

**INSIDE:** Letters ..... 6  
 Events ..... 15  
 Sports ..... 18  
 Classified .... 20

**12** Nailing the bad ones: No licencing body for York Region's 393 nail salons.

**COMMUNITY CALENDAR**

**EVENT:** Moonlight Madness summer street sale  
**WHEN:** Thursday, Aug. 15, 7 to 10 p.m.  
**WHERE:** Downtown Stouffville



**3** Here Yu-Gi-Oh! again: Meet the latest craze to captivate kids and drain the family wallet.

SERVING WHITCHURCH-STOUFFVILLE SINCE 1888

# Stouffville Tribune

50 CENTS INCLUDING GST / 32 PAGES

SATURDAY, AUG. 3, 2002

TO REACH US: (905) 640-2612

## Nursing home hike phase-in pleases some

*Increase 'still too much' for others*

BY MITCHELL BROWN  
 Staff Writer

It's still an increase, says Peter Hamilton, and it's still too much. Mr. Hamilton, whose 94-year-old mother resides in a Newmarket nursing home, was responding to the province's announcement it will phase in its plans to hike nursing-home fees by 15 per cent.

On Wednesday, bowing to pressure from seniors and their families, Long-Term Care Minister Dan Newman announced the government would introduce the increase gradually over three years.

"We listened to the residents, we listened to the families... (They) told us they needed a little more time to budget for that," he told a news conference.

The original plan, which had been announced one day after MPPs broke for the summer, called for a \$7.02 daily increase in nursing home fees, effective Aug. 1. Now, the government will increase the cost by \$3.02 Sept. 1 and rates will rise another \$2 twice over the next two years.

The government also announced plans to spend \$100 million on extra staff at the facilities, adding 2,400 nurses and personal-care workers to the system.

Currently, basic accommodation in a four-bed ward room is \$44.51, while a private room

See MPP, page 10.

## On an adventure



STAFF PHOTO/SJOERD WITTEVEEN

Bailey, Michael, and Amanda, all Stouffville Sports Camp participants, stayed cool on Tuesday afternoon by wading in the Stouffville Memorial Park creek. The camp is run by the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville.

## Child poverty hitting home

*Low-income families growing in York Region*

BY JEFF MITCHELL  
 Staff Writer

The enduring and troubling incidence of children living in poverty requires concerted action from all levels of government, York Region social services providers agree.

"Unless families have some access to a reasonable standard of living... their kids are going to start out behind and stay behind," said George Glover, executive director of Catholic Community Services of York Region.

Despite repeated pledges by the federal government to eradicate child poverty, it persists as a source of national shame, according to the National Council on Welfare.

On Monday, the council released a report that shows just a 0.7 percentage point drop in poverty rates, despite the nation having enjoyed an extended period of economic prosperity.

The highest potential for long-term poverty is evident among very young children up to age six, the council reported.

"How do six-year-olds who have spent all those critical development years in poverty have a fair chance in life?" said Allyce Herle, National Council on Welfare chairperson.

"It is very hard for me to understand how Canadian governments and citizens tolerate this. We only pretend we value our children."

Indeed, families are scrambling just to secure shelter and put food on the table, said Mr. Glover, whose agency counts among its clientele across the region a

See WIDE, page 11.

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

**PUBLIC NOTICE** 2002 MAZDA MPV DX  
 Let MARKHAM MAZDA move your FAMILY  
 WITH \$24,995 - \$259\*  
 DURING OUR MPV CLEAROUT SALE  
 A, Z AND X PLAN  
 5396 HIGHWAY #7, MARKHAM  
 905-294-1210

Come Early For Best Selection  
 0.9% Financing 36 Months  
 No Security Deposit for MPV  
 MOST IMPROVED DEALER AWARD "SO WHY BUY ELSEWHERE?"  
 \$750\* CASH REBATE  
 Markham Mazda

**Sutton GROUP**  
 Town and Country Realty Ltd.  
 640-0888