

# Stouffville Sun-Tribune

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## DID YOU KNOW?

### How did Clippers get their name?

BY SANDRA BOLAN  
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How exactly did the Stouffville Clippers get their name?

We're not sure why a hockey team from a landlocked community adopted the moniker of a sailing ship.

Local legend has the name having ties to a Main Street barber shop that sponsored the then men's team during the 1940s.

But there's nothing official to back it up that we can find.

Sun-Tribune columnist Jim Thomas, who covered the team as a sportswriter after its first season, doesn't know.

Polly Minton, who played on the first Clipper team, says he's been "asked the question a thousand times," but doesn't know.

We do know the Stouffville Red Wings were grounded so the Clippers could set sail.

In 1946, the Aymant Lions Club helped to create a five-team hockey league to be known as the Ontario Hockey Association, which had teams from Aurora, Bradford, Markham, Newmarket and Stouffville.

The league had two divisions

See **TEAMS**, page 12.

## OH, CHRISTMAS TREE!



STAFF PHOTO/SJOERD WITTEVEEN

Tyson Rozario as the littlest Christmas Tree gets left behind in the woods with no families picking him to be their tree. But no matter, the little bunnies of the forest Emma Williams (kneeling), Camryn Deeks and Parker Sandiford (right) decorate their tree in the annual Mother Goose Academy Christmas Pageant at Springvale Baptist Church on Monday.

## Hospital death rate rebounds

Markham Stouffville goes from highest to near lowest in Canada

BY L.H. TIFFANY HSIEH  
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What a difference a year can make.

Markham Stouffville Hospital went from having the highest death rate in Canada to one of the lower ones.

On Thursday, the Canadian Institute for Health Information (CIHI) released the 2008-09 mortality rates for 75 large acute care hospitals and 35 health regions across the country except Quebec.

Markham Stouffville Hospital scored 86, a significant improvement from the previous year's 129.

"We are not the lowest. Regina, with 66, is the lowest," said Dr. David Austin, chief of staff at MSH. "But it puts us in a group of hospitals that have very favourable numbers." The Hospitalized Standard Mortality Ratio is a measure of patient safety that compares a hospital's mortality rate with the average Canadian rate.

"This has been referred to us as a big-dot indicator, meaning it's an indicator of quality in the hospital," Dr. Austin said.

When the CIHI publicly released the mortality ratios for the first time last year, he said medical staff at MSH were disappointed and felt the number did not reflect the quality of care they provided.

"Death is an inevitable consequence of running a hospital, but the expected ratio is 100, that is if the deaths occurred in your

See **OLD**, page 8.

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