

INSIDE: Letters . . . 6
 Opinion . . . 9
 Events . . . 15
 Sports . . . 20

22 The Stouffville Spirit can eliminate the Parry Sound Shamrocks tonight at the Complex.

ARTS & CULTURE CALENDAR
EVENT: Gospel pianist Anthony Burger in concert
WHEN: Saturday, Feb. 17, 7 p.m. (640-5696)
WHERE: Stouffville Pentecostal Church



18 The doughnut shop crowd and other members of the region's nocturnal element.

SERVING WHITCHURCH-STOUFFVILLE SINCE 1888

Stouffville Tribune

50 CENTS INCLUDING GST / 28 PAGES

THURSDAY, FEB. 15, 2001

TO REACH US: (905) 294-2200

Can't scare Mother Nature!

Fewer stores sell smokes to teens in Tribune sting

16-year-old girls buy cigarettes at four stores

BY JOAN RANSBERRY
 Staff Writer

It's getting more difficult for teenagers to buy cigarettes in Whitchurch-Stouffville, a sting operation carried out a few days ago indicates.

While smoking among teens is on the rise, it appears as if the practice of local merchants selling cigarettes to minors has declined in the past three years. Still, judging from a recent survey carried out in Whitchurch-Stouffville, selling tobacco products to teenagers has not been wiped out completely.

In 1997, a Tribune reporter escorted a 17-year-old to 10 stores in Whitchurch-Stouffville. The object was to try to buy cigarettes. The teenager managed to score a large package of Rothmans in nine out of 10 local stores. The only spot refusing to sell smokes to the minor was the former IGA on Main Street.

The Tribune repeated the exercise a few days ago. Two 16-year-old girls took turns approaching store clerks to ask for a large package of duMaurier lights, a favourite brand among youth. The teens went to a total of 19 local retail outlets. Of those, four spots, including a service station, sold cigarettes to the minors. The purchases went smoothly, taking less than three minutes.

See OWNERS, page 10.



STAFF PHOTO/STEVE SOMERVILLE

The Wicked Witch, as played by Peter Markle, can't intimidate Mother Nature, played by Laura Probst. They're starring in Snow White & the Seven Dwarfs, the eighth annual English pantomime presented by the Youth Group of Christ Church Anglican, March 2 and 3 at Latham Hall. Tickets are available from the church, Hairbreak and Stouffville Florist.

Music teacher abused student

Ex-SDSS band leader had sex with girl, drank with others

BY KATHLEEN GRIFFIN
 Staff Writer

His voice breaking and tears streaming down his face, former York Region music teacher William Douglas Walker admitted Tuesday he had sex with a female high school student at least 56 times and often bought his underage charges alcoholic drinks while on school functions and trips.

The former Stouffville District Secondary School band leader pleaded no contest to the 20-year-old allegations and was found guilty of professional misconduct by the Ontario College of Teachers after a day-long hearing in Toronto.

"(Walker displayed) a lack of judgment, a complete disregard for the welfare of his students and has demonstrated he is unfit to carry out his professional responsibilities," ruled Dick Malowney, part of three-member disciplinary panel.

Walker, who lives in Unionville, admitted he sexually abused a Grade 11 student at Markham District High School and had an on-going sexual relationship with her for more than three years, including around the time he married his wife of 21 years, Judith.

The panel heard Walker had sex with the girl both on and off school property and on band trips. She was a virgin before the relationship began and the first time they had sex was in his car. Between 1980 and 1982 Walker regularly bought alcohol for his students and drank it with them. This happened on band

See TEACHER, page 3.

JAKES
 THE SHIRT
 STORE

CURTIS-E BEAR SAYS

Sale Hours
 Mon-Thurs 9 am - 9 pm
 Fri 9 am - 6 pm
 Sat 9 am - 6 pm

Service Hours
 Mon-Thurs 7 am - 7 pm
 Fri 7:30 am - 6 pm
 Sat 8 am - 11 pm

Drop in to Service and Receive \$3 Off Adult Admission to the Auto Show

B B B BARTHAU JEWELLERS
 6312 Main St. - Stouffville
 (905) 640-4646