

BUSINESS NOMINATED FOR ACCESSIBILITY AWARD

Healing Force is being nominated by the Stouffville Business Improvement Area for the Ontario Business Improvement Area 2006 Ontario Main Street Accessibility Award for a retail shop under 1,500 sq. ft.

Owner Suze Joyce is being recognized for her outstanding efforts in making her shop accessible for all people with handicaps. Her store offers wide aisles, a special doorbell for assistance, an interior wheelchair ramp, an accessible washroom, and staff trained to provide excellent customer service.

Suze made a presentation to the Stouffville BIA encouraging all businesses to use the special doorbell for assistance.



Harvest Gold Soup: Perfect for the fall. This great tasting soup full of potatoes, carrots, celery and butternut squash. Serve it with a loaf of our Pilgrim Bread.

Pumpkin Pie... Still needing something for dessert? Come and pick up one of our pumpkin pies. Made right here in our store with Ontario grown pumpkins... it is a sure success at the dinner table.

Hours:
 Mon-Fri 9-5:30 p.m.
 Sat. 9-5 p.m., Closed Sun.

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Ramblin' Ruth

Rick walks track for Terry Fox

By Ruth LeBlanc

Last month my column was about Terry Fox because I didn't have the heart to write about my husband's fight with stomach cancer. Both Rick and I were just coming to terms with what lies ahead, and were struggling to find reason to have hope, when we visited Sunnybrook.

Five years ago this past Sept. 12, I was there after I had been through successful cancer surgery. The doctors were kind and wished me well and I left feeling all was right with the world. This time, Rick was told frightening news, which made us feel we were in a guessing game as to his chances of survival.

All that we had gained in hope was washed away as numbness set in and silently we went home. It was a few days before the "funeral feeling" started to lift and it wasn't an effort to get out of bed. Rick is so brave and he helped me get back on my feet emotionally as we fought off depression.

Watching Rick endure chemotherapy since mid-July has taught me new respect for the human spirit. The dosage at one point was so aggressive he couldn't eat or drink for days and was barely able to walk. Finally his body rebelled and started doing very unkind things and it was decided to lower the dose or he would never be able to complete treatment.

Most people get a few days off a month, but Rick has major treatments every three weeks, which last

for hours. He leaves with a cylinder running chemo drugs into the port surgically implanted into his chest every single day of the month. Still, his will remains undaunted and I grow to love him even more as I watch him refuse to give in or just give up.

On the day of the Terry Fox Run he wanted to attempt to walk the high school track. I discouraged him and said I would do it for him and asked him to please stay home and rest. With his usual determination, he said it was something he felt he had to try to do. He took a long time getting ready, but he managed to tuck his chemo cylinder into his jeans pocket and off we went.

Walking gingerly we met with Kate Gilderdale, Pam Mandich and Sue Gerrard, whom we called "Rick's Chicks" and set out slowly. The track was clear, with everyone far ahead and out of sight as we made our way with just a minor weave from Rick as he neared the completion of his walk.

I have become a permanent water sprinkler system, and watching my once strong husband sleeping soundly in a lawn chair on the deck exhausted from this walk filled me with such sorrow I could only wish I could take this burden from him. I would gladly do it in a heartbeat.

Now we both refuse to believe the doctor's grim forecast. Every case is different and no one truly knows what tomorrow will bring. Rick and I are banking on a miracle and we are determined that he will be one of the survivors.

Terry Fox Run soars to a new high



Corporate teams and individuals get ready for warm-up exercises before setting off on the 2006 Terry Fox Run Sept. 17. The event drew 991 participants and raised more than \$83,000.

