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**3** Move to lower legal blood-alcohol level gaining momentum in York Region.

Whitchurch-Stouffville Public Library  
**ARTS & CULTURE CALENDAR**

**EVENT:** Uxbridge Concert band in concert  
**WHEN:** 7:30 p.m. Saturday (905-985-4794)  
**WHERE:** Christ Church Anglican, Sunset Blvd.



**25** Blastball, which teaches baseball fundamentals to tots, catching on across region.

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## West Nile mosquitoes found in York Region

*No need for alarm, says medical officer*

BY LISA QUEEN  
 Staff Writer

York Region public health officials are rushing to calm fears after a colony of mosquitoes found in Thornhill tested positive for the potentially fatal West Nile virus, the first confirmed case in the region's history.

Although birds infected with the virus have been discovered within York's borders over the last two years, this marks the first time mosquitoes have been found carrying the disease.

The infected insects were found near the intersection of Leslie Street and Steeles Avenue, not far from where a dead crow carrying the virus was found this month.

The virus can be spread to humans by mosquitoes that contract the disease by feeding on infected birds.

But Dr. Hanif Kassam, York's associate medical officer of health, stressed residents should not be alarmed by the discovery of the infected mosquitoes.

"We are not alarmed with the identification of the positive mosquito pool and it is not unexpected," he said.

Dr. Kassam said there have been no cases of people contracting the virus in Canada, adding five colonies of infected mosquitoes have already been discovered in Peel Region.

See WEST NILE, page 5.

## Main Street makeover



STAFF PHOTO/SJOERD WITTEVEEN

Shiv Trivedi, 16, a Grade 11 Stouffville District Secondary School student, paints a lightpole while Matthew Holt, 14, and Samantha Copithorn, 17, dig up sidewalk weeds on Main Street, Stouffville on Thursday. The students spent part of their summer holidays fulfilling their school volunteer requirements helping the Business Improvement Area.

## Four days of smog for residents

*York Region among places in Ontario with worst air quality*

MIKE ADLER  
 Staff Writer

Before last weekend, we were lucky. York Region hadn't had two consecutive days of poor air quality this year.

But that luck ran out and since then residents had to breathe the smog four days in a row.

Until Tuesday night, the region was trapped in hot, listless air. Each morning, ground-level ozone started building, producing a smog in the heat that reached its chest-tightening worst before the afternoon rush home.

Ian Marnoch, manager of Trails, a bicycle store in Richmond Hill, recalled visiting Milan, Italy and Taipei, Taiwan — cities where filter masks are everyday items for cyclists and pedestrians.

This week the Markham man hoped he wasn't seeing his own future.

"Everyone around here's gonna be wearing masks too," he predicted.

"It doesn't matter how good your condition is, you shouldn't be out sucking that stuff in."

At 3 p.m. Monday, Ontarians could breathe air worse than ours only in North York, Etobicoke or Oshawa, said the province's environment ministry.

The same hour on Tuesday — York Region's 15th smog advisory day this year — saw poorer air quality only in North York, Etobicoke and the Lake Erie community of Port Stanley.

It was better to inhale in downtown

See AIR, page 10.

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