

Stouffville Sun-Tribune

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Family applauded for energy production

BY SANDRA BOLAN
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When Bob James installed a 42-foot tall wind turbine on his family's Musselman's Lake property two years ago, the Province of Ontario provided just over \$8,000 in rebates.

The federal government provided nothing, Mr. James said.

But it wasn't because it didn't want to, it constitutionally can't, according to Paul Calandra, MP for Oak Ridges-Markham.

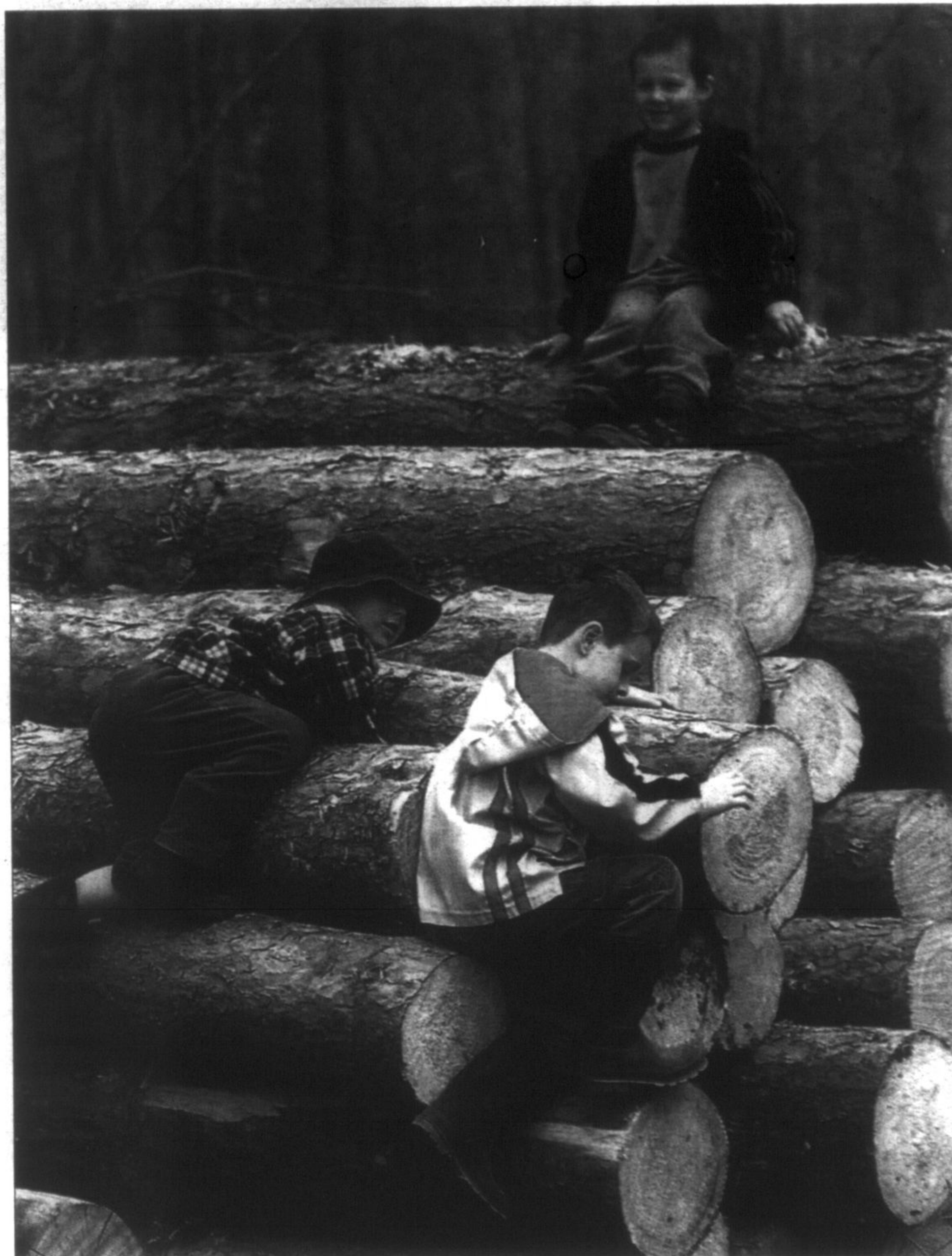
"You're looking at a resource (wind) that is specific to a region," he said. "Like oil is a resource of the province, wind is a resource of a particular province. So the province takes the lead."

Leading by example is exactly what George Smitherman, Ontario's Minister of Energy and Infrastructure, is hoping Mr. James' personal quest to utilize wind in order to offset his energy draw, will do.

"We feel Ontario is a big enough place we should be able to put them somewhere," Mr. Smitherman said, who along with Oak Ridges-Markham MPP Helena Jaczek visited the James' property Monday to get a first-hand look at the wind turbine in action.

See DOCUMENTARY, page 10.

KING OF THE FOREST



STAFF PHOTO/STEVE SOMERVILLE

Lukas Vadeike (from left), Joshua Mazano and Michael Subtelny have fun climbing on a pile of cut trees during the Spring Forest Festival, which promoted sustainable logging practices, in the York Regional Forest, north of Ballantrae Saturday.

HOSPITAL TO 'CLOSE' 10 DAYS

\$1 million in savings by not operating non-essential services

BY KEELY GRASSER
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Markham Stouffville Hospital will be shut down non-essential services for 10 days this year.

Reducing staffing levels for two days in July, five in August, two in October and one in November will save the hospital an estimated \$1 million, according to Neil Walker, the hospital's chief operating officer.

It's one initiative the hospital is taking to balance its budget, he said.

"We're going to move to operating the organization (on those days) as we do on most Saturdays and Sundays," he said.

That means that non-essential clinics will be closed and the hospital will only be running one operating room (instead of five or six), Mr. Walker explained. This leads to needing less environmental services, food services, information technology, finance and administration staff.

He emphasized the emergency room, labour and delivery department and inpatient services won't be affected.

Visitors to the hospital during closure days shouldn't notice a difference, Mr. Walker said. "If the community member requires urgent care, they will have access to care."

Staff not needed on closure days will still be paid, he explained. They will use the days as vacation days.

The summer, he went on to say, usually

See CLOSURE, page 9.

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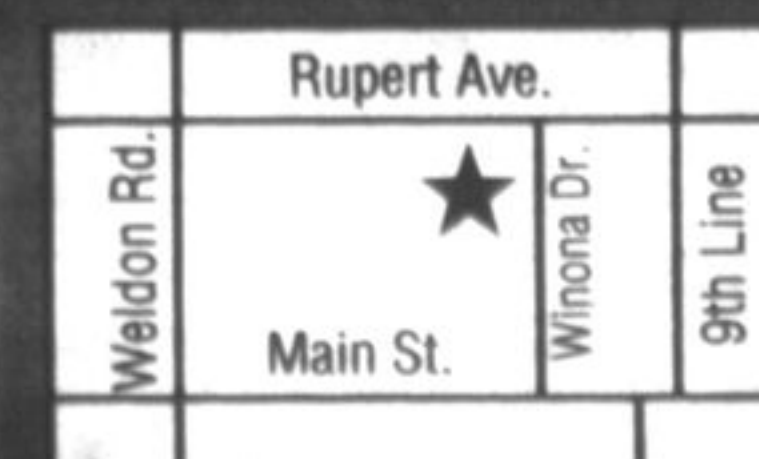
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