

# Stouffville Sun-Tribune

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## LAST-MINUTE ALTERATIONS



STAFF PHOTO/SJOERD WITTEVEEN

Benjamin Murray, 12, a Grade 7 Summitview Public School student, prepares his scarecrow on Tuesday night in the Markham Fair's general exhibits building. He's hoping to unseat his younger brother Nicholas, 9, who was 2007 best in show scarecrow champ. The fair opened today. For more information, see page 3 and Jim Thomas' column on page 5.

*Brandon Sugden comes out of retirement for shot at spot with New York Islanders*

## Son fights for NHL job for dad battling cancer

BY JIM MASON  
Staff Writer

Brandon Sugden has been in hundreds, maybe thousands, of fights.

None larger than the one his family is going through this year.

Brandon's dad, former Whitchurch-Stouffville boxing trainer Travis Sugden, has been given months to live.

"You fight this cancer, Dad, and I'll fight

to make it in the NHL," Brandon, 30, recalls saying last spring.

Brandon, a lifer in the world of minor pro and high amateur hockey loops, is doing his part.

He's 10 days into training camp with the New York Islanders in Moncton, N.B. and hoping to replace Chris Simon as designated tough guy on the Isles' big league roster.

Brandon played, and won a fight, in the Islanders' pre-season tilt in London, Ont., last

Thursday and Travis, 64, and the rest of the Sugden clan drove over from Keswick, where they recently moved.

Photos were taken. Smiles were shared.

It's not the first time for the six-foot, four-inch bruiser.

Brandon, who has been to 10 NHL camps, thought he had a good shot at making the Columbus Blue Jackets four years ago.

His minor-league fisticuffs with Brian McGrattan, Rob Ray and Link Gaetz drew


solid hits of their own on youtube.com

Then, the new-look NHL went soft on fighting, albeit briefly.

In November 2006, Brandon signed retirement papers with the Blue Jackets and returned home to wife Crystal, who was pregnant at the time, and also to get closer to his father.

See ENFORCER, page 11.

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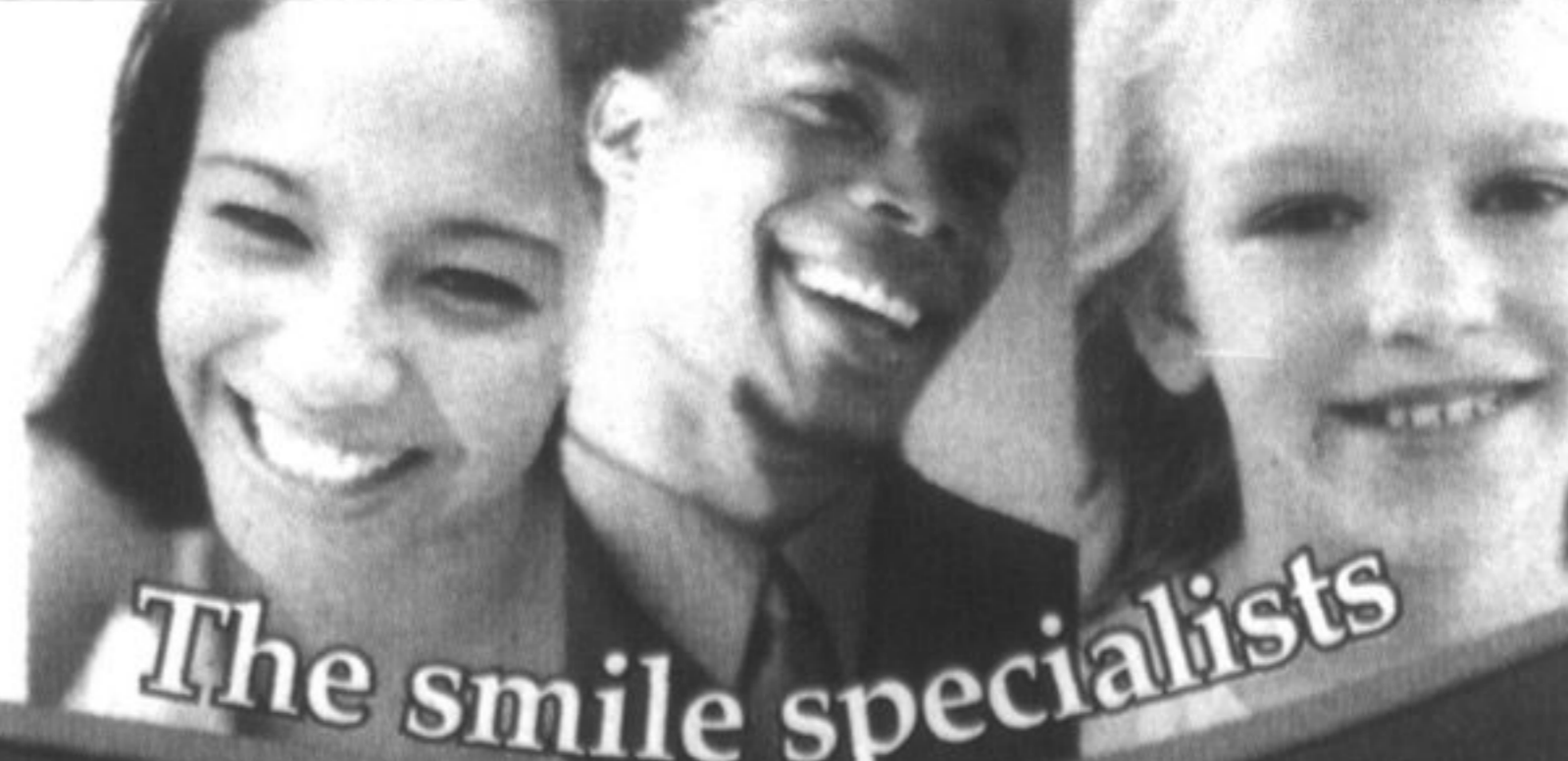
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