

Community still reeling says a prayer for Kyle

Sirens from emergency vehicles pierced the hot, still air Monday night, sending the hair on Stouffville's collective neck straight out.

Much of the community was still in shock from a weekend stabbing that was so out of character for this town.

"In Stouffville?" the incredulous kept saying. "The city must be moving in."

Perhaps there is a culture of weapons and violence heading our way from south of Steeles Avenue.

But, according to York Regional Police and witnesses we've talked with, these were local kids.

Our own.

A feud boiled over at a house party that led to a confrontation on a usually quiet, little Rose Avenue in the wee hours of Saturday.

That stuff has been going on for decades, at bush parties to high school dances. Most end with a busted nose or a fat lip, not police charges and the intensive care unit.

Think *Footloose*, *American Graffiti* and *Dazed and Confused*.

Not this time, sadly. Two young men were injured, the most seriously a popular 20-year-old named Kyle Sauro.

The former Stouffville minor hockey and high school rugby player was stabbed several times, according to his family, possibly with a machete.

Another young man from Whitchurch-Stouffville was charged with aggravated assault Sunday.

Kyle remained in hospital, in critical but stable condition early this week.

But he's not out of the woods.

"We have been told by the surgeon that the



Off The Top

with Jim Mason

next two weeks will be a battle for Kyle as he fights off infections," wrote his dad, Darryl Sauro, leading a prayer chain of sorts. "Anyone who knows Kyle from hockey, knows he's ready to get in the corners and battle. He now faces the battle of his life."

Most end with a busted nose or a fat lip, not police charges and the intensive care unit.

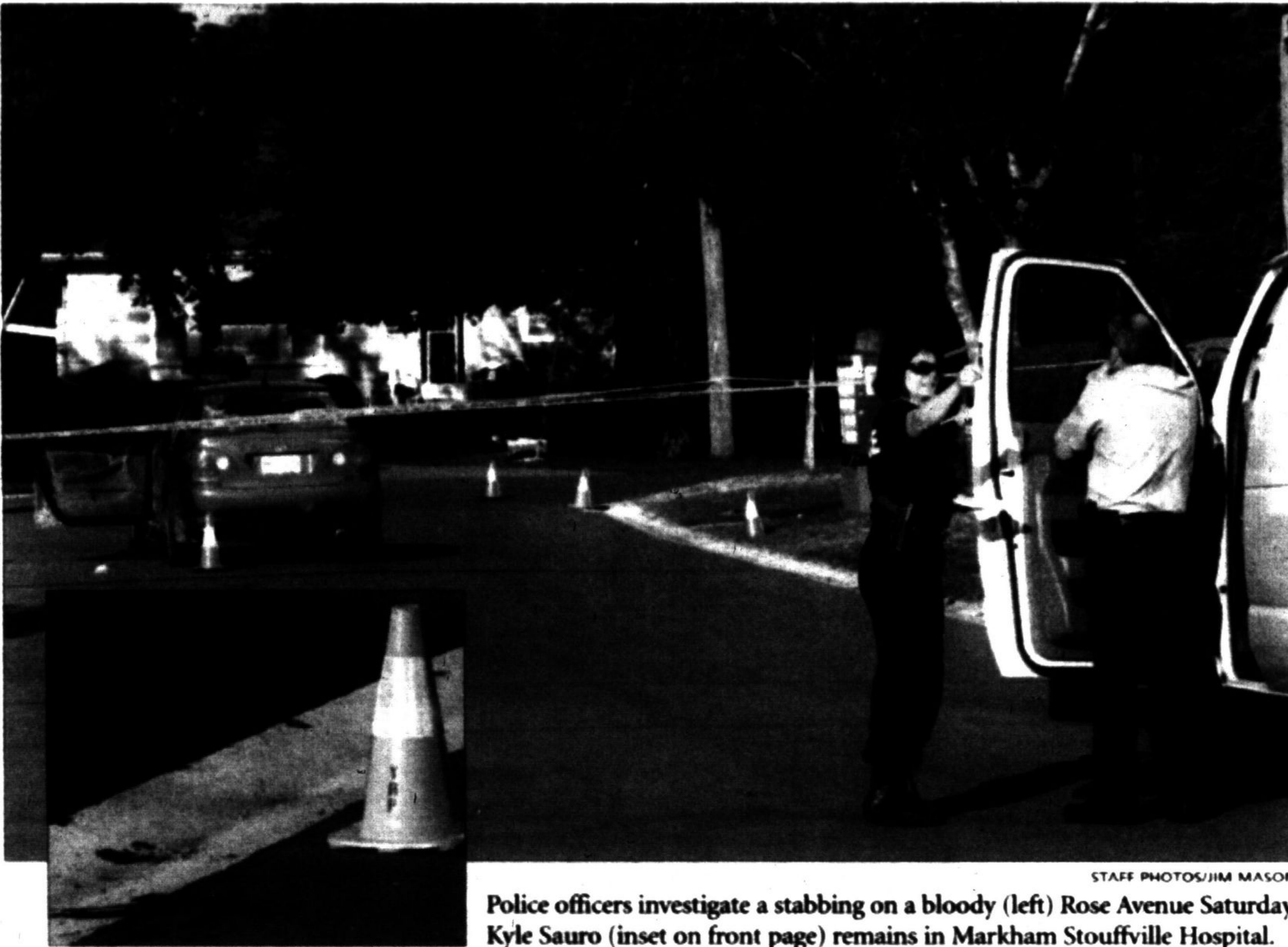
The message has been widely circulated around the community and read in at least one local church.

