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3 King City's Big Pipe
 paves the way for
 development on the Oak
 Ridges Moraine, critics say.

ARTS & CULTURE CALENDAR

EVENT: Red Poppy percussion concert
WHEN: Thursday, 8 p.m.
WHERE: Markham Theatre, 305-7469

12 Living life on
 the wild side
 is easy when your
 parents are zookeepers.

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SATURDAY FOCUS

No secret to successful marriage, says couple after 67 years



STAFF PHOTO/MIKE BARRETT

Edna and Dennis Robbins are already planning for their 70th wedding anniversary.

Happy together

Since being declared husband and wife on March 11, 1933, Edna and Dennis Robbins have based their marriage on two principles: husbands should learn how to cook and couples should never go to bed angry.

[FULL STORY/PAGE 4]

Business may blow smoke ban into court

Councillor, board of trade president clash

BY LISA QUEEN
 Staff Writer

They're both strong-willed women and neither shows any sign of backing down.

Markham Board of Trade president Ruth Burkholder clashed again last week with Vaughan Councillor Joyce Frustaglio, chairperson of York Region's no-smoking task force.

Unless the task force compromises on its hard-line stand to ban smoking in all public places, Burkholder suggested the stand-off may have to be played out in court.

"We understand that over 100 businesses are now taking the (region) of Kitchener-Waterloo to court for implementing a full ban on smoking. And the City of Vancouver is in the same situation — being sued by businesses," she told regional council Thursday.

"The economic impacts of smoke-free legislation are heavy. We do not believe the Regional Municipality of York and its municipalities want to get involved in lawsuits."

Although a regional bylaw died more than two years ago when fewer than half of York's nine municipalities supported the ban, the task force is hoping to convince local councils to outlaw smoking in their own towns.

See **TASK FORCE**, page 9.

Officer busted in theft ring

Toronto cop still bloody at York Region bail hearing

BY KATHLEEN GRIFFIN AND
 RICK VANDERLINDE
 Staff Writers

With dried blood still smeared on his scalp and face, a 30-year-old Toronto police officer appeared in Newmarket court Friday accused of being the ringleader of a robbery gang.

Darin Cooper, a detective constable with 55 division, sat in the prisoners' box next to six other men charged in the theft ring.

Two other accused — Mike Wassilyn and Kristopher Della-Pia — also had visible injuries, including cuts and bruises.

Cooper, a 10-year police veteran, made a brief court appearance along with the other men on charges of armed robbery, conspiracy, impersonating police officers, breach of trust, possession of stolen property and possession of a restricted weapon.

All seven were held in custody for court appearances next week.

"I think the injuries speak for themselves," defence lawyer Michael Clarke told reporters outside the court.

"I don't know exactly how they happened ... I first saw (my clients) for the first time five minutes ago."

The charges were laid in connection to an armed robbery scheme that involved armed bandits using police ID and bulletproof vests to rob their victims of luxury vehicles and cash.

While York Regional Police remain tight-

See **BADGE**, page 10.

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