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Whitchurch-Stouffville Public Library
 Softball association
13 honoured its top coach and midget player at championships Saturday.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR
EVENT: York Region Day
WHEN: Wednesday, Aug. 26, all day
WHERE: Canadian National Exhibition

9 Tom Everett Scott and Mark Paul Gosselaar star in Dead Man on Campus.

SERVING WHITCHURCH-STOUFFVILLE SINCE 1888

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TO REACH US: (905) 640-2100

Central fire dispatch plan gets approval

Merger said to save \$96 million over 25 years

BY LISA QUEEN
 STAFF WRITER

York Region has approved a centralized fire dispatch centre, which could be the first step on the road to a regional department.

Fire trucks are now dispatched to emergencies from four centres in Newmarket, Richmond Hill, Vaughan and Markham.

But a 1997 comprehensive study of the region's fire services recommended merging the five urban departments, a move that would save \$96 million over 25 years.

The first step, according to the study, would be amalgamating the four dispatch centres.

The consolidation of the four existing communications/dispatch facilities into one is a priority task to support a consolidated fire service, the review said.

The transition team should consolidate the four existing communications/dispatch operations into one centre, with upgraded systems and trained personnel to support the new fire department.

John Molyneux, the region's fire co-ordinator, said the dispatch centre is long overdue.

"That one makes a whole lot of sense. If we don't do that, everybody is faced with up-staffing and buying technology for four centres instead of one."

Last week, the region's finance and administration committee approved spending up to \$61,000 to hire a consultant to carry out a tech-

MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS: Deadline for assessment appeals is Aug. 31 at midnight

It's tax time, again

BY JOAN RANSBERRY
 STAFF WRITER

York Region homeowners are finally receiving their property tax bills, and many are finding the whole ordeal rather confusing.

If you don't like what you see, however, you only have until Monday, Aug. 31, at midnight to speak out or hold your peace until next year.

The provincial government's new Current Value Assessment (CVA) is making its debut this year. CVA means the amount of money a willing seller can expect to receive from a willing buyer in an arms length transaction.

For the 1998 taxation year, all property assessments in Ontario are based on the property's current value as of June 30, 1996.

Now that people are getting their tax bills, however, property owners across Ontario are starting to pay closer attention to CVA — some people understand and accept it, while others are somewhat confused and completely bewildered by the entire process, said Robert Wood, acting commissioner for York Region's assessment office in Aurora.

"In fact, phones at the regional assessment office are ringing off the hook," Wood said.

"People look at their tax bill and think, 'My goodness, what is going on?' so they call us," he added.

"We're receiving a magnitude of calls now that most municipal-

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STAFF PHOTO/SIOERD WITTEVEN

COMIN' THROUGH

Nicholas Kozak-Holland of the Kool Gels team (in yellow) kicks the ball towards the opposition's goal as members of the Greenline Forest Products Ltd. team are in hot pursuit during Cup Day action at the Whitchurch-Stouffville Soccer Club Saturday at the Novopharm fields.

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Ross Dixon
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