It's on almost everyone's lips in a town still small enough to care, from Tim Hortons to the arenas Kyle played in for so many seasons.

The Sauros have asked for our prayers.

It's the least we can offer to one of our own. Get well, Kyle.

Jim Mason is editor of The Sun-Tribune. Follow him on Twitter @stouffeditor



Police officers investigate a stabbing on a bloody (left) Rose Avenue Saturday. Kyle Sauro (inset on front page) remains in Markham Stouffville Hospital.

STAFF PHOTOS/JIM MASON

Neighbourhood shocked by teen stabbing

BY JEREMY GRIMALDI
jgrimaldi@yrmg.com

In his 55 years living in Stouffville, Gerry Acton doesn't think he's ever heard of anything as violent as a stabbing occurring in town.

That was until last weekend.

A Friday night house party ended after Stouffville resident Kyle Sauro, 20, was stabbed with an "edged weapon" in the chest and stomach and rushed to hospital where he remains in critical, but stable, condition.

The accused, Tyler Wirag, 19, of Musselman's Lake, is charged with aggravated assault and assault with a weapon and was behind bars early this week.

The Saturday morning incident followed a raucous party and angry exchanges between the victim and two men over an alleged assault against someone's younger brother that caused much of the anger.

It came to a violent end after one man was allegedly hit with a car and Mr. Sauro was left bleeding at the side of

Rose Avenue, near the Burkholder Street intersection.

Spots of blood, visible on the street near a beer can and strewn clothing, including a baseball cap, have left the neighbourhood stunned and afraid.

A red Toyota, its back window shattered and partially knocked out, sat in the middle of Rose, the driver's door open as investigators worked the scene Saturday.

"It's something we don't like to see ... it's very unusual for Stouffville," said Mr. Acton.

"I slept through it until about 3 a.m., but it was crawling with police by then. I've never seen anything like it. Matter of fact, I've never heard anything like this happening in Stouffville and I never want to see it again."

Susan Kett, who has only lived in town for 3-1/2 years, said the event left her and her neighbours shaken.

"I was very shocked and scared," she said. "My friend lives right across the street from where it occurred and she was quite traumatized."

However, not everyone was surprised by the attacks that occurred after a party of young people who are consuming alcohol.

"I heard the car go round the block," said Rob Giles, referring to the moments leading up to the stabbing.

"You don't expect it to happen around here, but it's a bunch of kids having a party and things get carried away. It sounds like the whole 'there's three sides to every story' kind of story."

The family of Mr. Sauro has asked residents for prayers for their son. Worshipers at St. James Presbyterian Church on Main Street obliged during their Sunday morning service.

The neighbourhood is just south of Main Street, between the GO tracks and Memorial Park.

According to Det.-Const. James Ward, a 17-year-old youth has also been charged with assault.

Both men were in Newmarket court Monday.

— with files from Jim Mason

Voted Best Dance Studio in Stouffville for 2012

Purchase any one item from pro shop at **10% off** Valid only with this ad

DANCE

- Jazz • Tap • Ballet • Musical Theatre
- Acro • Lyrical • Hip Hop • Contemporary
- All Boys Classes • Parent & Tot Classes

2ND Annual Open House/BBQ
Saturday, Sept. 7, 2013 – Rain or Shine
11:00 am - 2:00 pm - Face Painting

Registration: Sept. 3, 4 and 5
5 pm - 8 pm or by Appointment

61 Ringwood Dr, Stouffville, Unit 2, Stouffville | 905-642-3390 | www.dance-creations.ca | dancecreations@live.ca