By Kate Gilderdale
 Stouffville Free Press

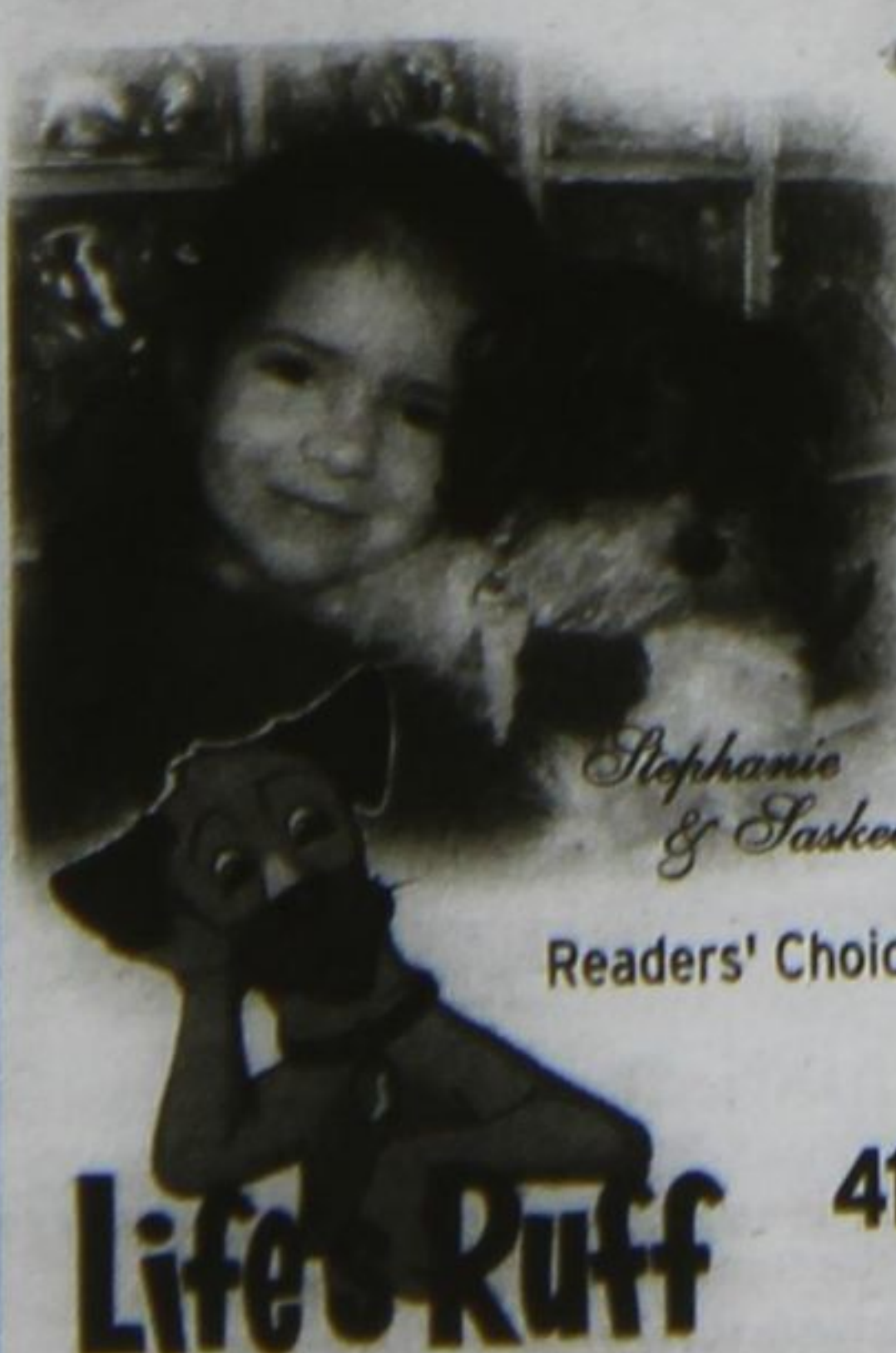
The weather was beautiful, and the arena and track area were packed with eager participants as Whitchurch-Stouffville's 25th Terry Fox Run got underway Sept. 17.

"We had 991 participants register and 115 volunteers," said organizer Sandy Schell Kennedy. "The buzz on the street prior to the event was pretty encouraging and I was hopeful we would match last year's incredible

total of \$74,000."

The tally so far is \$83,409.46, she said, adding that last year's final total increased by \$10,000 once all revenue generated from the event was included. Funds from the school Terry Fox Run, which took place Sept. 29, have yet to be tallied. In 2005 students and their families raised \$26,000.

"Our corporate teams came out in big numbers. Thirty-four per cent of our participants were on a corporate team and they raised 59 percent of our total revenue."



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