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3 Business community all fired up over York Region plan to ban smoking in public places.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

EVENT: Blood donor clinic
WHEN: Tomorrow, 3 to 8 p.m.
WHERE: Legion Hall, Ninth Line



20 Projections are good for entrepreneur's plan to screen ads on a wall at Markville mall.

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THURSDAY, SEPT. 30, 1999

TO REACH US: (905) 640-2100

POLICE: Julian Fantino's name crops up as possible successor to retiring Toronto chief

York's top cop eyed

BY RICK VANDERLINDE
Staff Writer

With Toronto Mayor Mel Lastman announcing he'll play a major role in hiring the city's next police chief, coveted top cop Julian Fantino is expected to be an even bigger contender for the job. Lastman, known to be a fan of York Region's police chief, appointed himself to the Toronto Police

Services Board yesterday, partially to influence who replaces outgoing chief David Boothby.

But if Fantino is interested in running the country's largest municipal police force, he isn't letting on.

David Barrow, who sits on York's police services board, said Fantino has always told board members he has a job to finish in York Region.

"He's always said, 'I have a contract to complete here,'" said Barrow, a Richmond Hill councillor. "It would be a real concern if he applied for the job, but he has never indicated he's leaving."

Fantino, hired to resurrect the faltering force, has about four years left in a five-year contract.

Fantino, who couldn't be reached for comment yesterday,

has been publicly coy about the Toronto job ever since Boothby announced his retirement in June.

Fantino said earlier he didn't want to speculate on speculation.

"I'm focused on the business at hand here," he said in June. "This is a very exciting place to work and I'm honoured to be here."

See SPECULATION, page 8.

Refugee screening flawed: officials

Canadians at risk, health unit warns

BY LISA QUEEN
Staff Writer

Inadequate medical screening of immigrants is allowing contagious diseases into Canada, warns York Region's health unit.

Just days after an Aurora woman learned she contracted tuberculosis while helping Kosovar refugees, the local health unit repeated an earlier warning that the immigration process is fraught with inadequacies.

Bill Mindell, York's director of disease control, pointed out immigrants have their medical tests performed by doctors in their native countries up to 12 months before they arrive in Canada.

That leaves the door open for foreign doctors to be bribed, or for immigrants to contract a disease in the intervening months before they come to Canada.

Mindell said immigrants should be checked by Canadian physicians when they touch down on Canadian soil.

If they have tuberculosis or other infectious diseases, newcomers are supposed to seek immediate medical attention.

But because it takes up to three months for immigrants to get OHIP coverage, and since many don't qualify for private medical insurance, they're often reluctant to spend their own money on treatment.

Mindell suggested the federal government should provide treatment to ensure contagious diseases aren't spread to



STAFF PHOTO/SIOERD WITTEVEN

FAIREST OF THEM ALL

From left, Lerryn Pitcher, Sarah Hosick, 10, Hayley Pitcher, 10, and Wendy Hosick carry in the E.T. Crowle Public School scarecrow entry to the Markham Fair for judging Wednesday morning. The fair opens today and runs until Sunday.

See PRECAUTIONS, page 4.

TAKES
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