

Stouffville Sun-Tribune

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9 Stouffville band's CD launch includes hometown date

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May living the boyhood dream with Maple Leafs

'He makes us harder to play': Coach Acton

BY MIKE HAYAKAWA
Staff Writer

Brad May needed just one word to describe his trade to the Toronto Maple Leafs last week.

"Neat."

For the 37-year-old National Hockey League veteran forward who played his minor hockey while growing up in Stouffville and Markham, donning the fabled blue and white jersey is like a dream come true.

Albeit it took him almost 963 career NHL games. That included his most recent stop in Anaheim, where he was part of their Stanley Cup team in the 2006-07 season. There were other stints in Colorado, Phoenix, Vancouver (twice) and Buffalo, before returning to his roots.

"I think as a kid you dream of playing in the NHL and being a local boy we had a chance to watch the Maple Leafs a lot on television. But I've been playing for so long now that being in the NHL it feels like a lifetime. To play in Toronto though, I never thought it would happen. Being here with the Leafs is definitely a neat experience," he said.

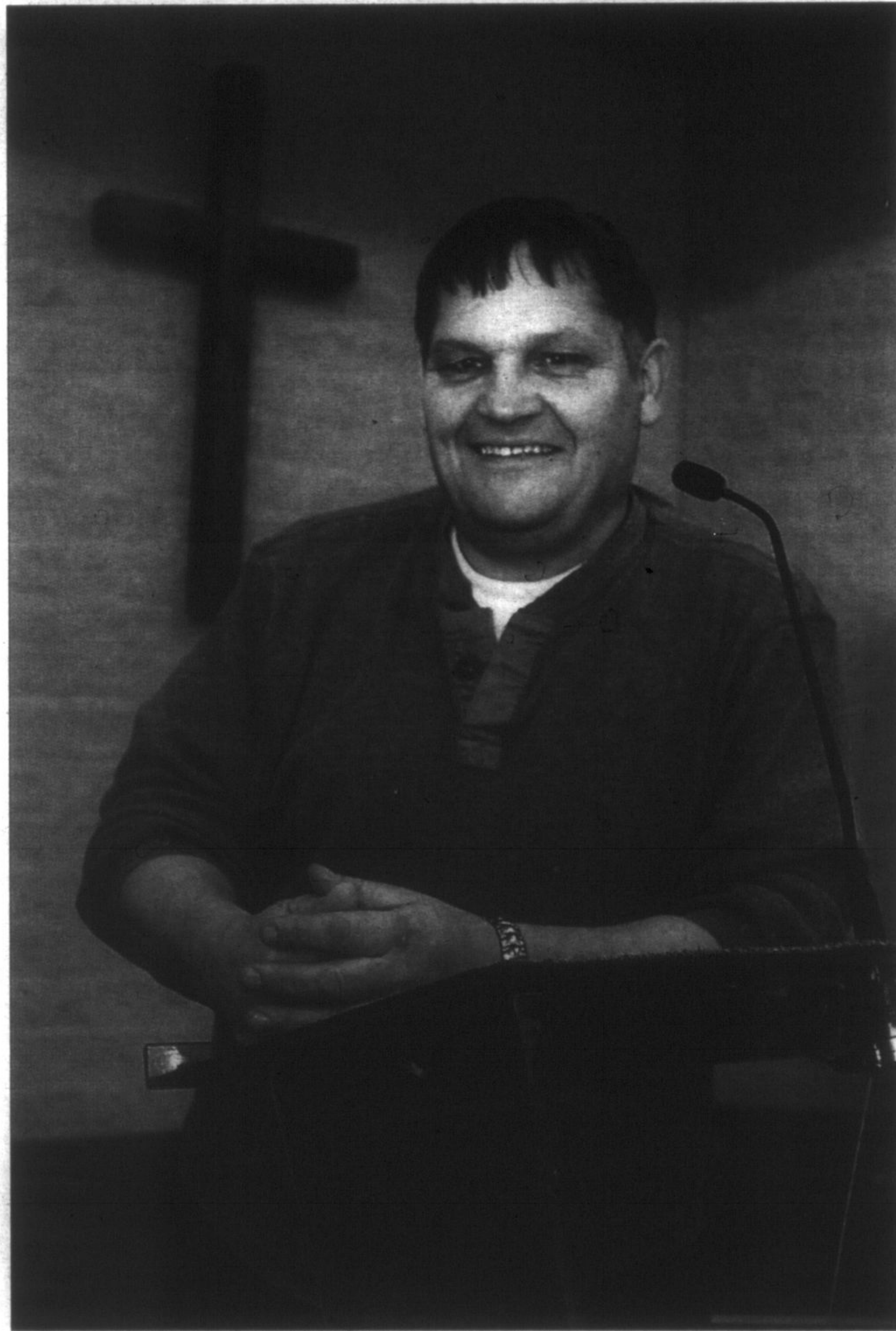
Reuniting with his family in Stouffville and Markham has given May some added enthusiasm.

His transition into the Maple Leafs lineup was made smoother with the presence of long-time

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THURSDAY FOCUS

Popular Pastor Lou Geense leaving EastRidge for national church but staying in Stouffville



STAFF PHOTO/STEVE SOMERVILLE

Lou Geense is leaving Stouffville's EastRidge Evangelical Missionary Church following more than 16 years as the pastor after Sunday's service. He will become director of global initiatives with the Evangelical Missionary Church of Canada.

The last sermon

BY SANDRA BOLAN
Staff Writer

After more than 16 years as the pastor of EastRidge Evangelical Missionary Church, Lou Geense is stepping down this week.

"It really was time for a new voice and new vision at the church, which required me to resign," Mr. Geense said. "You can only re-invent yourself so many times and I think I did that several times."

"We'll miss him; he's like family," Karen Rae, office manager of the Tenth Line church said. "On the other hand, change happens and we wish him the best."

Mr. Geense, however, has at least one more re-invention within him, this time as the director of global initiatives with the Evangelical Missionary Church of Canada. The new position enables Mr. Geense and his family to remain in Stouffville.

"Although there were a lot of possibilities, our first intent was to stay in town because we wanted to be a part of the town," he said.

The two-pronged job, which Mr. Geense begins the day after he gives his last sermon at EastRidge Sunday, will have him building alliances with existing organizations and people in impoverished and/or disaster stricken areas of the world, as well as educating people on how to develop co-operatives for relief.

"It's mission work, but trying to work with the nationals on the ground," Mr. Geense said. "I'm looking forward to connecting with passionate people and making a significant difference with them."

Mr. Geense is no stranger to helping Third-World people in need of assistance.

See ADOPTED, page 12.

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