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15 Spirit of Stouffville's season comes to an end after being swept in 3 by Collingwood Blues.

ARTS & CULTURE CALENDAR

EVENT: Worldly prayers: World Day of Prayer
WHEN: Friday, March 5 at 7:30 p.m.
WHERE: St. Mark Catholic Church

12 Amazing 3-D effects in *T-Rex: Back to the Cretaceous* now playing in Vaughan.

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CRIME: Town, police target speeders in new program

Feeling need to speed? Beware

BY JOAN RANSBERRY
STAFF WRITER

Speeders beware. All eyes are on you.

Stouffville is about to become a Road Watch community. As well, through efforts by police, all York Region municipalities will get added law enforcement action, targeting aggressive drivers whose actions represent a serious compromise to public safety. Chief Julian Fantino has promised.

Road Watch is a town-wide surveillance program designed to curb speeding. Backed by Fantino, Road Watch will be officially launched at a meeting next Tuesday, March 9 at 7 p.m. at council chambers.

Last year, York Regional Police investigated 30 fatal motor vehicle collisions which resulted in 33 deaths.

An analysis of contributing factors portrays a disturbing common element. For the most part, these deaths could have been prevented, Fantino told councillors during a visit last week.

The contributing factors in these tragedies were alcohol, speeding, loss of control, not wearing seat belts and running red lights, the chief added.

As well as fatalities, officers investigated more than 6,000 property damage collisions in 1998. Close to 2,000 personal injury collisions resulted in 4,681 persons being injured last year.

The data is particularly troubling when reconciled against the fact that

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SWEET AND SAPPY



PHOTO/LORI EMMERSON

Bob Sutton pulls a frozen block of sap from the bottom of this pail during the Sugarbush Maple Syrup Festival opening day at Bruce's Mill Conservation Area Saturday. The event continues to April 11 and includes free wagon rides and samples of maple syrup and sap. Call (416) 661-6600.

Don't give up on CO alarms, chiefs say

Tests cast doubt on effectiveness of some carbon monoxide detectors

BY RICK VANDERLINDE
STAFF WRITER

Reports that carbon monoxide detectors may not be operating properly shouldn't stop homeowners from using the devices, York Region fire chiefs say.

Tests done by Seneca College's Fire Protection Engineering program showed that only five of 26 CO detectors met new national safety standards.

But Vaughan Fire Chief John Sutton said he's skeptical of the "classroom" testing, and is urging residents to continue using the detectors.

"I think they have been effective because we answer a lot of calls where CO detectors have gone off," Sutton said. "If we're answering alarms, they must be going off."

Sutton added the detectors are often responding to low levels of carbon monoxide.

But tests done at Seneca College as part of classroom training showed that some detectors weren't responding to CO levels.

"In recent demonstrations, classroom observations were unable to confirm the effectiveness of some alarms," a press release from the college stated.

Aurora Fire Chief Joe Hunwicks said reports of the study, which he has yet to review, "certainly are troublesome."

Hunwicks isn't surprised household CO detectors don't always work. The fire chief said his own household CO detector failed to work after only 18 months of use.

His monitor failed to sound an alarm after he tested it by placing it under the exhaust of his car.

He pointed out pushing the test button only makes sure the batteries and alarm are working, not whether the device can detect carbon monoxide levels.

Hunwicks recommends using the CO detector as a backup, suggesting gas fireplaces and appliances should be inspected for leaks and flaws annually.

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