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SATURDAY, APRIL 17, 2010 ■ SERVING THE COMMUNITY OF WHITCHURCH-STOUFFVILLE ■ 28 PAGES/\$1 INCLUDING GST

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Less service, more charges under plan: druggists

BY SANDRA BOLAN
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Increased dispensing fees, delivery charges and an overall reduction in service may be what's in store for people utilizing Stouffville's independent pharmacies if the provincial government goes through with its plan to put a stop to professional allowances paid to pharmacies by drug companies.

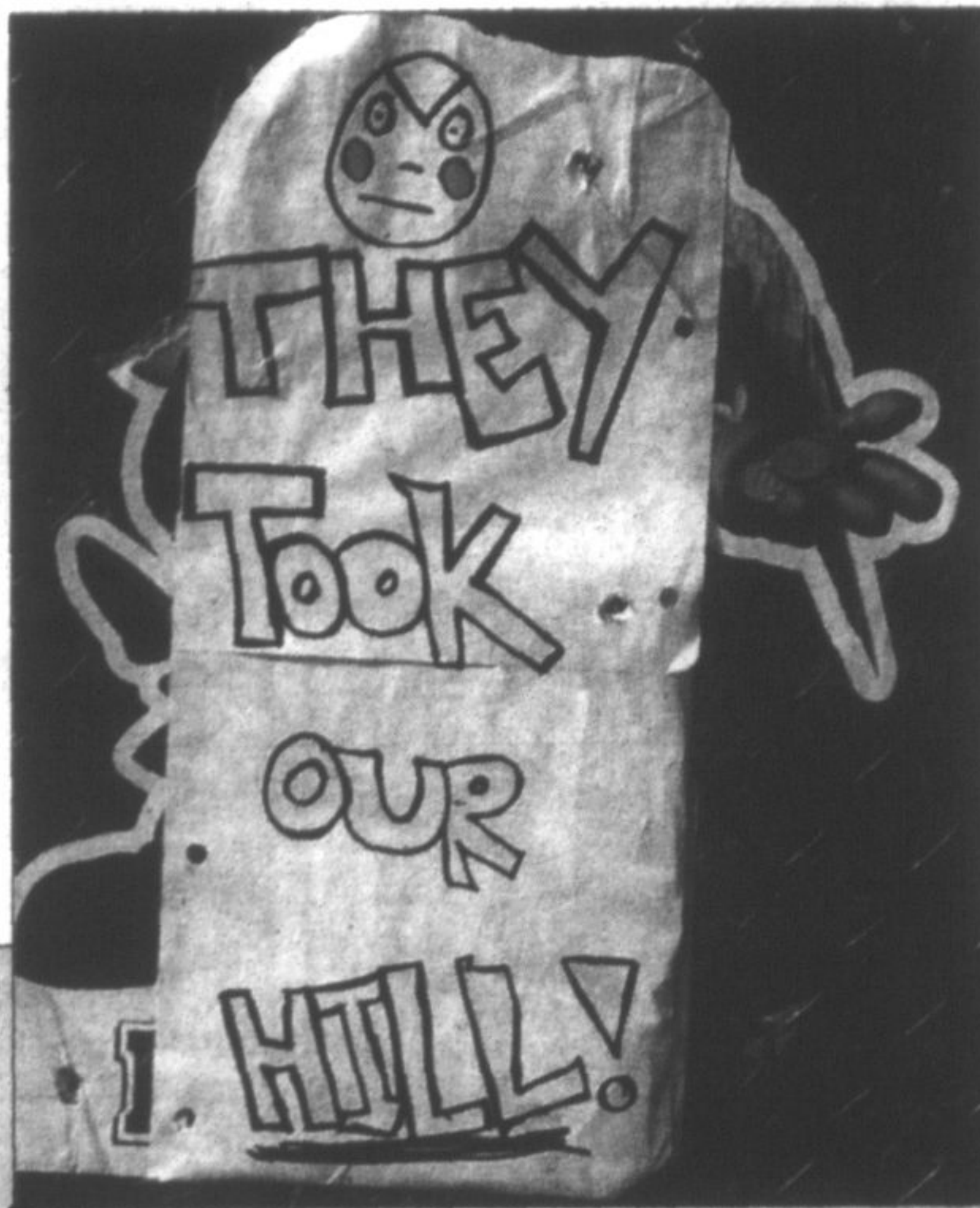
It's the independent pharmacies that will be hit hardest by the more than \$750-million blow to the pharmacy industry, they say.

"They want to have some reform of the system, which is fair, but they can't reform everything all at once," said Rob Croxall, owner, manager and pharmacist of the Stouffville IDA Pharmacy on Main Street.

"To operate your business with that much less revenue, you're looking at making some hard changes," said Nayan Patel, owner and pharmacist of Pharmasave Stouffville. "The patients are going to feel that impact in terms of less services to them."

Filling a prescription costs about \$14, which includes patient consultation, medication education and delivery. Professional services also include

A crew dismantles the toboggan hill in Memorial Park this week. A larger hill will be built in the south end of the downtown Stouffville park, town officials say. Children who use the hill are not impressed. They created protest posters and attached them to the fence next to the hill.



STAFF PHOTOS/SANDRA BOLAN

Kids protest toboggan hill move

Residents supported Memorial Park plan, mayor says

BY SANDRA BOLAN
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Stouffville's toboggan hill is moving south, much to the chagrin of some of the community's youngest residents.

The relocation of the hill, at Park Drive and Burkholder Street, is part of the Memorial Park master plan and Park Drive extension.

"That was always the plan," said Mayor Wayne Emmerson. "It was supported by the residents."

That may have been the case about three years ago, however, there are some residents who are very displeased with the sight of a backhoe tearing through their winter wonderland.

"It sucks," said Adam Alsop, whose six-year-old son Anthony has spent some time sliding down the toboggan hill. "Hopefully the hill they do put back is as big, if not bigger."

Mr. Alsop will have his wish granted, according to Troy Bauman, project manager for the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville.

"It certainly will be taller," he said of the hill that is moving to a berm between the Park Drive extension and the rear lots of homes on Thicketwood Boulevard.

A new hill will be created at the south end of the berm in the vicinity of the Lori Avenue and Thicketwood Boulevard walkway.

Councillor Rob Hargrave, whose ward includes Park Drive and Memorial Park, said he was never in favour of the Memorial Park

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See COUNCILLOR, page 10.

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