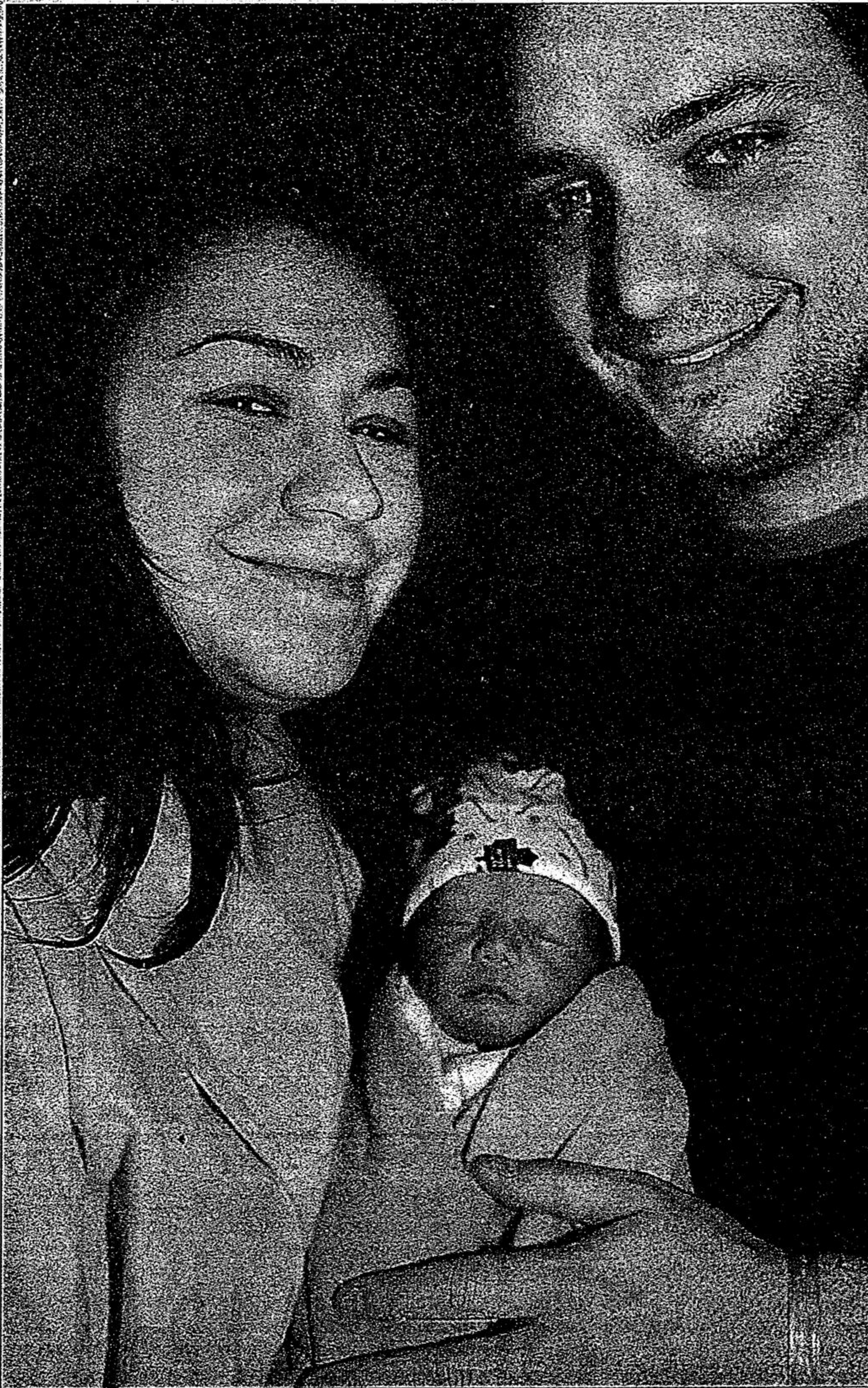
Staff cheered just as loudly when James George arrived eight days later.

The parents are very pleased. "We are excited and overwhelmed by his birth," Mr. Barbesin said. "We were thrilled to be told he's the New Year's baby."

Mom and the six-pound, 12-ounce boy arrived at their Rupert Avenue home Tuesday evening.

Mr. Barbesin works in information technology in a Toronto firm, while his wife is employed in the city's courts.

James George is the first grandchild on his mother's side, while he's the fourth for his paternal grandparents.



Helena and Warren Barbesin hold Whitchurch-Stouffville's first 2006 baby, James George Barbesin. Dressed in Toronto Maple Leaf gear, he'll be watching the Leafs-Ottawa game with his dad Saturday.

STAFF PHOTO/SJOERD WITTEVEN

Doctors, Big Pipe dominate debate

'Want a doctor, hail a cab,' Oak Ridges NDP hopeful says

BY JOAN RANSBERRY
Staff Writer

The snapshot shows the Liberal vote going south, the Conservatives daring to hope for a majority, the Green Party getting noticed and, in King Township, the New Democrat throwing the knockout punch.

There's a quick solution to the nationwide doctor shortage, Oak Ridges-Markham NDP candidate Pamela Courtot told the 125 people who attended an all-candidates debate at Seneca College-King campus Tuesday.

"If you want a doctor, hail a cab," Ms. Courtot said. "The doctor shortage is not just rural. People in King Township can't find a doctor. People in Stouffville can't find a doctor. We're not living out in the hinterlands. We have lots of doctors driving cabs."

All four federal candidates outlined how they would handle health care, daycare, violent crime, education, foreign affairs and the Charter of Rights and Freedoms, but the audience sat up and took the most notice when the controversial York-Durham Big Pipe issue landed on the table.

Liberal Lui Temelkovski played it safe, promising to continue to meet with stakeholders.

Both Ms. Courtot and Green Party candidate Steve Armes called for a full environmental assessment, while Conservative Bob Callow recommended more monitoring to make sure the project isn't causing damage.

"The Big Pipe is a complex issue," Mr.

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