

New emergency chief used to growing pains

Dr. Andrew Arcand filling 'big set of shoes'

BY MICHAEL POWER
Staff Writer

After spending five years working at Markham Stouffville Hospital, the new chief of emergency medicine is no stranger to the Ninth Line facility.

And Andrew Arcand, who has headed the department since Feb. 1, sounds happy to take on the challenge.

"It's pretty exciting," said Dr. Arcand, who took over from David Austin, who filled the position since the hospital opened in 1990. "It's a big set of shoes to fill. We've got a great physician team here."

Dr. Arcand, 36, graduated from Queen's University in Kingston in 1997. He started practising medicine in 2000 and initially worked in the intensive care unit of Kingston General Hospital.

He came to Markham Stouffville in 2002 and has been a full-time emergency physician since then.

Dr. Arcand also performs surgical assists at the hospital, supervises in the cardiac stress lab, sits on the hospital's board of directors as vice-president of medical staff and serves as a York Region coroner.

With the community's population growing rapidly, the emergency department is at a critical time in its history, Dr. Arcand said.

The department was built for 30,000 visits annually, but actually deals with about 50,000.

"We're functioning in a space that's arguably 40 per cent the size it's meant to be," he said. "We're managing, but it creates problems."

Markham Stouffville is waiting to hear from the Health and Long-Term Care Ministry regarding a plan the hospital submitted to expand the emergency department, he said.

Although the hospital is still waiting for an answer, he noted the ministry



DR. ANDREW ARCAND: New chief of emergency at Markham Stouffville Hospital.

likely realizes the Markham and Stouffville area is experiencing a lot of growth.

The hospital is also re-evaluating the process for registering new patients when they go to the emergency department.

Markham Stouffville plans to put a second nurse in the department to help triage new patients and, therefore, shorten the time spent waiting to get care.

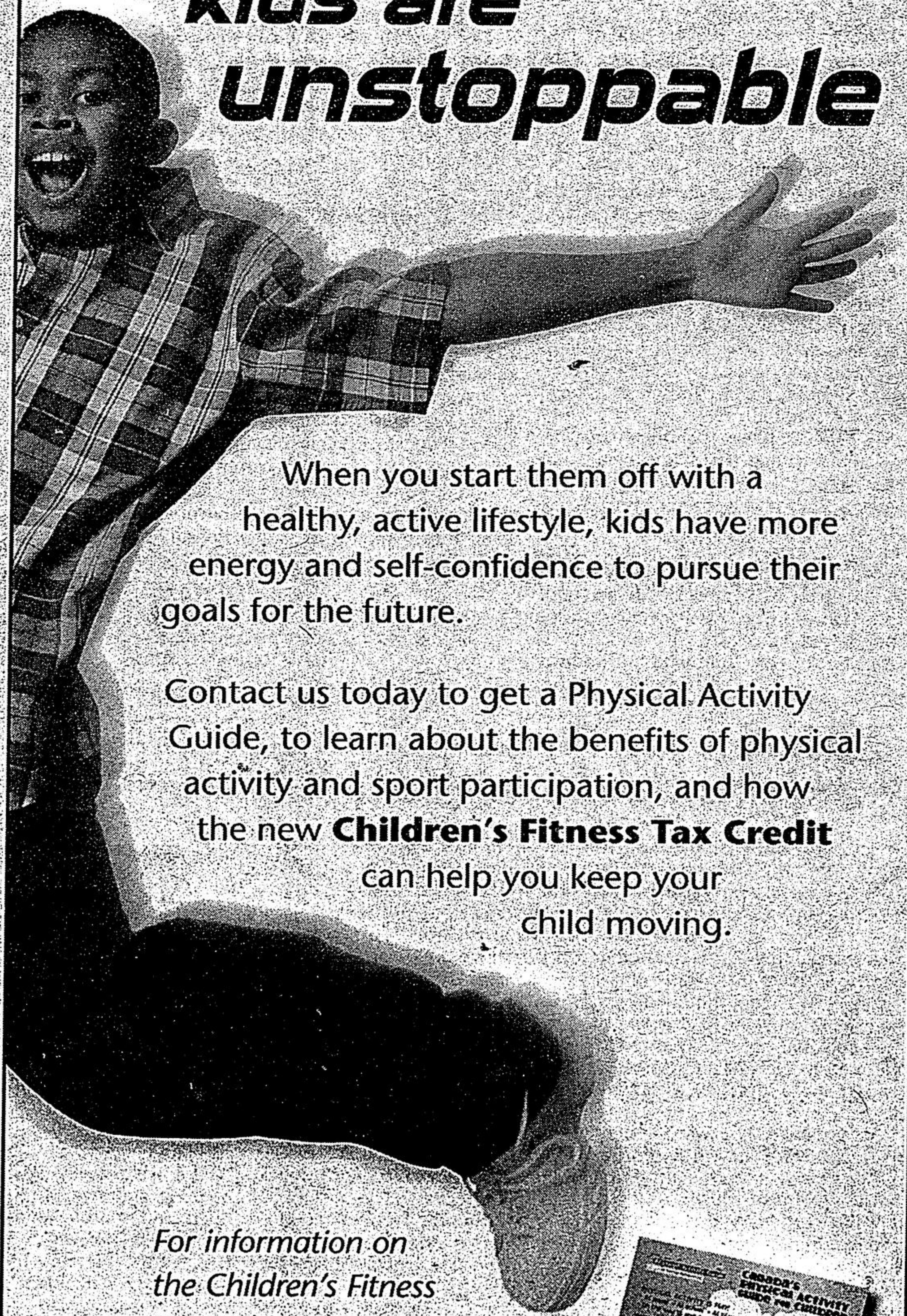
The facility is also looking at ways to ensure beds in other areas of the hospital become available as soon as possible, so patients in the emergency department don't stay any longer than necessary, Dr. Arcand said.

