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5 York Region will have to pay more toward Toronto's social housing costs.

ARTS & CULTURE CALENDAR

EVENT: Markham Fair
WHEN: Sept. 28 to Oct. 1
WHERE: Markham Fairgrounds, McCowan Road



3 A regional ceremony honoured the memory of York Region officers who died in the line of duty.

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TO REACH US: (905) 294-2200

ENVIRONMENT MINISTRY ACCUSED REGION OF FAILING TO SAMPLE PROPERLY

OUR WATER'S FINE: REGION

BY PATRICK CASEY
 Staff Writer

York Region officials insist its supply of drinking water is safe, despite an Environment Ministry statement Friday accusing the region of failing to supply minimum sampling requirements at three of its water treatment facilities.

On Thursday, the ministry

reported 24 plants inspected between Aug. 21 and Sept. 1 were deficient, including groundwater treatment plants in Newmarket, Kleinburg and Nobleton.

According to the ministry, daily tests for turbidity — a measure of cloudiness caused by fine particle matter in raw water — were not conducted.

However, transportation and

works commissioner Kees Schipper said the region wasn't given proper explanation regarding turbidity testing after the province introduced a stringent regulations effective Aug. 20.

"Before we got clarification, a Ministry inspector came to our facility on Aug. 28 and ordered us to carry out turbidity tests on a daily basis. We have been doing that on a

daily basis," explained Schipper Friday, stressing the region's drinking water remains safe and was at no point compromised.

"Results from our (groundwater) wells have come back clean. We are testing our water on a daily basis, including tests for turbidity, and all of our tests have come back without any problems."

See ALLEGATIONS, page 8.

York cop gets 16-day suspension for conduct

Officer's investigation into baby death criticized at hearing

BY KATHLEEN GRIFFIN
 Staff Writer

A two-and-a-half-year saga that has left two families worn out and emotionally drained has ended with a 16-day forfeiture of pay for York Regional Police officer Neil Orr.

Deputy Chief Terence Kelly accepted a joint sentencing submission from prosecutor Reginald Watson and Orr's lawyer Leo Kinahan yesterday after Orr was found guilty of discreditable conduct in August.

"I hope Const. Orr appreciates the leniency of this tribunal, however, I would be remiss if I did not caution Const. Orr, should he come before this tribunal again under similar circumstances, his career in law enforcement will be severely compromised," Kelly said as he handed down sentence.

Kelly found Orr had conducted a sloppy investigation into the death of seven-month-old Zachary Morrison at his Mount Albert caregiver's in April, 1997 and that he had not related important facts to Crown prosecutors about the case.

Two Crown attorneys, Bob Ash and Harold Dale, testified at the Police Services Act trial they believe Orr lied to them.

Yesterday, Orr refused comment, walking away from media

See BABY'S, page 8.



STAFF PHOTOS/JOERD WITTEVEEN

INCREDIBLE WIND DAMAGE

Elsie Menzies of Kennedy Road in northern Whitchurch-Stouffville shows how these trees in front of her home were felled by heavy winds early Thursday morning.

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