

# Stouffville Sun-Tribune

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STAFF PHOTO/SJOERD WITTEVEEN

## FINAL STRAW

Da Classic Scoop Diner was demolished by Todd Brothers Contracting Ltd. of Stouffville Tuesday so the realignment of Main and Hwy. 48 could take place. The town and owner Mario Greco failed to come to terms that would have enabled the building to remain on the property, but farther away from the road. The building was constructed in the 1850s and was home to a post office then a general store. Mr. Greco opened the eatery, which served ice cream, big breakfasts, homemade soups and hearty sandwiches in 1990. The municipality was willing to give the building away to any interested party, but there were no takers.

# Deficit-laden hospital lays off, shuffles staff

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About 40 jobs have been affected this week at Markham Stouffville Hospital in the midst of what hospital officials are calling "a shuffling" to eradicate a \$6.7-million deficit.

Janet Beed, president and CEO of the hospital, said job changes were rolled out to about 40 staff on Tuesday.

"It was a sad day," she said. "Some of them will have to change their roles, some of them will have fewer hours, some of them will not be able to keep their jobs with us."

The jobs were a combination of part- and full-time positions in "all areas across the hospital," including administrative, clinical and service roles.

"It's a shuffling," Ms Beed said.

"Some have been offered other positions, some will compete for other positions."

She said the hospital has been under a lot of pressure within its emergency department to open more beds. "So to do that, we need to take money from other parts of the hospital in order to put money into emergency, into ICU, and into beds.

"It's like if it were your home, you decide how much you put in rent, how much you put in food, and how much you put in entertainment. You juggle it around."

While the hospital did receive a 2.2-per-cent budget increase from this year's Ontario Budget, Ms Beed said the money mostly went to cover salary increases.

"There was the inflation, and the

need for us to build some areas of the hospital," said Ms Beed, whose salary, for example, increased to \$405,379 in 2008 from \$388,527 in 2007.

"A hospital is a business. Our challenge is that we don't have any vacancy. Some hospitals are able to close parts of their activities in their

See HOSPITAL, page 18.

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