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23 Lanscaper, chocolate maker, wood plant are Whitchurch-Stouffville's best businesses this year.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

EVENT: 'Earth Day God's Way' town clean-up
WHEN: Saturday, April 20, 3 p.m.
WHERE: Stouffville Missionary Church (640-3911)



26 On the high seas: A career in 'sails' launched for downsized business executive.

SERVING WHITCHURCH-STOUFFVILLE SINCE 1888 Whitchurch-Stouffville Public Library

Stouffville Tribune

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TO REACH US: (905) 640-2612

MORE JOBS, CONSTRUCTION DESPITE EFFECTS OF SEPT. 11

ECONOMY KEEPS CHUGGING

BY JEFF MITCHELL
 Staff Writer

York Region's diverse economy continues to grow and create employment, according to one recent study.

Between 70,000 and 80,000 jobs have been created since 1998 and the value of construction in the region reached \$2.9 billion last year, an increase of \$100 million over

2000, according to the reports. Regional officials say the figures indicate while the nation endured uncertainty and a slight downturn after Sept. 11, York continued to steam along under the momentum of a vibrant economy.

"Regional employment growth continues to outpace population growth," long-range planner Paul Bottomley told the region's plan-

ning committee last week. "The region's employment base continues to diversify," he said, adding "The trend toward an information-based economy continues within the region."

There were an estimated 390,000 to 400,000 jobs in York Region as of June 2001, up from about 330,000 in 1998, Mr. Bottomley said.

Manufacturing continues to be the region's primary employment sector, which also shows strength in the plastics, printing, computer, auto parts and furniture manufacturing categories, according to the report.

The report also indicates a 50-per-cent rate of growth across the business services sector, with

See *NEW*, page 9.

Parents can block TV shows with V-chip

Inappropriate viewing stopped for \$90

BY STEFANIA RIZZI
 Staff Writer

York Region parents will have an opportunity to stop their children from watching inappropriate TV shows.

Starting Monday, Community Alliance for York Region Education will give parents of students attending schools in both boards an opportunity to purchase a V-chip that blocks pre-selected TV programs deemed not suitable for children.

York Region is the first to offer the \$90 V-chip decoder. Here's how it works.

The chip is hooked up to a TV and an external device, such as a converter, and automatically blocks out all programs exceeding any of the multiple rating levels pre-selected by a guardian.

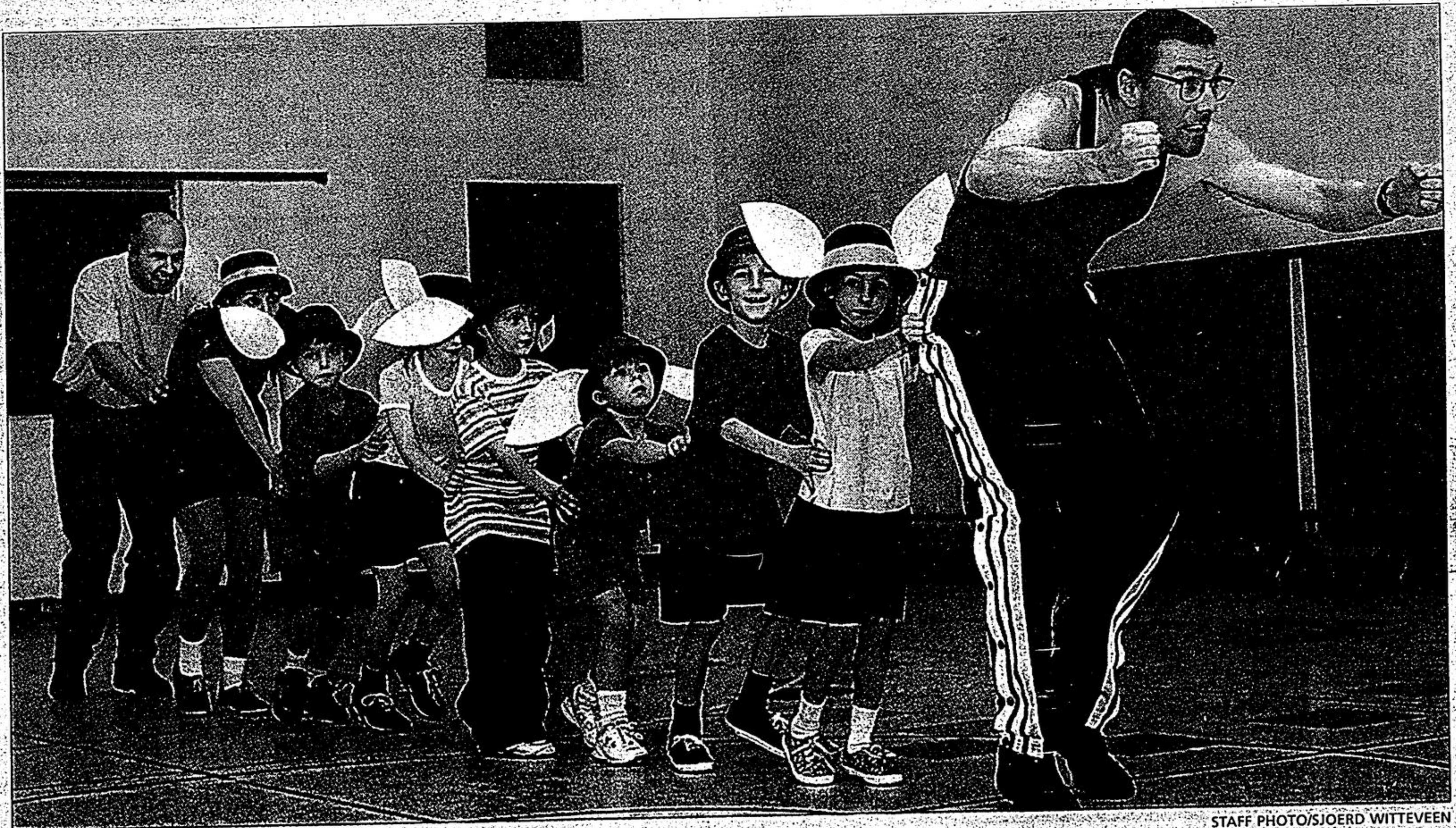
If a child flips to a channel where the program has been barred by a parent, a blank screen will appear stating the program has been blocked and to change channels.

The block, which is protected by a four-digit password, can be taken off any time.

The V-chip, offered only through York Region schools for a limited time, will not work on documentary, music video, news, sports or other programs that do not have rating codes.

Doug Pegg's Kettleby-based

See *TV*, page 19.



STAFF PHOTO/SJOERD WITTEVEEN

ALICE IN STOUFFVILLE-LAND

In co-operation with Art Links! and the York Region District School Board, Stouffville's Motus O Dance Theatre will perform Alice in York Region at the Vaughan Playhouse with students from five schools. Above, Grade 1 students from Summitview Public School in Stouffville practise for their roles as rabbits with the Motus O dancers. From left are: James Croker, Anne Wilde, Keaton Major, 6, Michelle Menzies, 7, James Wiseman, 6, Hannah Stover, 6, Sean Hargrave, 6, Jamie Mangotich, 6, and Jack Langenhuizen.

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