

Stouffville Sun-Tribune

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She beat Prime Minister at his game

SICK KIDS PATIENT CHOSEN TO TAKE ON HARPER

BY SANDRA BOLAN
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She scored first. Then he pocketed the puck into her net.

With the score tied at one apiece, Kaitlyn O'Brien was up against some seriously stiff competition, but the 14-year-old Stouffville District Secondary School student knew she had a victory in her and closed the door on her opponent - Prime Minister Stephen Harper.

The two faced off Saturday in a friendly air hockey game, on a table the Prime Minister donated to the Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto.

"I thought he'd be really good because he's the one donating it," Kaitlyn told The Sun-Tribune. "I was so happy to win against him."

When Kaitlyn arrived for the presentation - she is a member of the hospital's children's council - she had no idea out of the handful of kids in attendance, she would be chosen to take on the Prime Minister.

"They just decided to let me play against him. It was a lot of fun and a good experience, too,"

See **SICK** page 16.

SANTA'S HELPERS



STAFF PHOTO/NICK IWANYSHYN

Marie Cote (left) and Elaine Palmer sort toys at Latcham Hall Tuesday. They will be delivered to families in need this week by the Stouffville Lions.

RESIDENTIAL TREATMENT HOME IN DOWNTOWN STOUFFVILLE

Mental health centre set to close

BY SANDRA BOLAN
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A downtown Stouffville residential treatment centre for people with personality disorders will close its doors.

Last week, Whitby-based Ontario Shores Centre for Mental Health

Sciences, which operates Church Street's Beacon House, announced the 12-week residential home will be replaced with a new, intensive outpatient model of care.

When contacted by The Sun-Tribune, Ontario Shores spokesperson Andrea Worrall said no other information would be released

until details were sorted out. That is expected to be sometime in the new year.

The facility's closure is part of Ontario Shores decision to change clinical services over the next four months. Lay-off notices were also given to 52 employees.

Changes are expected to be

made in several areas, including adolescent inpatient services. Two units will be combined into a single 12-bed unit to provide increased access to specialized assessment and treatment to more individuals.

With changing resources in the

See **PATIENTS**, page 8.

MERRY CHRISTMAS, STOUFFVILLE. FROM THE STAFF AT THE SUN-TRIBUNE

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