

Stouffville  
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## ELECTION COUNTDOWN

32

... days until the Oct. 27 vote

## The Big 5-0

Let's get you interested in voting



## BUSINESS

## Changes at chamber

New executive director, chair of board tender resignations

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## ELECTION



## Cheers, jeers

Election hopefuls questioned by Stouffville voters at events

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**HOT TUB SALE**  
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# THE LOVE OF LUCA



STAFF PHOTO/STEVE SOMERVILLE

Toronto physiotherapist Nikolay Niagolov rolls Stouffville's Luca Gennuso over during a session this week – Day 2 of his rehab regiment.

## Near-drowning victim returns home with hope

BY JEREMY GRIMALDI  
 jgrimaldi@yrmg.com

**W**hen you have a child in the intensive care unit at SickKids, your life can change from one moment to the next.

That is the frenetic environment in which Daniel and Laura Gennuso found themselves May 19, hours after their 21-month-old son, Luca, fell into a pool the family of five were having installed in their Stouffville home's back yard.

Although Luca was pulled from the pool almost immediately, the next 27 minutes of his

life, despite endless attempts by parents and paramedics to regain his breathing, were spent without oxygen. Luca's body remained lifeless from the ambulance ride all the way to his first stop — Markham Stouffville Hospital.

Eventually the non-stop CPR proved successful. His tiny body, all of 22 pounds, began breathing again.

After a frantic helicopter ride to The Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto, he was hooked up to a number of machines, including one that pumped the maximum amount of oxygen allowed into his lungs, hoping to avoid collapse. His blood pressure and heart rate were also being artificially supported.

Throughout the ordeal, his parents were being braced for the worst.

"They kept preparing us that he was going to die," Daniel said. "The nurse told me, 'it's not looking good. If you have family and friends, you had better start calling them.' But we chose not to give up, we wanted him to fight."

While basically living in the hospital waiting room, he said, both he and those around him spent most of their time pulling for his son, trying their best to ignore the torrent of bad news. This carried on for three days, until

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