Fire officials urge holiday caution

More than 25 per cent of holiday house fires are caused by cooking, according to Whitchurch-Stouffville Fire and Emergency Services.

"Many of these fires have started because cooking was left unattended," Jeff Bignell, Whitchurch-Stouffville's fire prevention officer said, adding this is the deadliest time of the year for house fires.

So far this year, there have been 100 fatal fires in Ontario, up 10 from last year.

Every home in the province is required to have working smoke alarms on each level, including the basement. Failure to do so, could result in a fine of \$235.

"Without operational smoke alarms, these statistics would most likely be higher," Mr. Bignell said. To keep you and your family safe this holiday season, follow these tips:

 stay in the kitchen while you cook, especially if you are using oil or high temperatures;

 keep combustible items, such as cooking utensils and paper towels, a safe distance away from the stove as they can easily ignite if too close to the burner;

keep a large lid near the stove while cooking. If a pot catches fire, put the lid over the pot and turn the stove off;

• drink responsibly and keep an eye on those who do not. Excessive alcohol use is a contributing factor in many residential fires.



The Stouffville Sun-Tribune would like to partner with you and help you get the word out about your event. This is a free service that the Stouffville Sun-Tribune is offering to it's readers.

Email event details or photos with complete information to Pam Burgess Special Events Manager at pburgess@yrmg.com



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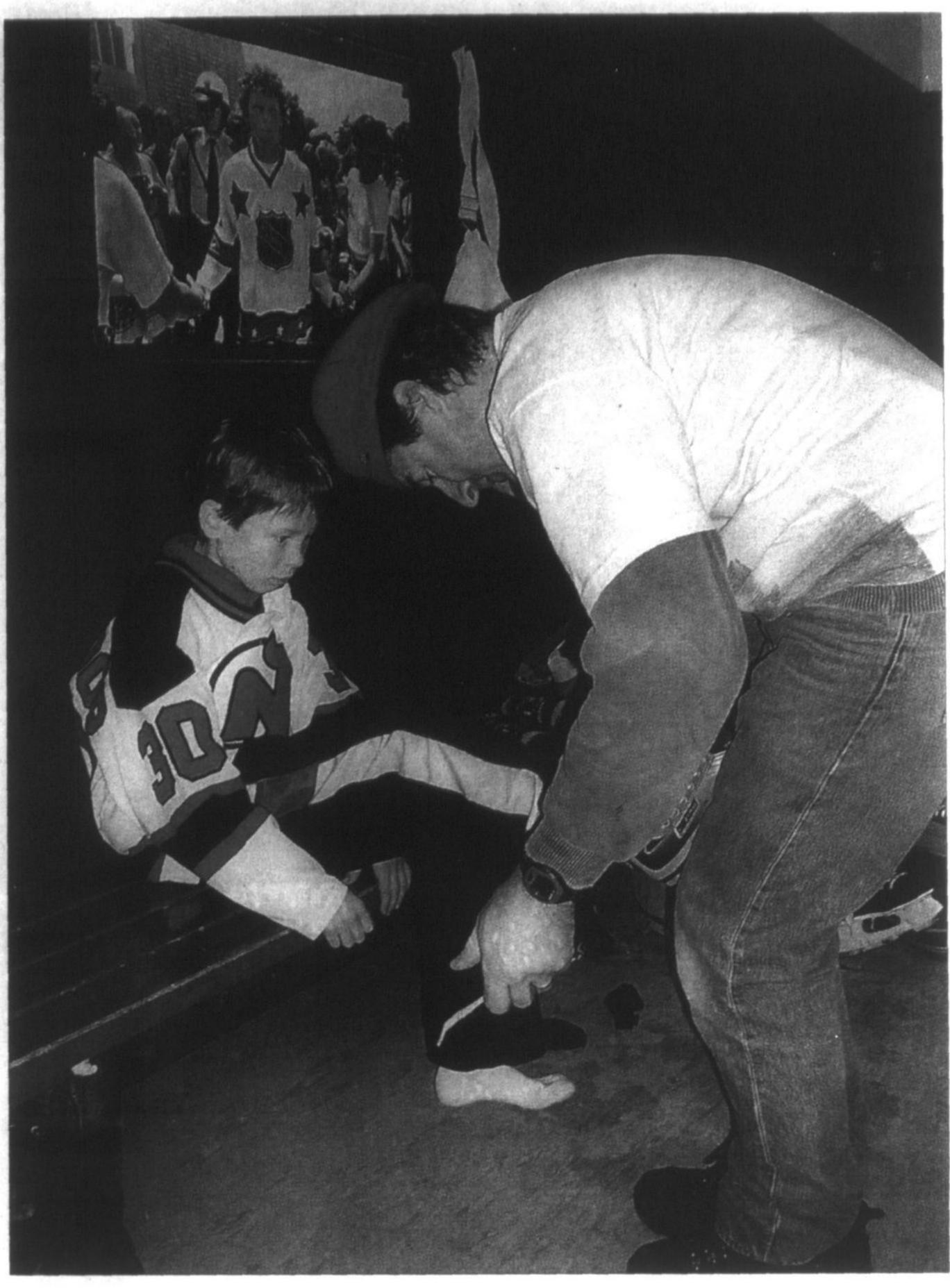
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LACING THEM UP FOR TERRY



Andrew Dunsmoor, 11, gets help with his skates thanks to his dad, Scott, at the Terry Fox Skate at the Stouffville Arena Dec. 7. The event, hosted by the Whitchurch-Stouffville Minor Hockey Association, raised \$1,300, bringing the amount raised locally for the Terry Fox Foundation to \$991,086.

49th annual Music Mania takes on British Isles style

Get ready to move, Stouffville, as Music Mania is looking for chorus, dancers and skit performers to join their 2009 British Isles show.

Music Mania is the exploration of Stouffville's talent by way of singing, dancing and acting.

Now in its 49th year, Music Mania's amateur show couples musical numbers with humorous skits.

Sign up for new members takes place Wednesday, Jan. 7 at 7:30 p.m. at the United Church with rehearsals to follow.

Show dates are April 30, May 1 and 2.

If you need a gift idea, Music Mania is offering 'The Gift of Entertainment,' which is a gift certificate to the group's 2009 show.

The cost is \$15 and can be purchased by calling Cindy at 905-640-4559 or from Reid's Antiques on Main Street in Stouffville.



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