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20 Stouffville hero Scott Sutcliffe is honoured for helping save a woman's life.

ARTS & CULTURE CALENDAR

EVENT: Art exhibit and jazz cafe
WHEN: Tuesday, 7 to 9:30 p.m.
WHERE: Unionville High School



22 Body art and piercing have been accepted as the norm in the white-collar world.

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FRIEND WATCHES 17-YEAR-OLD CHRIS PAGANI SLIP BENEATH LAKE SCUGOG'S ICY WATERS

Boating tragedy claims teen

BY JOAN RANSBERRY
 Staff Writer

It was pitch black, Lake Scugog's choppy water ice cold.

For Stouffville teens Jessie Wadsworth, 16, and Chris Pagani, 17, the elements spelled disaster when their canoe capsized early Saturday morning.

Wadsworth survived, but Pagani was swallowed up by the murky waters after a wave toppled them overboard.

"It was so black. All we could see was a light coming from a (docked)

boat," said Wadsworth, explaining the pair decided to go fishing well after midnight.

Although the canoe blew out of reach, Wadsworth held on to the one life jacket. Unfortunately, it was a child's jacket, quite unsuitable for growing teens, yet it was all the teens had.

The pair was not in the water long when Wadsworth realized his friend was in serious trouble. He made his way to Pagani, took the life jacket off and gave it to him. The pair then contemplated taking their

clothes off as a way to make it easier to swim. Before a decision was made, Pagani slipped below the water's surface. Wadsworth couldn't find him. And since they were out of earshot, no one could hear their cries for help.

"It felt like I was out there a very long time and it felt like we were way out. It seemed like a mile. But the police say it wasn't that far. It was pretty dark," said Wadsworth.

Knowing that his life was in his own hands, Wadsworth set his sights on a light from and pushed

on. Somehow, he made it.

Wadsworth called for help, while cottage buddies Dan Hill and Jeremy Guess were alerted. Durham police received the distress call at 3:15 a.m. Soon after, Wadsworth was taken to hospital in Port Perry.

"I had hypothermia. They treated me for six hours," Wadsworth said.

The Pagani family is overcome with grief. Stouffville's teens are also

See POLICE, page 9.

Green vision for future of York looks hazy

We're poised to become 'L.A. North'

BY LISA QUEEN
 Staff Writer

If the road to hell is paved with good intentions, York Region's greenspaces may be doomed, an environmentalist warns.

John MacKenzie, treasurer and researcher with the environmental group Public Spaces, praised the region for adopting several plans to preserve York's land, water and air.

But implementing those strategies is another matter altogether.

"York Region is developing in a very unsustainable manner right now. Right now, York Region has to do some very serious thinking or it will become L.A. North," said MacKenzie, whose group has been pressuring the region to save its environment from urban sprawl.

It will be a sea of asphalt stretching from the shores of Lake Ontario to the shores of Lake Simcoe and beyond.

MacKenzie is responding to York's first state-of-the-environment report released last week. A draft of the document was unveiled a year ago.

"It's great that they have all these things (plans and studies) but are they going to support it on the ground? Are they going to take it up at the Ontario Municipal Board? I have witnessed thousands of acres of rural and agricultural lands put

See VOICE, page 5.



STAFF PHOTO/IGERD WITTEVEEN

CLASSMATE WON'T BE FORGOTTEN

A student pays her respects at a shrine set up at Stouffville District Secondary School in honour of Chris Pagani after a tragic drowning accident over the holiday weekend.

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