

THE TRIBUNE

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Peewee boys have a ball

Get Dion out of my head
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Kibble column a real dog
 p. 6
 Dear Editor, I disagree...

Nine contenders for chief post

RICK VANDERLINDE
 Staff Reporter

York Region's new police chief could be picked within the next few days.

Police board members say they have interviewed nine finalists for the job and are about to enter the next phase of the selection process.

More than 20 candidates applied for the job, which became available Feb. 5 when former chief Bryan Cousineau retired, after being charged with five counts of breach of trust.

King Mayor Margaret Black said so far she hasn't identified any of the remaining nine candidates as a "stand-out."

"They're all very worthy people," Black said yesterday. "There are a number of very capable people here."

Black said the hiring committee must now reduce the nine candidates to a final short list with the help of management consultants KMPG.

"This is a very big responsibility," Black said. "I personally feel a large responsibility."

Black said the committee is waiting for board chairperson Eldred King to call the next meeting to continue the process.

King could not be reached for comment yesterday.

But regional chairperson Bill Fisch, who also sits on the police board, said the new chief should be named within the next two weeks.

That means the board appears to be on target to hire a new chief by mid-June. But board

member Bob Callow said the committee has no intention of rushing its final decision.

"We're working diligently to make the final selection," he said. "We're doing that as soon as we can with due process."

Callow added a report in a Toronto newspaper stating the decision would be made by yesterday was false.

Several veteran police officers' names have surfaced as being top candidates for the job.

But only OPP Supt. Wayne Frechette has publicly announced his interest in the job.

London Police Chief Julian Fantino, who still has a home in Woodbridge, was also considered a top choice for the job.

However, the former Toronto deputy chief has said he is content to stay in London.

Police sources say three current York Region officers have applied for the position. But the police union is adamantly opposed to hiring from within.

"We want a fresh face and a fresh start," police association president Paul Bailey said last month.

The police board is also about to begin its search for a new deputy police chief, following the retirement of Robert Wilson last December.

