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**15** Marlee Johnson makes a pitch to join the provincial softball for the 2001 Canada games

**ARTS & CULTURE CALENDAR**  
**EVENT:** Twelfth Night  
**WHEN:** Sunday, 8 p.m.  
**WHERE:** Markham Museum, 294-4576



**14** My, what big teeth you have! A terrifying force of nature has come to Lake Placid

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50 CENTS INCLUDING GST / 20 PAGES

TUESDAY, JULY 20, 1999

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## Audit creates investor nightmare

*Depositors stand to lose millions*

BY RICK VANDERLINDE  
 Staff Writer

Toronto fraud squad detectives have started interviewing several York Region investors who fear they have lost millions of dollars to an unregistered deposit broker.

Det. Bob Fallis said the investors are among more than 100 from across Canada who deposited a total of about \$110 million with Nelbar Financial Corp.

Last month, Nelbar's president, 37-year-old George Nelson Allen of Newmarket, was charged with operating an unregistered loan company under Ontario's Loan and Trust Corporations Act. The maximum fine under the act is \$100,000.

Fallis said the bulk of the 20 to 25 York Region investors are from Newmarket and Aurora, with others from Markham, Thornhill, Mount Albert and Queensville.

Fallis said one investor stands to lose \$1 million, with most local investors depositing between \$20,000 and \$50,000.

Fallis said neighbours, friends and relatives of Allen have deposited money since the Toronto investment brokerage opened in 1992.

"Some of them have known (the broker) for a long time," Fallis said. "These aren't short-term relationships. There was a built-up trust over the years."

The *Stouffville Tribune* could not reach Allen for comment.

## ART IN THE PARK

*Now that's what we call a hat!*



PHOTO/CHERYL JOHNSON

Marion McCumber of Kingston makes like Carman Miranda with this one-of-a-kind creation she found at Art in the Park.

## A fruitful weekend

Thousands of art lovers flocked to Memorial Park, filling it to capacity, for Art in the Park last weekend. The two-day festival, now in its fourth year, is a fund-raiser for Markham-Stouffville Hospital and the Latcham Gallery

[PHOTO SPREAD/PAGE 4]

## Missing links bad for business

*Region's roads and pipes neglected: Toronto report*

BY LISA QUEEN  
 Staff Writer

Aging roads and pipes that are failing to keep pace with growth are threatening the GTA's future, according to a report from the Toronto Board of Trade.

Although the board acknowledged infrastructure doesn't sound like an exciting issue, officials warn that neglecting it could ruin the quality of life in the GTA.

Infrastructure includes roads, transit, water and sewer pipes, rail lines, airports and communications networks.

Infrastructure planning and development in the GTA have not kept pace with population growth, the board said in a report to the Greater Toronto Services Board.

"Many roads and highways desperately need an overhaul. The system requires frequent and increasingly costly maintenance and repair."

The board complained that missing links in the arterial road system are contributing to congestion, a costly headache for businesses.

Hwy. 407, which opened in 1997, had been planned for more than 30 years, the report stated. "No long-term planning of major regional highways is underway, and plans that have been developed are slow to materialize."

The report recommends broadening the GTSB's powers so it can better co-ordinate services and infrastructure improvements in the GTA. But the actual delivery of services

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