

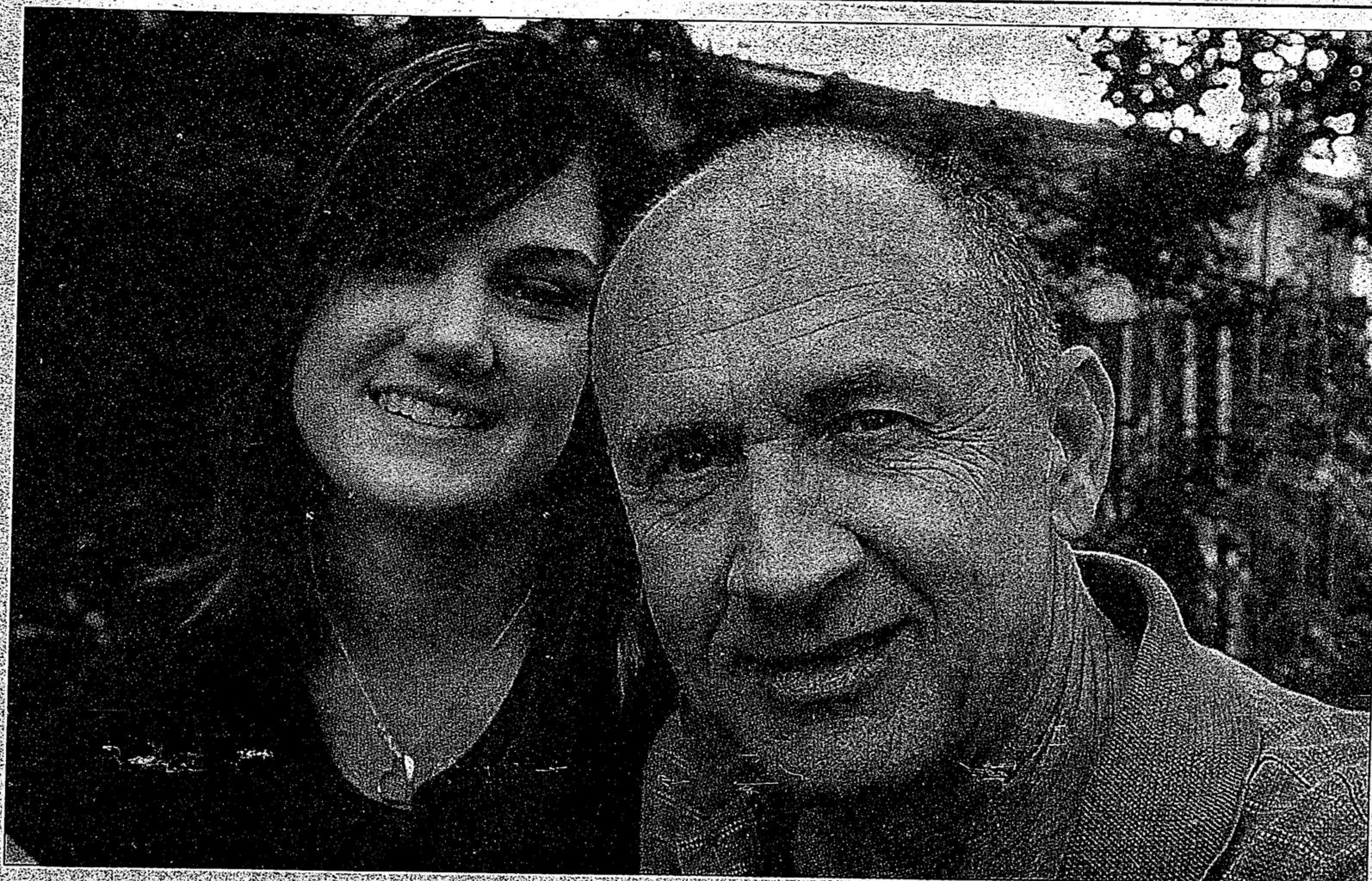
Stouffville Sun-Tribune

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19 Don't go cheap when gearing up for minor hockey season

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Terry Neprily and daughter Bonnie (left) will be running in the Terry Fox Run with Terry's wife, Jane and their other daughter, Anna. Mr. and Mrs. Neprily have both battled cancer. Mr. Neprily's band, The Buzz, will play at the run from the Stouffville Arena Sept. 17.

STAFF PHOTO/SJOERD WITTEVEEN

MOM, DAD DO TERRY FOX RUN AFTER BATTLING DISEASE

Family fighting back against cancer

BY HANNELORE VOLPE
 Staff Writer

Stouffville's Terry Neprily doesn't call himself a cancer survivor.

Not yet.

The devastating disease became an unwelcome guest in the Neprily household last November. After suffering through back pain for a few months, a tumour was discovered in one of Mr. Neprily's kidneys.

After surgeons removed the kidney at Markham Stouffville Hospital, further tests revealed the cancer had spread to one of his vertebrae.

The bone was removed in another operation a month later and rebuilt "with a lot of

pins" and donations from the bone bank.

They were troubling times for the Neprily family, wife Jane and two daughters, Anna, 24, and Bonnie, 21.

"They were worried because the cancer had spread to the bone in my middle back. Kidney cancer spreads quickly and is unpredictable," the 53-year-old said. The possibility of paralysis was one of the fears confronting doctors and the family.

Every time Mr. Neprily goes for a CAT scan, they hold their breath. The next one is this month.

He'll be tested every three to six months for the next couple of years and less often after that. He had no chemotherapy or radi-

ation, but he won't really consider himself a cancer survivor until he's been free of the disease for several years.

While the whole process was incredibly hard on the family, "they were awesome," Mr. Neprily said.

This isn't the first time cancer has reached into the household. About seven years ago, Mrs. Neprily was diagnosed with breast cancer. Fortunately, early screening meant the cancer was caught at a very early stage. After surgery and radiation, she has continued to be cancer-free.

"She is the good news story," Mr.

See **CANCER**, page 17.

COOLER WEATHER
 DOESN'T END THREAT

W. Nile case first in region

BY MICHAEL POWER
 Staff Writer

A 47-year-old Markham woman is the first person in York Region to get West Nile virus, prompting a warning to watch out for mosquitoes even as the weather cools.

"We want to remind people that mosquitoes are still flying around and will be until the first frost," the region's acting medical officer of health, Karim Kurji, said Friday.

"People shouldn't have a false sense of security right now."

The Markham case was discovered Thursday. The woman did not need to be hospitalized and is recovering at home, Dr. Kurji said.

West Nile virus can cause fatal inflammation of the brain or meningitis in more than 100 bird species, as well as humans.

In some cases, people who contract the virus have no symptoms and might not know they have been infected. Others may get flu-like symptoms and a rash.

The most severe cases (less than 1 per cent) cause inflammation of the brain that leads to muscle weakness, headaches, stiff neck, vomiting, nausea and, eventually, a deteriorated mental state.

The woman who contracted the virus fell in the middle of the spectrum of symptoms, Dr. Kurji said.

"But for every such individual we can expect another six or seven cases we don't know about (because of a lack of symptoms)," he noted.

This year seems to have seen a drop in West Nile virus across York

See **WEST**, page 15.

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