

INSIDE: Letters 6
 Registration . 21
 Sports 25
 Classified 26

3 At least 25 area charities out in the cold as Markham bingo hall closes - again.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

EVENT: Opening of Casey van Maris Soccer Centre
WHEN: Saturday, Sept. 21, 1-5 p.m. (905-888-9242)
WHERE: Ballantrae Community Centre, Aurora Rd.



17 Diversions: Who makes the best chili in York Region and what's their recipe?

SERVING WHITCHURCH-STOUFFVILLE SINCE 1888

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MORE THAN 400 CHARGES LAID AGAINST YORK REGION RESTAURANTS, PUBS, BUSINESSES

Smoke bylaw heads to court

BY JEFF MITCHELL
 Staff Writer

The long-anticipated constitutional challenge to York Region's smoking bylaw enters the courts this week.

On Wednesday, lawyers representing Newmarket restaurateur Irv Riopelle and the region will begin a case that is predicted to take months to settle, costing

thousands of dollars.

A report to the region's health committee predicts the case, for which the municipality has hired an outside lawyer, could cost taxpayers up to \$30,000.

Mr. Riopelle said that figure is too low.

"It's going to cost them a lot more than that," he said last week.

"This will wind up in front of the

Supreme Court of Canada."

Mr. Riopelle, owner of the Crow's Nest in Newmarket, is the point man in a widely-based challenge to smoking laws that restaurant and pub owners say hurt business.

Among the arguments they'll put forth is that lower-tier municipalities such as York Region have no right to pass laws governing the use of tobacco, which is a federally-con-

trolled substance.

Mr. Riopelle has been charged so many times for flouting the region's bylaw, he no longer knows how many infractions he faces.

He said he adhered to the provisions of the law, which restricted smoking in his pub to 25-per-cent of the occupiable floor space and

See RESTAURATEUR, page 10.

Sailor starts race around the world tomorrow

York Region diabetic 'motivating others'

BY MIKE ADLER
 Staff Writer

Around the world alone, until the first week of May.

The sailing odyssey of John Dennis, a Markham skipper who is diabetic, begins tomorrow.

This week, he first saluted a friend's missing son.

Ralph Gerhardt, a Canadian working in the World Trade Center, was killed last Sept. 11.

Mr. Dennis, a commercial property manager, worked with Mr. Gerhardt's father Hans. He decided a warmup leg of the race from Newport, R.I. would serve as his tribute.

The race, Around Alone, starts in New York and has stops in England, South Africa, New Zealand and Brazil before finishing in Rhode Island next April.

The world-spanning race is one Mr. Dennis thought he'd never be able to do after he started showing the symptoms of type 2 diabetes in 1996.

He is sponsored by the drug company Bayer, and will count on its product Ascensia and his own self-management to sustain him over 28,755 miles, said to be "the longest race for any individual in any sport."

Mr. Dennis said he is attempting it to motivate people with diabetes to look after themselves.

"It's the first major (sailing)

See SAILOR, page 7.



STAFF PHOTO/MIKE BARRETT

CLOSE ENCOUNTERS

Stouffville Spirit winger Daniel Kim is on top of Collingwood Blues goalie David Alexander but can't get a shot off. Action came Thursday on opening night in the Provincial Junior A Hockey League. The Spirit won 6-1. See page 25 for more on the penalty-filled game. The Spirit honoured local emergency workers during opening ceremonies.

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