"There are many areas where things get bottlenecked, so there are a number of points along the road that the department and hospital are trying to address," he said.

When not working, Dr. Arcand enjoys playing soccer and music. But much of his free time is spent helping care for his first child, Henry Charles, who was born in December.

"These days, it's a lot of diaper changes," he said.

Active kids are unstoppable

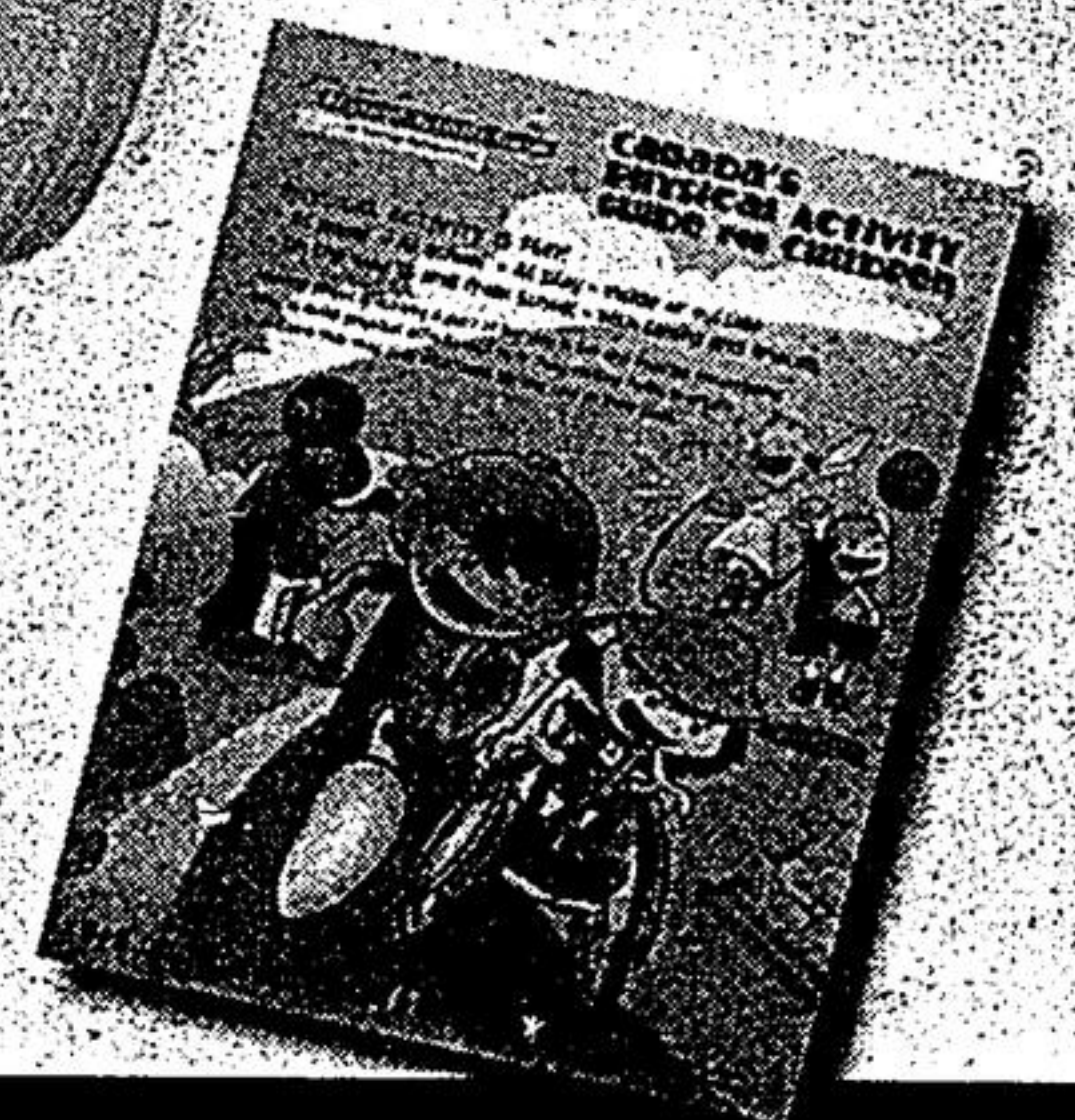


When you start them off with a healthy, active lifestyle, kids have more energy and self-confidence to pursue their goals for the future.

Contact us today to get a Physical Activity Guide, to learn about the benefits of physical activity and sport participation, and how the new **Children's Fitness Tax Credit** can help you keep your child moving.

For information on the Children's Fitness Tax Credit, call 1 800 959-8281.

Physical activity. It's for life!



healthycanadians.ca

1 800 O-Canada (1 800 622-6232)

Canada



York Region Small Business Enterprise Centre
Workshop Series Presents:

Starting a Small Business Workshop

Saturday, March 24, 2007

❖ Are you thinking of starting your own business - then this is the workshop for you!

Presented by: Kirsten Eastwood, Kirsten Eastwood Consulting

Location: York Region Administrative Centre, Committee Room B,
17250 Yonge Street, Newmarket

Date/Time: Saturday, March 24, 2007 - 9:30 am - 12:30 pm

Cost: \$30

Call 905-830-4444 x1572, toll-free 1-877-464-9675 x1572, or email yrsbec@york.ca to register for this exciting workshop, now!