

Watch for the Official  
Festival Guide

The Farmers' Guide will be the official guide for the Strawberry Festival. This year's guide will contain all the information you'll need to make the most of this, the 10th anniversary of the Strawberry Festival. Watch for your guide delivered to every home in Whitby, Stouffville, or June 22, in plenty of time to plan your festival weekend!

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## Youth

# Summitview vandalism 'last straw'

By **TRACY KIBBLE**  
Staff Reporter

A gang of juveniles, who have made the rear of Summitview

Public School their new "hang out," must be stopped before a serious loitering problem escalates to something worse, says three-time president of the

school's parent/staff associa-  
tion.

Last Saturday night was the final straw after someone spray-painted an obscenity in

bold letters and a picture of a hand with the middle finger pointing upward on the back of the school's gym wall, said Sue Sherban.

Sherban, who admits she's frustrated with an apparent lack of action from officials to quash the problem, hopes York Region police officers will step up enforcement.

"This is kind of a sleepy town but I've seen three (police) cruisers sitting in Tim Hortons or having talk sessions in the park. It's not a busy town and there's no reason why (police) can't deal with these situations," Sherban said.

York Region police Detective Sgt. Karl Shaw, however, said cruisers have begun a regular patrol of the area and will continue to monitor the situation.

But that's not good enough for Joy Villeneuve of Ironwood Ct. The same blue paint was used on her Corvette convertible Saturday night, and her satellite dish was pelted with rocks. Three weeks ago, her home was broken into.

"It's like someone's out to get us," she said. "And the police say they can't do anything about it."

And Summitview principle Doug Winger said while there appears to be a weekend problem of loitering on the property, it's not isolated just to the back of his school.

"This same blue paint was found on the United Church and on several cars on Church Street and the police are certainly on it," Winger said.

Winger, who backed police

(Please see page 3)



## Out on a limb

Chris Huard (left) and Adam Cosman had a great time climbing this old tree on a lazy June afternoon this past weekend in Stouffville.

Photo/STEVE SOMERVILLE

# Man in hospital after explosion at house in Ballantrae

By **JULIE CASPERSEN**  
Staff Reporter

A man with his pants on fire was seen running from the scene of an explosion in Ballantrae. A vacant house at 5130 Aurora Rd. near Hwy. 48 exploded into flames at 1:20 a.m. Saturday. Police said

witnesses saw three men running from the burning house, one with his pants flaming.

The house was destroyed and most of the damage was due to the explosion. York Regional Police Sgt. Norm Miles said glass shards were found 30 metres from the house. Police detectives and the Ontario Fire Marshall have said the fire was deliberately set.

Police also found a pair of charred pants near the scene. Miles said soon after the explosion, a man arrived at Markham Stouffville Hospital with severe burns to his legs and backside. He is under sedation and had not been interviewed by police as of press time. Anyone with information about the explosion or the culprits can call Det. Alan Lake at 881-1221, ext. 7141.

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