



3 Yes sir, that's our baby, all 11 lbs, 4 oz of her

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No doctor available for first baby of 2007

BY HANNELORE VOLPE
 Staff Writer

Cameras were flashing for Stouffville's newest star last weekend.

Little Ava Samantha Cooke was the first baby from Whitchurch-Stouffville born at Markham-Stouffville Hospital in 2007.

And it didn't take long for friends and relatives to come by to meet the family's new addition and take those first photographs.

Ava Samantha made her grand appearance last Thursday at 7:30 a.m. First-time parents Kim Hood and Richard Cooke, both 34, arrived at the hospital at 10 the night before. The experience of having a new daughter is "pretty remarkable," Mr. Cooke said. "We are very happy."

Weighing in at 8 lbs. 5 oz., the baby was delivered by midwife Rezvan Khaleghi and a student midwife.

The baby has a good set of lungs, Ms Hood said, adding everyone at the hospital was great.

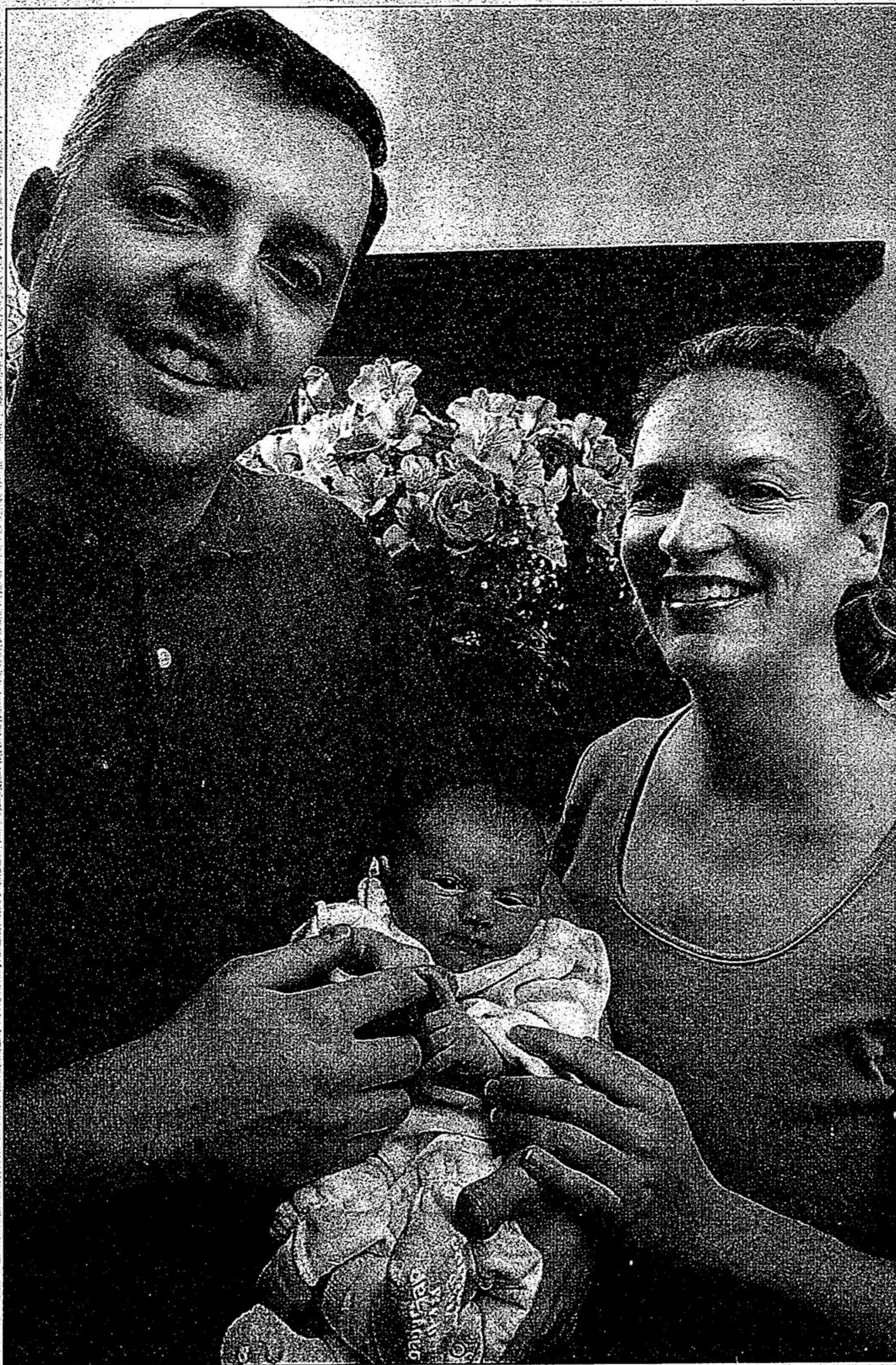
Since it is the couple's first baby, they chose the hospital for the delivery so backup help would be available if needed.

"Unless there are complications, midwives handle everything," Ms Hood said.

The couple has lived in Stouffville for two years. They moved here because Ms Hood grew up in Markham and has numerous relatives nearby.

Early into her pregnancy, Ms Hood tried to find an obstetrician in the Markham area, but her search was unsuccessful. Even finding a midwife wasn't easy. That led Ms Hood to conclude that "there is definitely a population boom in this area."

Having a midwife carry out prenatal visits and deliver the baby appealed to the couple. The midwife usually sets aside from 20 to 45 minutes for each prenatal visit.



First-time parents Kim Hood and Richard Cooke with their daughter, Ava Samantha, the first baby born at Markham Stouffville Hospital from Whitchurch-Stouffville in 2007. Unable to find an obstetrician, they turned to a midwife and were pleased with the delivery on Jan. 4.

FAMILY STRUCK BY CANCER HEADS UP FUNDRAISER

Relay for Life headed for Stouffville

BY HANNELORE VOLPE
 Staff Writer

Having the Canadian Cancer Society's Relay for Life in Whitchurch-Stouffville for the first time is putting a big smile on Terry Neprily's face.

He's the event chairperson for the June 15 event, which already has a few teams of 10 people ready to go. But more teams are needed to raise money to fight cancer. The Canadian Cancer Society recommends each team raise a minimum of \$1,000.

"Giving one day to the fight against cancer could add years to the lives of others," Mr. Neprily said. "Pitch a tent, bring a Hibachi and your music. It is a 12-hour party to raise money for cancer research."

Although he won't call himself a cancer survivor just yet, the Stouffville resident has come through well after being diagnosed with a kidney tumour more than a year ago.

The Neprily family, including Terry's wife, Jane, and daughters, Anna, 24, and Bonnie, 21, has participated in Stouffville's Terry Fox Runs for several years and canvassed for the cancer society.

Cancer made its first unwelcome presence in the family more than seven years ago when Mrs. Neprily was diagnosed with breast cancer. The cancer was detected early and, after surgery and radiation treatments, she remains clear of the disease.

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