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19 Obituary: Librarian
 Sheila McLeod was
 a friend to the children of
 Whitchurch-Stouffville.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR
EVENT: Kids' dance (ages 9 to 12)
WHEN: Friday, Jan. 11, 7 to 9:30 p.m.
WHERE: Latcham Hall, Stouffville (905-852-3449)



16 Feeling good:
 Being healthy
 involves body, mind and
 soul, experts say.

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Stouffville Tribune

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SATURDAY, JAN. 5, 2002

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HOLIDAY RIDE PROGRAM CHARGES ACROSS THE GTA BUCK THE TREND HERE

STOUFFVILLE FIREFIGHTERS JOIN UNION; IRK TOWN

'Will now get voice' in
 York amalgamation

BY JOAN RANSBERRY
 Staff Writer

Whitchurch-Stouffville's full-time firefighters have unionized, much to the surprise and disappointment of Mayor Wayne Emmerson.

A few days ago, Whitchurch-Stouffville council was notified by newly-appointed union local president John Winters that the local firefighters unanimously voted to affiliate with the International Association of Fire Fighters based in Washington D.C.

The six full-time firefighters, who work out of fire halls in Stouffville and Ballantrae, are now members of the Whitchurch-Stouffville Professional Fire Fighters Association (IAFF) Local 4152.

(The town has 54 part-time firefighters, who are not members of the union. They earn between \$28.97 and \$32.92 an hour.)

Winters and other union representatives will sit down with town officials and iron out their first contract over the next few weeks. Whitchurch-Stouffville council is expected to appoint chief administrative officer Nick Kristoffy as the town's representative for the contract negotiations. Emmerson says he would prefer the town not be at the bargaining table.

"I admit to being disappoint-

See AMALGAMATION, page 4.

Drunk driving down in York

BY ROGER VARLEY
 Staff Writer

York Regional Police stopped fewer drivers who had a drink than any other force in the GTA during the holiday RIDE program.

And York Region's numbers indicate area motorists are beginning to get the message about drinking and driving.

Out of 21,251 vehicles stopped

in December in the RIDE (Reduce Impaired Driving Everywhere) program, only eight motorists were charged with impaired driving. Another 26 were issued 12-hour driver's licence suspensions.

Other forces saw more drinking drivers:

• In Toronto, police laid 103 drinking-and-driving related charges and suspended 312

licences after pulling over 84,098 vehicles.

• Peel police charged 39 drivers after stopping 175,598 vehicles, in the GTA's most ambitious program.

• In Durham, police arrested 62 drivers for drinking out of 24,000 cars stopped last month.

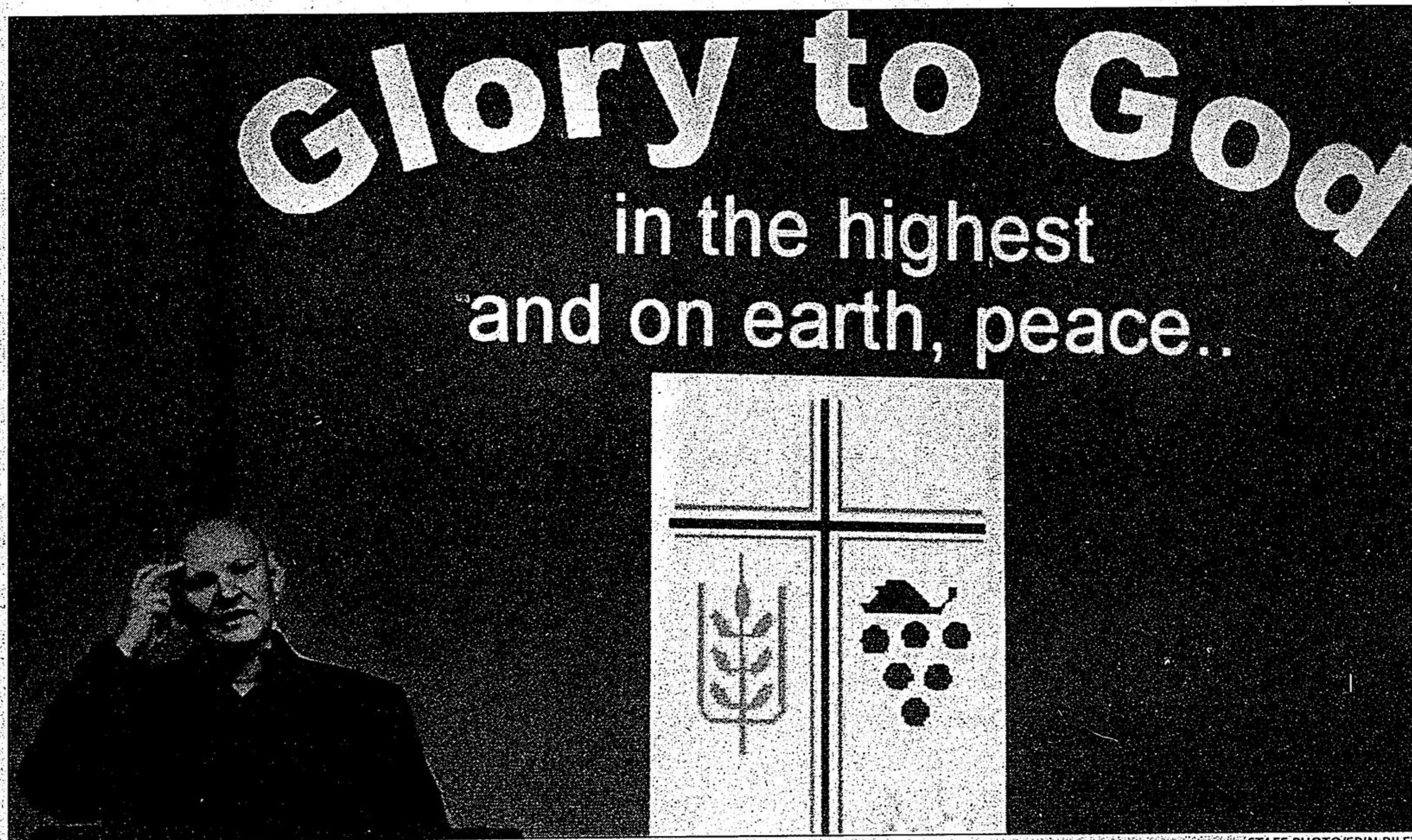
York Region's figures show a sharp contrast from December 2000 when 19 were charged with

impaired driving.

"I think the message is starting to get out," said Sgt. Tom Carrique of the traffic bureau. "As a traffic officer, it's my hope that drinking and driving is finally becoming socially unacceptable and the numbers are decreasing."

"But we still have a long way to go," Carrique warned. "We'd be

See IMPAIRED, page 7.



STAFF PHOTO/ERIN RILEY

SPEAKING TO THE MASSES

TV and radio show host Michael Coren was the guest speaker at the third annual Whitchurch-Stouffville community church service Sunday at the Stouffville Country Market. About 1,100 people attended.

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