

INSIDE: Letters . . . 6
 Events . . . 20
 Sports . . . 21
 Classifieds . . . 22

10 Stouffville woman killed in truck-car crash on the Ninth Line on Thursday

ARTS & CULTURE CALENDAR
EVENT: Clock Tower Theatre Christmas Concert
WHEN: 7:30 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 17
WHERE: Christ Church Anglican, Stouffville

Whitchurch-Stouffville Public Library
4 tractor traffic jam gets support for area farmers from at least one local MP.

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TEACHERS WITHDRAW EXTRA SERVICES

Students protest at elementary school

BY GIANNI COLAVECCHIA
 Staff Writer

Until now, Jenna Jacobson has never had occasion to pick up a placard.

After all, she's only 12 years old and knows as much about political causes as most people her age.

But even before York Region's elementary teachers announced they are withdrawing extra-curricular activities starting Monday, Jenna and her friends became activists.

Shouting slogans like "We are fighting for our rights," up to 40 Grade 8 students walked a picket line Friday outside Thornhill's Willowbrook Public School.

"They're taking away our extra-curricular activities," Jenna, who once took part in music practices after school, said. "Up until last week, we had our band. We had everything."

Weeks ago, teachers said they would protest the lack of a collective agreement with their board bosses by reporting for work 15 minutes before the opening bell each school day.

The official line was teachers could stay at school as long as they wanted after the closing bell to assist with after-school activities.

But Jenna and the other protesters noted the majority of teachers did not stay effectively.

See **TEACHERS**, page 11

In good hands



PHOTO/CELIA BRONKHORST

Instructor Janet Williams of the Stouffville Figure Skating Club gives student Tanya Burford, 8, a private lesson at the Whitchurch-Stouffville Recreation Complex this week. Tanya is preparing for upcoming skate competitions.

Thugs lift Christmas money at Sally Ann

'We're really in need now'; regional appeal launched

BY KATHLEEN GRIFFIN
 Staff Writer

The Salvation Army is counting on the generosity of Markham and Whitchurch-Stouffville residents to help make up a \$7,000 shortfall after Scrooge-like thieves made off with cash and coupons that would have provided 300 needy families with turkeys and toys this Christmas.

"It's very disheartening, it's hard to believe," said Lieutenant Rob Pollett. "We're really in need right now. We have to try and drum up some extra support because this has put us in a real pinch."

Thugs smashed the glass door of the Salvation Army's Family Services and Resource Centre on Bullock Drive in Markham with a piece of cement sometime between 9:30 p.m. Wednesday and 8 a.m. Thursday, causing more than \$1,000 damage.

They then dragged a 300-pound safe about 50 feet to the front of the office before breaking it open and stealing \$6,000 worth of grocery certificates and \$1,000 cash.

"You've got to think these people are either very desperate or very distorted," Pollett said.

The floor of the small office was littered with glass and discarded coins, just inches away from a decorated Christmas tree.

A volunteer arriving about noon couldn't believe her eyes. She left in tears after a hug from Shirley Scott, a family services worker at the Bullock Drive office, which serves Markham, Whitchurch-Stouffville, Uxbridge

See **POLICE**, page 7

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