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**14** Ed Hakonson has a spirited outlook on the future of his junior A hockey club.

**COMMUNITY CALENDAR**

**EVENT:** Support group for Tourette Syndrome meets  
**WHEN:** Wednesday, April 7, 7:30 to 9:30 p.m.  
**WHERE:** Stouffville Missionary Church, 640-0412



**10** The Season Centre helps children deal with pain and grief through uninhibited play.

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**POLICE:** Union to finance officers' legal expenses

## Charged officers will remain on duty: chief

BY RICK VANDERLINDE  
 STAFF WRITER

Two York Regional Police officers charged in connection with a violent struggle that ended in the death of a 44-year-old Sunderland father have much to worry about.

But thanks to their union, hefty legal bills shouldn't weigh on their minds.

York Region's acting police union president Fred Stojanovic said Const. Randy Martin, who faces a second-degree murder charge, and Const. Mike Hoskin, who faces a weapons charge, have the financial support of the association even if they are convicted.

"We base our decision on the merit of the case," Stojanovic said. "They don't necessarily have to be acquitted."

Stojanovic said if an on-duty police officer was convicted of a criminal act, such as burglary, the union wouldn't pay legal fees.

"If a cop walked into a bank while on duty and robbed the place that's different," he said.

"We're talking about a different situation here."

Stojanovic added he's confident Martin, 37, and Hoskin, 39, will be "totally vindicated."

If the charges don't stick, the officers' legal fees will be paid by the Region of York through an insurance policy.

York police Chief Julian Fantino said he has no intention of suspending the veteran officers while they await the outcome of the charges.

"They will not be suspended," Chief Julian Fantino said.

## IF THE SHOE FITS ...



PHOTO/CHERYL JOHNSON

Latham Gallery held its grand opening last Saturday at its new home on Main Street. Here, show curator and artist Judy Bear Campbell relaxes in the shoe chair by David Burry of Design Emphasis.

## Bolender could get eight years in prison

Pot crop no small potatoes, crown says

BY JOAN RANSBERRY  
 STAFF WRITER

A Ballantrae pot farmer should spend eight years in prison for endangering the lives of two men, Crown attorney Michelle Rumble told a Newmarket court Thursday.

John Murray Bolender, 43, was in court to face sentencing after being found guilty last November of aggravated assault with a weapon and the cultivation of narcotics for the purpose of trafficking.

Bolender was found not guilty of attempted murder after blasting two men with a shotgun when he caught them stealing his marijuana crop on Aug. 21, 1996.

David Showers, 25, and Mark Cowie, 28, suffered superficial wounds from BB pellets that were fired at them as they fled the Hwy. 48 and Vandorf Road property at about 1 a.m.

Rumble said Bolender should get more than the minimum sentence because he was growing illegal drugs with a street value of \$57,000, and because he injured and endangered lives with his irresponsible use of a weapon.

"(Bolender) could have hit a main artery and one or both of these men could have died," Rumble told the judge. "The public needs and deserves protection from this type of conduct."

The minimum sentence for aggravated assault with a weapon is four years; the maximum for narcotics cultivation is life, she said.

Rumble said Bolender continues to get into trouble and has a prior history of violence.

She told the court that while on bail for this crime, Bolender became involved in another altercation to which he has pleaded guilty to assault, possession of an illegal substance, failing to remain at the scene of an accident, impaired operation of a vehicle and failure to comply with bail conditions.

Bolender's lawyer, Ken Murray, is expected to address the court next week.

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