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16 Mind over matter goes a long way on golf course

Opinion 6
 Sports 12
 Movies 17
 Classified 26

Newborn 10,000th stem cell client

Baby's frozen blood can be used later

BY MICHAEL POWER
Staff Writer

For Cathy and Joe Crngarov, freezing a little blood means they can breath easier about the health of their two young sons.

"I just feel relaxed and reassured," said Ms. Crngarov, as her 19-month-old son, Michael, playfully grabs her nose.

"Comforting is a great word to describe it."

When Michael was born, the Crngarovs had the blood from the umbilical cord stored with Cells for Life, a company based at Markham Stouffville Health Centre since 1997.

The company freezes the blood, which can later be used to treat diseases such as leukemia.

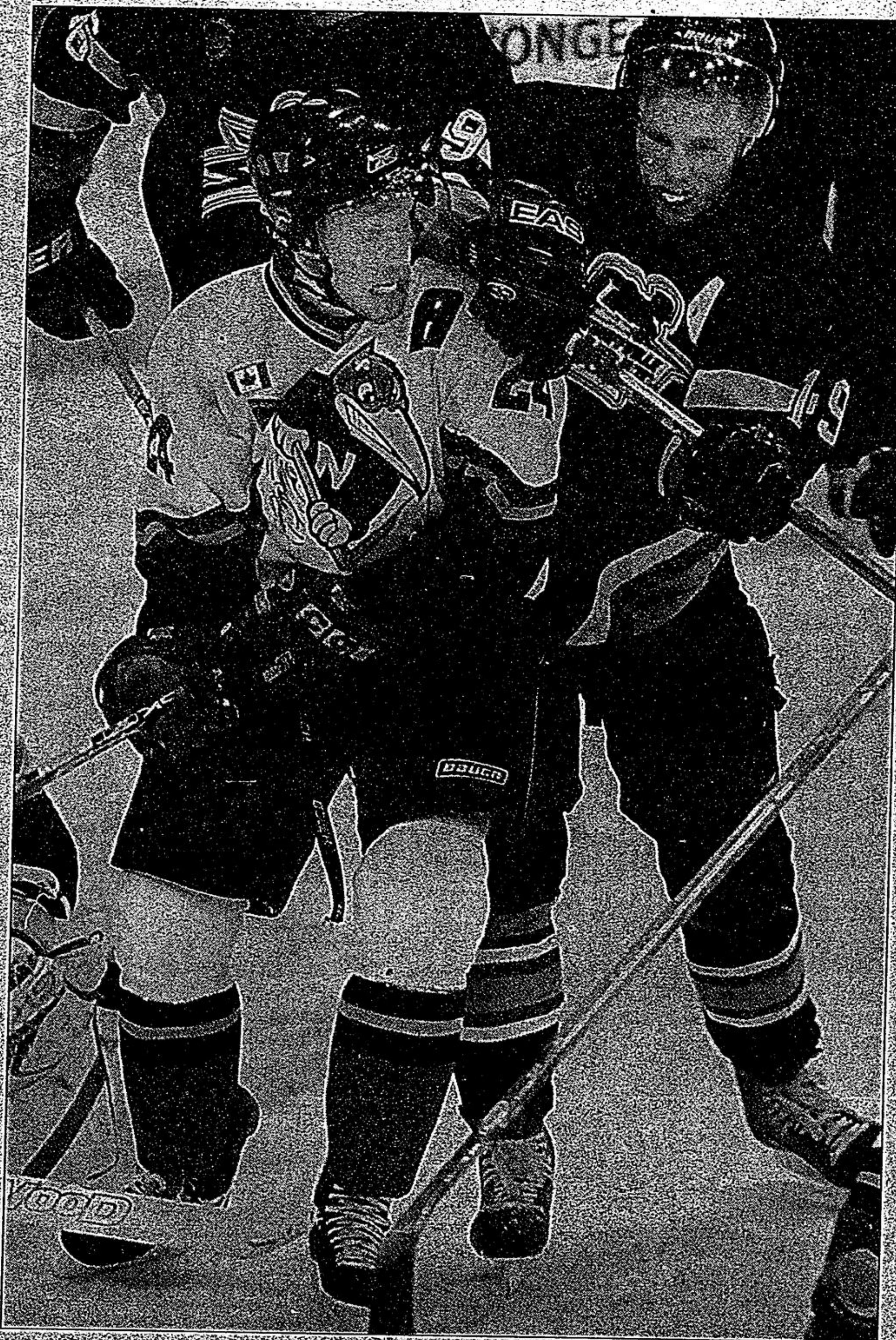
On Feb. 19 the couple had their second child, Joseph, at Markham Stouffville Hospital and also preserved the cord blood.

That made the Crngarovs the 10,000th client at Cells for Life, an event the company's administrative director calls "a milestone."

"It's significant and the reason why is York Region has one of the largest cord blood stem cell banks in Canada," said Jane Virro, whose husband, Dr. Michael Virro, founded the company.

See FEES, page 11.

Spirit struggle in Game 1



STAFF PHOTO/BILL ROBERTS

Newmarket Hurricane Ryan Burkholder (left) and Jake Van Allen of Stouffville Spirit battle for position in front of the Canes' goal during Game 1 of their playoff series in Provincial Jr. A hockey action at Ray Twiney Recreation Complex Thursday. Hurricanes won 5-1.

COOL \$1M SHRINKS IN HOT MARKET

About 80 \$1 million homes for sale across York Region

BY CAROLINE GRECH
Staff Writer

Once upon a time, a \$1 million home would evoke visions of a mansion-style castle sitting on a sprawling property, overlooking a beautiful lake.

Now, what you get for a million bucks isn't quite as clear as that pinnacle of luxury home ownership is becoming more common in affluent York Region.

From a five-bedroom home in Aurora to a luxury 2,896-square-foot condominium in Markham, \$1 million doesn't guarantee an eye-popping property.

"Ten years ago, what you would have seen for \$1 million would have blown you away. Now it might not blow everyone away," said Rocco Racioppo, an associate real estate broker with Re/Max.

Sales of upper-end homes in the GTA continue to rise with a 33-per-cent increase in the first quarter of 2005 compared to the same period one year ago, according to Re/Max Ontario-Atlantic Canada.

With more than 80 York Region properties listed at \$1 million or more, there's no shortage for the discerning buyer. But spending that kind of money doesn't always translate into a one-of-a-kind home.

That all depends on where in the region you purchase the property, Gary Rutledge,

See WHAT, page 8.

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