

Year in review

(From page 1)

\$100,000, the occupants escaped unharmed.

A Stouffville man had a brush with death after a mysterious illness struck more than 100 Canadians on a Mexican vacation. Bob Bowman underwent emergency surgery in Mexico. He was airlifted to Toronto where he returned for more life-saving surgery. While still weak, Bowman spent the most part of '96 recovering. The cases, including Bowman's, are still before the courts.

Local residents were promised that a restructuring plan at Whitchurch-Stouffville Hydro Electric would mean major savings and a rate reduction. It was a promise kept. Local hydro officials were able to give their 3,200 customers a \$100 rebate, while 1997 rates were dropped by 11 per cent.

Defying an eviction order paid off for the Stouffville Coop. The feed company's 35 workers found out that their jobs were spared when property owners cancelled a plan to demolish the Main Street building.

MARCH

Wedding bells rang on the stage at Beauty and the Beast when Cameron Todd and Brigette Newton of Goodwood won a contest. The grand prize was a chance to marry on the famous stage. More than 2,000 guests witnessed the event.

A weekend of fun turned into a near tragedy for four local men. The quick thinking actions of

Chad Stover, 19, of Stouffville was cited as the reason he and three buddies are alive. When fire swept through a family cottage, Stover got his friends out. The town awarded Stover with an award for bravery.

A plan to introduce a total region-wide smoking ban was aired in Stouffville. Local businesses continue to fight the proposal even though health officials stress that tobacco use is deadly.

Ballantrae resident Lawnie Wallace was recognized as one of Canada's most promising young

vocalists. The 18-year old was among eight finalists out of 151 nominees for the YTV Achievement Awards.

A knife-wielding man held a two-year-old child hostage in a four hour standoff in Ballantrae in late March. York Regional Police were able to rescue the baby unharmed. Charged in the hostage taking is 22-year old Steven Tribbling. He'll stand trial in March.

'Lace up your skates' became music to hockey players' ears (Please see page 9)

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