



A day at the races



AT TOP: Lynn Hiley mushes across an open field on a beautiful afternoon.

ABOVE: Michael Dodsworth, 3, of Kleinburg enjoys a ride around the field in a real dog sled.

RIGHT: Mike Oldenhoff starts out on the course.

The Kortright Conservation Area in Kleinburg staged its annual dog sled races earlier this month, attracting plenty of enthusiastic sledders.



PHOTOGRAPHY BY MIKE BARRETT

Get tough on young offenders, councillors say

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"Everyone has to keep their eyes open. The more eyes we have, the better."

The maximum age of a young offender should be lowered from 18 to 14 years, Councillor Steve Pliakes said.

"If a child is under 14 years, the parents can discipline him or her. If he or she is over 14, it's difficult because the kid thinks he knows everything. Over 14 years, a male or a female is mature enough to know what's wrong and mature enough to pay the consequences."

Violent crime is on the increase, said Councillor Judy Scala. "We have to get tough," she said. "Some of these crimes being committed by young offenders are totally unacceptable. If they knew the courts will be tough, they might stop and think."

Local man nabbed in drug bust

A 25-year-old Stouffville man faces numerous drug and weapons charges after being pulled over for dangerous driving in Markham Wednesday night.

York Regional Police Det. Sgt. Wayne Kalinski said police noticed several people smoking a marijuana cigarette outside a Bullock Drive club about 11:30 p.m.

They watched as a man took off in his car, going at a high rate of speed and driving in an erratic manner, and followed the car.

Officers, including Const. Vernon Ward of the community-oriented response unit, pulled the car over near Markham Road and Fitzgerald Avenue and, upon investigation, discovered a large white plastic bag filled with marijuana on the floor in front of the passenger seat.

"It was in plain view," Kalinski said.

The man was arrested.

In their search, police discovered a 150,000-volt taser gun in the console, a debt list, rolling papers, digital scales and \$735 cash.

They also found 120 grams of marijuana, 27.5 grams of hashish, 9.5 grams of hash oil and 4.5 grams of cocaine.

Drug value is about \$2,300, Kalinski said.

The man stands charged with four counts of possession of a controlled substance for the purpose of trafficking, four counts of possession of a controlled substance, possession of the proceeds of crime for the cash and possession of a prohibited weapon.

—Kathleen Griffin

No golf course development in conservation group's future

The Lake Simcoe and Region Conservation Authority has no active negotiations to develop a golf course on any of its properties, CAO Gayle Wood says.

Wood was commenting on a newspaper article last week that listed the LSRCA among "cash-strapped" conservation authorities approached by Envirogolf Inc., a firm seeking to establish environmentally friendly golf courses on lands managed by the authorities.

One, the Ganaraska Region Conservation Authority in Port Hope, has already approved a deal in principle.

"We had some preliminary discussions and that's what they were," Wood said last week.

Conservation authorities have undergone major provincial funding cuts over several years.

Wood didn't deny the LSRCA, headquartered in Newmarket and managing land north of the Oak Ridges Moraine in York Region, could use more funds, but said putting it in the category of "cash-strapped" would be wrong.

"Our year-end position is very good and we have no debt and no deficit."

—Mike Adler