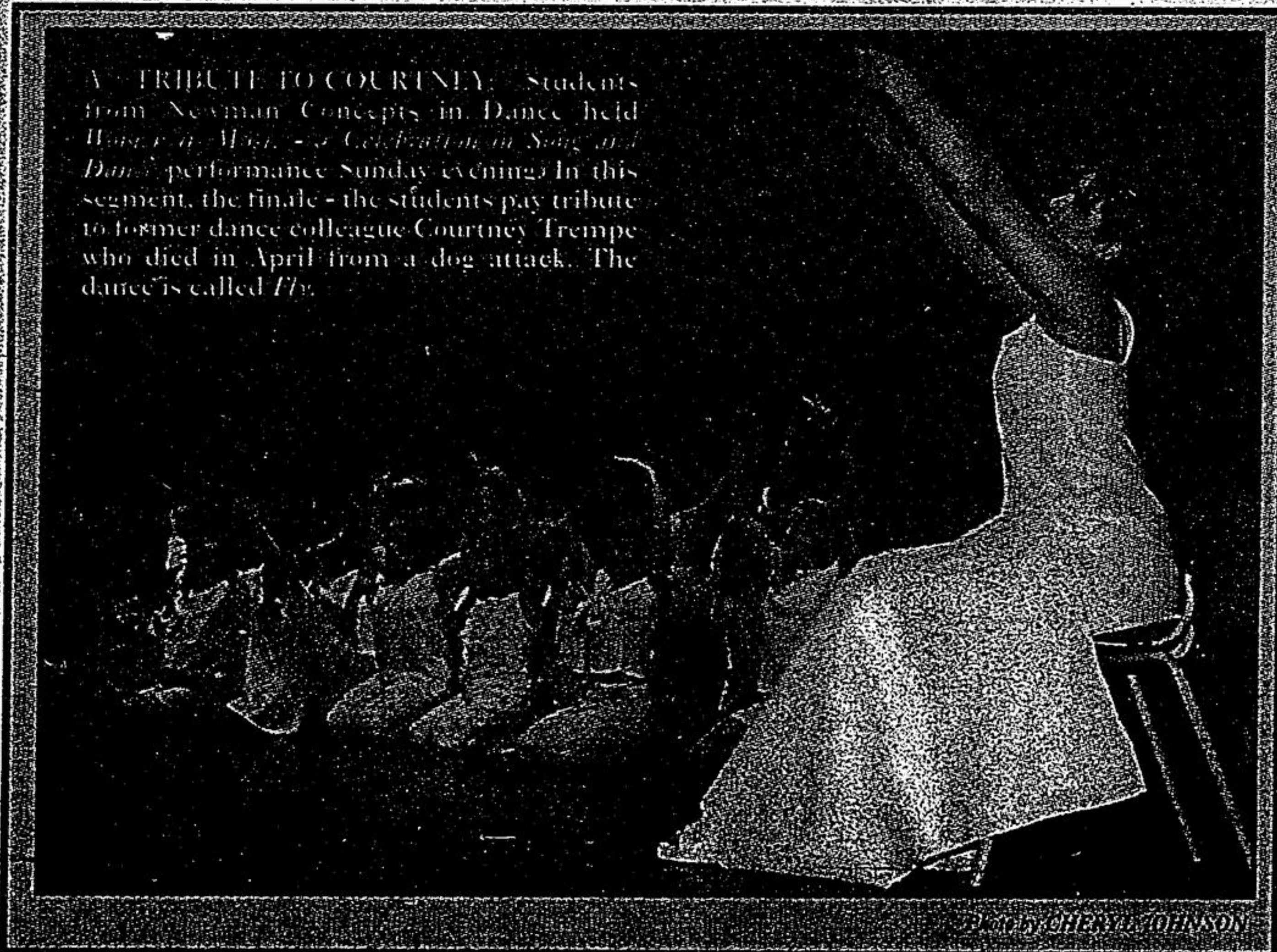
The new chief and deputy face sev-

eral challenges as they steer the force on a new course, following a damning provincial audit last year.

The audit determined the department is poorly run and underfunded, creating low morale

among rank-and-file officers.

The force has been run by interim Chief Peter Scott since March 1997, when Cousineau was placed on a paid leave of absence during a criminal investigation into his affairs.



A TRIBUTE TO COURTESY: Students from Newman Concepts in Dance held *Wings of a Dove - A Celebration in Song and Dance* performance Sunday evening. In this segment, the finale - the students pay tribute to former dance colleague Courtney Trempe who died in April from a dog attack. The dance is called *It's*.

Photo: CHERRY JOHNSON

Helping at-risk students

JENNIFER BROWN
 Staff Reporter

The York Region public school board will dedicate \$1.8 million towards helping students at risk. Following on the heels of a report that shows low academic performance is influenced by many factors including household income and the education background of parents, the board will use 62 per cent of a new provincial grant designed to help schools with a higher risk of academic fail-

ure. The decision was a dream come true for Georgina Trustee Reid Cawston.

After Grade 3 test results were released last December, Cawston asked the board for a special inquiry into why some schools performed better than others on the test.

With several schools in his community falling at the bottom of the 94 elementary schools in the public board, Cawston wanted to find a way to help disadvantaged students. Cawston was thrilled to see results so quickly. "I'm really happy about

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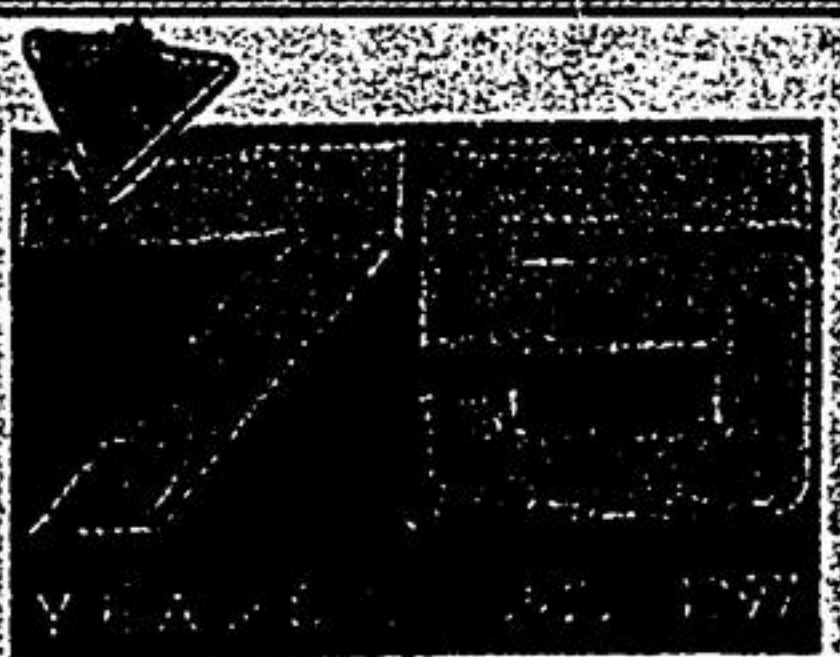
Eat cake

The Whitchurch-Stouffville Museum would like everyone to join them at the upcoming Anniversary Garden Party and Open House on Sunday, June 7 from 1-4 p.m. to help celebrate

its 27th anniversary with free cake.

Taking its toll

It's that time again for the annual Museum Toll Road on Main Street in Stouffville. On Sat. June 6 from 8:30 a.m. to noon volunteers will take to the streets to raise funds for the Vandro P.S. renovation fundraising campaign.



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