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4 York Region crash victim's family angered as foul-up delays sentencing

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

EVENT: 21st annual Stouffville Terry Fox Run
WHEN: Sunday, Sept. 15, 1 p.m.
WHERE: Stouffville Arena/track (905-640-4705)



13 Apple of your eye: Pick your favourite variety during a fall outing in York Region.

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UP, DOWN SUMMER FOR TOURISM

Region geared up for busy year post-9/11

BY JEFF MITCHELL
 Staff Writer

How has the summer season unfolded for York Region's tourism industry?

It depends on whom you talk to.

Tourism operators are reporting varying results now that the summer season is winding down, according to Brenda McGowan, of York Region's economic development department.

A focus group discussion held this month indicated some operators are seeing their numbers up, while others have had a disappointing season. But no one sector or geographical area appears to have borne the brunt of a slowdown or the fruits of a tourism gold rush.

"There's no rhyme or reason for the fluctuations," Ms McGowan said last week. "Some (operators) were up and some flatlined."

The region's tourism industry had geared up for a busy season, based on generally accepted predictions people would opt for shorter, domestic trips in the wake of last September's terrorist attacks in the United States.

York Region's tourism department prepared for the season by mounting advertising campaigns pitching the region as a safe, entertaining and accessible destination for Ontario

See TOURIST, page 5.

SEVERAL TEST POSITIVE FOR WEST NILE VIRUS

Lab overrun with dead crows

BY MIKE ADLER
 Staff Writer

York Region's health department still wants residents to report any dead crows they find but it is no longer picking up the birds for testing.

Several crows found dead here have tested positive for West Nile Virus, a diagnosis confirmed in laboratories. This month, however, the

provincial government told health departments its laboratory has been overwhelmed by crows sent for tests.

It told departments from jurisdictions where the presence of the virus is confirmed to stop sending birds.

That way, the province can concentrate on birds from other areas of the province, Darlene Keates, manager of York's infection control

program said this week. She urged residents to continue reporting locations of dead crows. "That's still valuable information for us."

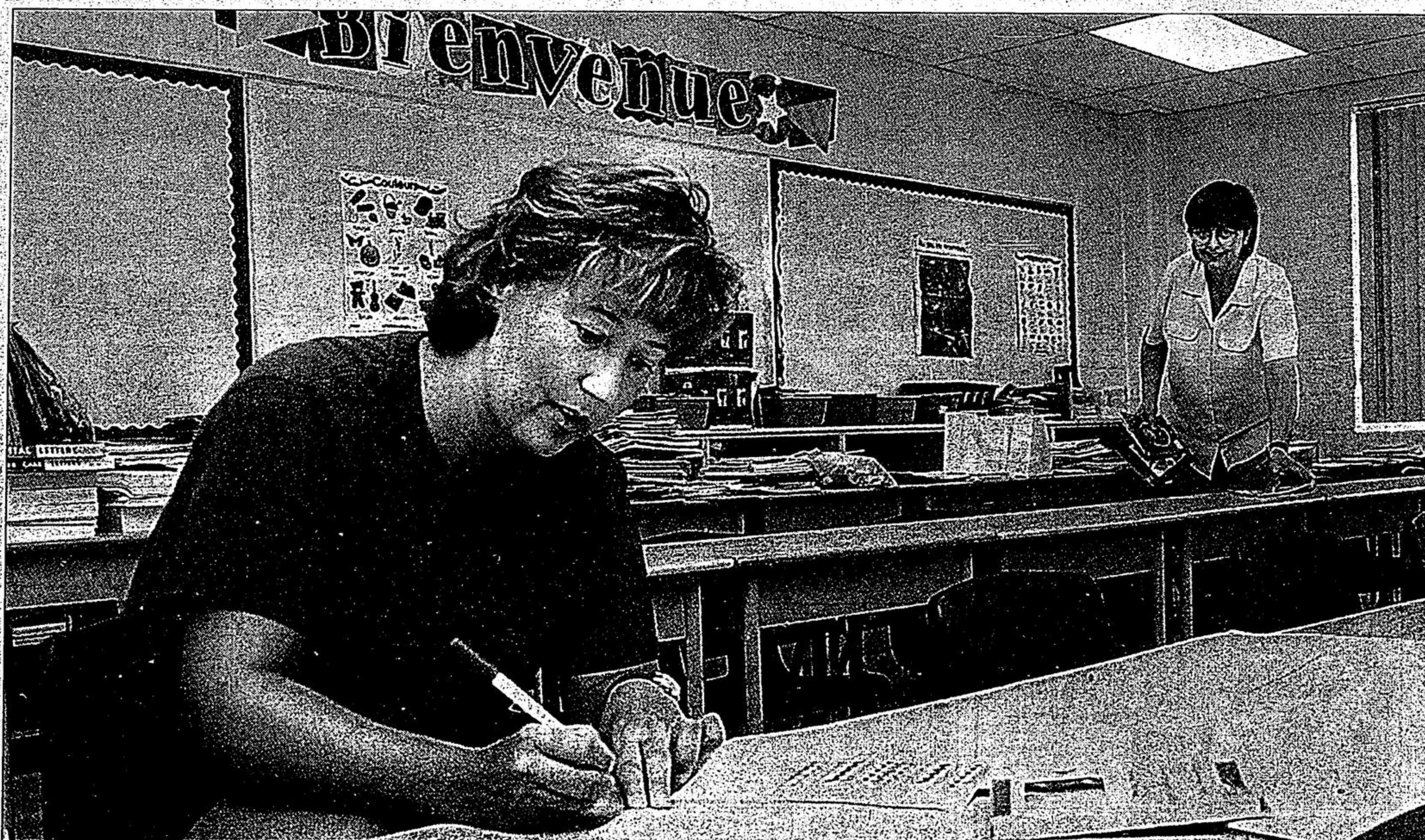
Carried by some mosquitoes, West Nile can cause viral meningitis and encephalitis and can, in rare cases, be fatal. No human cases have been detected in Canada.

Laura Boston, who lives near Yonge and Centre streets in Thornhill, thinks the virus may

have wiped out a flock of crows she had been feeding daily for two years. "They're always, always, always around here."

The crows disappeared from the neighbourhood recently after a period when they looked lethargic.

The region said a pair of dead crows found near Leslie and John streets tested positive for West Nile, as did two more near Bathurst Street and Steeles Avenue.



STAFF PHOTO/SJOERD WITTEVEEN

'FIRST-CLASS' PREPARATIONS

Grade 1 French immersion teachers Bianca Berlatie (left) and Chislaine Rowat get ready for the new school year in their new digs at Glad Park Public School in Stouffville on Thursday. The school's new addition will be used for the French immersion classes with many of the students coming from now-closed Dickson Hill School.

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