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**20** Lawn bowling clubs in Markham and Stouffville invite new players to test the greens.

**ARTS & CULTURE CALENDAR**

**EVENT:** Smile Theatre's *Soldier of Fortune*  
**WHEN:** Friday, 7 p.m.  
**WHERE:** Parkview Village, Ninth Line



**3** Canada's Wonderland turns 20 today. The attraction is the region's third largest employer.

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## GTA will see population increase by 2 million

*Biggest part of boom coming within decade*

BY LISA QUEEN  
Staff Writer

The Greater Toronto Area will welcome more than 2 million new residents over the next three decades, marking a major shift in demographics for Toronto and the regions of York, Durham, Peel and Halton.

Today's population of 5.1 million will reach 7.4 million by 2031, York Region's acting planning commissioner John Waller told a committee of the Greater Toronto Services Board last Friday.

He said the bulk of the growth will take place before 2011.

Almost 100,000 residents a year are being added to the population between 1996 and 2011 thanks to births and people moving into the area.

However, that will drop to 60,000 new residents a year during the following decade and about 50,000 additional citizens from 2021 to 2031.

"It doesn't mean we're not growing (after 2011), we're just not growing as robustly," Waller said.

He said 70 per cent of the GTA's growth will be people coming from other regions in Canada and from abroad, while only 30 per cent will come from births to existing GTA residents.

There is a general perception

See TRAFFIC, page 10.

## Learning to spot an arson



STAFF PHOTO/STEVE SOMERVILLE

Constables Sunil Tulsiani and Sandi Graham of the OPP inspect the inside of a burned out vehicle in the burn and learn investigation exercise at Embassy Suites hotel, part of the International Association of Auto Theft investigators seminar. Members of organizations from across North America, including insurance investigation companies, fire department personnel and police officers attended. The object of this exercise is to find out the cause of the fire and whether it was arson or accidental.

## York MP vows to guard privacy

*Wilfert says Liberals will put blindfold on Big Brother*

BY GIANNI COLAVECCHIA  
Staff Writer

The fact the federal government maintains a massive databank containing millions of personal details on Canadians looks bad, Oak Ridges MP Bryon Wilfert admits, but he's going to ensure the information isn't abused.

Canada's privacy commissioner released a report expressing concern over the Longitudinal Labour Force File, which contains up to 2,000 details, including income and use of social assistance, 30 million Canadians.

As vice-chairperson of the Standing Committee on Human Resources Development, Wilfert is working with the commissioner to ensure the information is secure.

"I think that, at the end of the day, the visual optics of the situation concern me absolutely," Wilfert said. "But I don't want people to go by optics. I want people to go by what's being done."

Government officials say the databank, which can be easily accessed by Canada's spy agency, is helpful in forming social programs.

But critics say the government doesn't need the databank's sheer volume of information.

Wilfert said he will press for reform, including tougher penalties for people who misuse information and restrictions on how long

See SAFEGUARDS, page 10.

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