

# Stouffville doesn't have nurse practitioner

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Mrs. Wood has been a registered nurse since 1983.

She toyed with becoming a doctor, then decided the nurse practitioner program would allow her a wider scope and to "continue doing the things I loved to do", she said. "I really like wellness care."

While there are no nurse practitioners working in Stouffville, they are seen frequently in communities such as Barrie, Richmond Hill and Markham.

They are people such as Kelly Van Camp, lead nurse practitioner in the Markham family health team, which includes 21 doctors and four nurse practitioners. The team is in a medical building near Markham Stouffville Hospital and on Markham's Main Street. Another site is opening in the summer.

Ms Van Camp, a Markham resident, was the team's first nurse practitioner, arriving in June 2007. Three more joined in October.

A nurse practitioner for

more than 10 years, she has worked in the emergency department of Markham Stouffville Hospital and in a health centre in Scarborough.

The team doesn't just have doctors' offices. It includes other professionals such as dietitians, nurses and mental health workers.

"Nurse practitioners can be primary care givers," she said. "If there is a concern, we still consult with a physician."

Since nurse practitioners can handle many routine complaints, such as sore throats and coughs, the practice was able to expand and serve more patients.

While physicians deal with disease and illness management, nurse practitioners concentrate on health education and prevention — stopping smoking and managing cholesterol are among their focuses, she said.

In Sudbury, nurse practitioners run a clinic. In that underserved area, it provides care for people who previously had to travel several hours to see a doctor.



Nurse practitioner Luise Wood and Sherry Nesbitt, a fourth-year nursing student from University of Ontario Institute of Technology, work together at Sunderland Brock Community Health Centre.

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