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3 Search and rescue:
 Three years to the
 day after Tammy Lynn
 Gagnon went missing.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

EVENT: Stouffville Elvisfest
WHEN: June 21 and 22 (905-640-0749)
WHERE: Downtown Stouffville

Whitchurch-Stouffville Public Library



25 York Region soccer
 clubs struggle to
 accommodate popularity
 of World Cup game.

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MUSIC, ARCHITECTURE FIRMS BID ON DOWNTOWN LANDMARK

THE FINAL MOMENTS OF MARIA WONG'S LIFE

*Man who hired alleged
 killers talks at trial*

BY KATHLEEN GRIFFIN
 Staff Writer

Maria Wong's alleged killer was "pissed off" two accused co-conspirators took off seconds before the Markham woman drove into her Raymer Drive driveway to her death.

He wasn't even sure Mrs. Wong was dead when he left her bleeding on the garage floor of the home near Markville Shopping Centre, court has heard.

James Pierce, the man who hired the killers and drove them around that night, spent a third day on the witness stand in a Newmarket court Wednesday. He described how an aborted attempt to kill Mrs. Wong was made at the Unionville Library the afternoon of Feb. 11, 1999 and the flurry of cell phone calls between the three of the accused men trying to decide the next step.

Crown attorney Peter Westgate has told the jury he will prove Mrs. Wong's husband, Shu Kwan (Johnny) Wong, offered a bouncer at his Champions wagering parlour, Andre Jones, \$30,000 to kill his wife. He instructed Mr. Jones to make it look like an accident so he could collect \$600,000 in insurance money to pay off gambling debts.

Mr. Jones, reluctant to do the deed himself, asked Mr. Pierce,

See COURT, page 22.

Five groups want town hall

BY JOAN RANSBERRY
 Staff Writer

There are five official proposals for Whitchurch-Stouffville's old town hall.

The century-old building will either be sold or leased as a multi-purpose building, town council has said.

Proposals received by Wednesday's deadline include a

theatre/municipal office combination, a pottery group submission, a private musical production company and plans from two architectural firms, including Stouffville's Arrowsmith and Associates.

On Wednesday, Whitchurch-Stouffville CAO/treasurer Nick Kristoffy closed the requests for proposals for the brick building located on Civic Avenue in down-

town Stouffville.

Immediately after the deadline passed, the CAO read the names of the five parties filing an interest in either leasing or buying the building.

Proposals were submitted by the Clock Tower Potters of Stouffville, The Ventin Group Architects of Simcoe, Don Quarles, owner of Melody Man Productions of

Musselman's Lake, Arrowsmith and Associates of Stouffville and his partner Robert Bell Engineering of Markham and Ward 6 Councillor Sue Sherban.

It was an exciting day for long-time Stouffville resident Bruce Arrowsmith. His architectural firm has recently partnered with Robert Bell Engineering, owned by Mike

See ARCHITECT, page 10.



STAFF PHOTO/STEVE SOMERVILLE

BEAVERS EXPERIENCE WILDLIFE

Beavers from across York Region gathered at Bruce's Mill Conservation Area last weekend for their year-end Beavee camp-out. The event had a movie theme, with representatives from companies in the film business demonstrating their work. Above, Beavers check out a quaddi, a South African animal. More photos on page 21.

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