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**15** Spirit red hot as team enjoys third consecutive win in Junior hockey action.

**ARTS & CULTURE CALENDAR**  
**EVENT:** Student Music Scholarship Concert  
**WHEN:** Friday, Oct. 30 at 7 p.m.  
**WHERE:** Stouffville District Secondary School



**12** A teen unearths the secret of a Nazi war criminal in *Apt. Pupil* starting this week.

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TO REACH US: (905) 640-2100

## York Region 'screwed up' new tax system

*MPP rips mayors over planned tax protest*

BY LISA QUEEN  
 STAFF WRITER

York Region "screwed up" its handling of the new assessment system, says York-Mackenzie MPP Frank Klees.

Klees' comments come on the heels of Markham Mayor Don Cousens' planned tax protest on the front steps of Queen's Park.

Cousens has persuaded mayors from the Greater Toronto Area to hold a demonstration next month unless the Tories step in to soften the blow. Small businesses are facing under Ontario's new property tax system.

For example, York is asking the province to contribute \$5.4 million toward a one-time rebate program for businesses affected by huge tax increases.

So far, the province has indicated it won't participate.

Meanwhile, Cousens insists the provincial tools — such as capping tax hikes or phasing in increases and decreases — are useless in York.

But Klees said if that was true, Cousens should have been lobbying the province months ago.

Instead, Klees suggested Cousens was asleep at the switch because he was unaware of the problems until the tax bills were sent out.

He should have been on the front steps of Queen's Park six months ago if he felt the tools didn't work for York Region, Klees

See POLITICS, page 5.

**CRIME:** Vandals take to smashing mailboxes in rural Stouffville

## Weekend crime spree

BY JOAN RANSBERRY  
 STAFF WRITER

Vandals armed with baseball bats and riding in the back of a pickup truck are destroying mailboxes along Bethesda Road.

Lately, the quiet and peaceful rural area, nestled between McCowan and Kennedy Roads, has been the target of middle-of-the-night vandalism.

In the past month, Roman Hudson of Bethesda Rd. has replaced his mailbox six times. "They were smashed to smithereens," Hudson said.

A mailbox costs about \$60. "In the past month, I've spent more than \$350 on mailboxes," said Hudson.

"I'm fed up with it. When does it end?"

Hudson's neighbours, Ted and Marion Dissette, have lost so many mailboxes, they've resorted to tying a plastic bag on the mailbox pole.

"We're not buying any more," Ted Dissette said. "The mailman will just have to put the mail in the plastic bag."

The Dissette's mailboxes were "just whacked" off the post,

Marian Dissette said. "They (vandals) ride around in the back of a pickup truck with their baseball bats. It's done in the middle of the night."

The victims said they've reported the vandalism to the police. "I called the police," Hudson said. "They said an officer

See POLICE, page 3.



STAFF PHOTO/SJOERD WITTEVEEN

### FOR HIS OWN GOOD

Alfie, the 15-year-old, curly-haired pooch of the Goodman family, is used to this business of getting rabies shot by now. Helping him through the moment are, from left, Jacquelyn Goodman, Brianna Goodman, veterinarian Dr. Peter Weidelich, and Susan Goodman, during a clinic at the Town and Country Animal Hospital on Hwy. 47 in Stouffville Saturday.

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