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17 Junk food is still the snack of choice for many people, despite nutritious alternatives.

ARTS & CULTURE CALENDAR

EVENT: *The Emperor and The Assassin* premiere
WHEN: Sunday, Jan. 23 at 5 p.m.
WHERE: Ontario Science Centre, 770 Don Mills Rd



9 Emergency crunch at York hospitals is scaring away ill patients, doctors say.

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RESIDENTS AND TOWN AT ODDS OVER SWIMMING POOL COMPLEX

Rival meetings make waves

BY JOAN RANSBERRY
Staff Writer

The campaign to put the kibosh on Stouffville's \$5.7-million indoor swimming pool and library project is going into overdrive.

At the same time, the town is going full steam ahead with the project, slated for Memorial Park South.

While the town plans to sell the

project at an information meeting Jan. 18 at 7 p.m. at 37 Sandiford Dr., officials with Residents Information Group (RIG) will attempt to persuade the public to oppose the 31,000-square-foot facility.

RIG's public meeting will be held Jan. 19 at 7:30 p.m. at Latham Hall on Park Drive.

The town intends to build the complex, complete with a six-lane

pool, on 17 acres at Memorial Park South, near Rose Avenue and O'Brien Avenue, said Emmerson.

RIG does not object to the town building an indoor swimming pool. "We're in favour of a swimming pool but not where council wants to stick it," said RIG member David Probert.

In particular, RIG objects to the fact that the library will have to be

moved from its present location near Main Street.

A few months ago, RIG surveyed more than 5,000 residents, asking them how they felt about the proposed complex. About 80 per cent indicated they did not support the plan to have the complex at Memorial Park South, RIG member

See MAJORITY, page 10.

Helicopter 'benefactor' identity to stay secret

Only police chief Fantino knows

BY LISA QUEEN
Staff Writer

York Regional Police Chief Julian Fantino is the only person who knows who is giving the force a \$750,000 helicopter — and he's not talking. Not now. Not ever.

Fantino said the individual or company — he won't say which — is donating the used helicopter on the condition his, her or its identity remains under wraps.

The helicopter, a 1995 Enstrom Turbine, which has clocked about 350 hours of flying time, is expected to be delivered to the force in March.

It is a different model than Air One, the Bell Jet Ranger, leased during a six-month pilot project in York and Durham regions last year.

But Fantino, who learned of the offer shortly after the pilot project was launched last summer, said the helicopter will be well-equipped for police work.

He insisted anonymity is the benefactor's only stipulation. But to ensure the donation was above board, Fantino had a Toronto law firm check the details.

He dismissed concerns the benefactor will expect something in return for the expensive gift, such as increased police coverage.

See SECRECY, page 8.



STAFF PHOTO/SJOERD WITTEVEEN

LIGHTS OUT

Mike Weller of Weller Tree Service in Keswick takes off the Christmas tree lights from the Stouffville Main Street tree at the clock tower, signalling the end of the Christmas season.

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