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**20** Record-breaking Laurie Buckland remembers the best years of his life at SDSS.

**COMMUNITY CALENDAR**

**EVENT:** Free community Christmas dinner  
**WHEN:** Tuesday, Dec. 25, 11 a.m. (905-640-3813)  
**WHERE:** Stouffville Country Market

Whitchurch-Stouffville Public Library



**16** Sportball Canada Inc.: Giving 2,000 kids across the GTA a taste of the sporting life.

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# Stouffville Tribune

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## Break-ins shatter the Christmas spirit

Homeowners advised to protect their houses

BY ROGER VARLEY  
 Staff Writer

Part of the myth of country living is that front doors don't need to be bolted and cars can be left unlocked in the driveway.

Crime doesn't happen in rural areas. It belongs to the city.

Week after week, however, some residents of York Region, both in the congested south and the rural north, receive a rude wake-up call: the break-in.

Apart from financial loss, break-ins can have a traumatic effect on the victims, leading to feelings of anger, violation, frustration and disillusionment. Those feelings can be magnified when a break-in shatters the goodwill of the Christmas season.

Joan Ransberry knows what it's like to be victimized by a burglar so close to Christmas. A reporter for the Stouffville Sun/Tribune, she returned to her home in a small community north of Stouffville on Nov. 30 to discover all the presents for her five children and nine grandchildren had been stolen from under the tree.

It was as if the Grinch himself had made an appearance. Only whoever did the dirty deed, didn't actually have to break-in. Unfortunately, Ransberry had left her front door unlocked.

My first feeling was sort of

See THE, page 3.

Where did the snow go?



STAFF PHOTO/SJOERD WITTEVEN

There was snow on the ground last weekend. Marlee Savery, 7, received a hand from her mom, Paige Savery of Stouffville, jumping out of the sleigh at Forfar Christmas Trees in Ballantrae after picking out their Christmas tree at the farm on Saturday.

## Boy, 4, critical after 9th Line crash

Two-car accident Sunday near Markham Stouffville Hospital sends boy to Sick Kids hospital

BY ROGER VARLEY  
 Staff Writer

A four-year-old Stouffville boy was in critical condition in Toronto's Hospital for Sick Children this week as a result of a traffic accident in northern Markham Sunday afternoon.

York Regional Police said the child, Matthew Cummings, was a passenger in a 1998 Pontiac Grand Am being driven by 35-year-old Kelly Cummings of Stouffville.

The car collided with a 1993 Plymouth Laser at the intersection of 16th Avenue and Ninth Line in Markham, just north of Markham Stouffville Hospital.

The child was transferred to Sick Children's with what were described as life-threatening injuries.

Both the woman driver and the driver of the other vehicle, a 28-year-old Whitevale man, Kevin Bethune, were treated for injuries.

When contacted by the Stouffville Tribune, officials at the Hospital for Sick Children could not update Matthew Cummings' condition yesterday.

Investigating officers with York Regional Police were also unavailable for comment.

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