

**INSIDE:** Letters . . . . . 6  
 Police Beat . . . . . 8  
 Sports . . . . . 18  
 Classified . . . . . 19

**3** Pictures show  
 Whitchurch-Stouffville,  
 Markham residents busy  
 with summer events.

**ARTS & CULTURE CALENDAR**

**EVENT:** York Region Forest hike  
**WHEN:** 6, 6:45 p.m. Wednesday (1-888-290-0337)  
**WHERE:** Hwy. 48 between Vivian, Aurora Roads



**14** York Region clinic  
 helps kids build  
 self-esteem by making  
 speech therapy fun.

SERVING WHITCHURCH-STOUFFVILLE SINCE 1888

Whitchurch-Stouffville Public Library

# Stouffville Tribune

50 CENTS INCLUDING GST / 32 PAGES      SATURDAY, JULY 6, 2002      TO REACH US: (905) 640-2612

## Toronto parents look for daycare space here

*Strike puts pressure  
 on local facilities*

BY CHRISSIE O'BRIEN  
*Special*

When Toronto's inside workers joined their outside counterparts on the picket line Thursday, Markham and Whitchurch-Stouffville daycare workers weren't surprised.

"Over the last week a few of our centres had inquiries about space," said Larkin Timney, representative of the Family Day Daycare Centres, a York Region child care chain.

"All our centres are full, but people from Toronto have been calling to ask if they can drop their kids off during the week and if they can pay on a weekly basis," Ms Timney said.

Pat Keeling, supervisor at TLC daycare centre in Unionville, says employees have also felt the effects of the strike, which closes Toronto municipal daycare centres, homeless shelters and public health departments.

A total of 18,000 workers in two Canadian Union of Public Employees locals are striking.

"I've had at least a dozen calls from parents looking for a place for their kids," Ms Keeling said.

Both centres say space is the issue and they have been unable to take the overflow of children coming from the Toronto centres.

"The waiting period for daycare in York region is a year for an

See **FIRST-COME**, page 10.

## Beatin' the heat, Stouffville style



STAFF PHOTO/SJOERD WITTEVEEN

Michael Durigon, 11, gets a refreshing shower courtesy of two-year-old sister Emily in Stouffville's outdoor pool at Memorial Park during Thursday's hot weather.

## Soaring charges hit York businesses

*Deregulated electricity market  
 experiences wild price jumps*

BY JEFF MITCHELL  
*Staff Writer*

There's no panic yet, but the past week's soaring energy costs are convincing commercial consumers to take notice of Ontario's newly deregulated hydro market.

"Prices haven't moved too much from the beginning of the market opening (May 1) until now," said Gregg Scott, president of energishop.com, an energy consulting and purchasing company.

"But when they start getting their invoices from their hydro companies, they'll take action."

Paul Bradbury, executive director of Vaughan's chamber of commerce, agreed companies must seek strategies to manage costs and ensure supply.

"The cost of power is not going to go down, especially with deregulation," he said. "It inevitably goes up."

After two months of relatively static prices, last week's soaring temperatures, coupled with supply concerns and the need for imported hydro, sent Ontario's hydro market for a ride.

Prices were topping 45 cents per kilowatt hour in peak periods, a far cry from the three-cent range that had been the norm for the market in May and June.

Causing even more worry, though, was the admission by the Independent Electricity Market Operator (IMO) that businesses will face a surcharge on power purchased from U.S. suppliers.

See **SURCHARGE**, page 13.

**Seaway**  
 Pools &  
 Hot Tubs  
 27 HERITAGE RD.,  
 MARKHAM  
 294-8030

**MAKE YOUR MOVE EVENT** 0.9% FINANCING  
 Except Tribute  
 ENERGY 626

Protegé 5    Miata    Tribute    Protegé

5396 HIGHWAY #7, MARKHAM  
 905-294-1210  
 Markham Mazda

**Sutton**  
 GROUP

Town and  
 Country  
 Realty Ltd.  
 640-0888