

**INSIDE:** Letters ..... 6  
 Travel ..... 18  
 Sports ..... 25  
 Classified .... 27

**25** Former Spirit goalie comes back to Stouffville to haunt old team in junior A hockey.

**COMMUNITY CALENDAR**  
**EVENT:** 10th Student Music Scholarship Concert  
**WHEN:** Friday, Nov. 1, 7:30 (905-640-3455)  
**WHERE:** Stouffville District Secondary School



**3** Celebration of the Arts: York Region bursary recipients wow audience at gala evening

SERVING WHITCHURCH-STOUFFVILLE SINCE 1888

# Stouffville Tribune

50 CENTS INCLUDING GST / 44 PAGES

SATURDAY, OCT. 26, 2002

TO REACH US: (905) 640-2612

## 'Gotta have Beyblades': the latest toy sensation

*Tops 'fly off shelves' of York Region stores*

BY MITCHELL BROWN  
 Staff Writer

Just as parents are heaving a sigh of post-Pokémon relief, along comes this season's "gotta-have" toy for the preteen set.

This time, though, Japanese toymakers have gone back to basics to — if you'll pardon the expression — put a new spin on an old favourite.

They're called Beyblades and the battling tops are already so hot stores can barely keep them on the shelves.

Not surprisingly, that means there are also plenty of knock-offs trying to get in on the action, but don't think the kids can't tell the difference.

"You gotta have the metal bottom," said Paul Szabo, 13, of Stouffville.

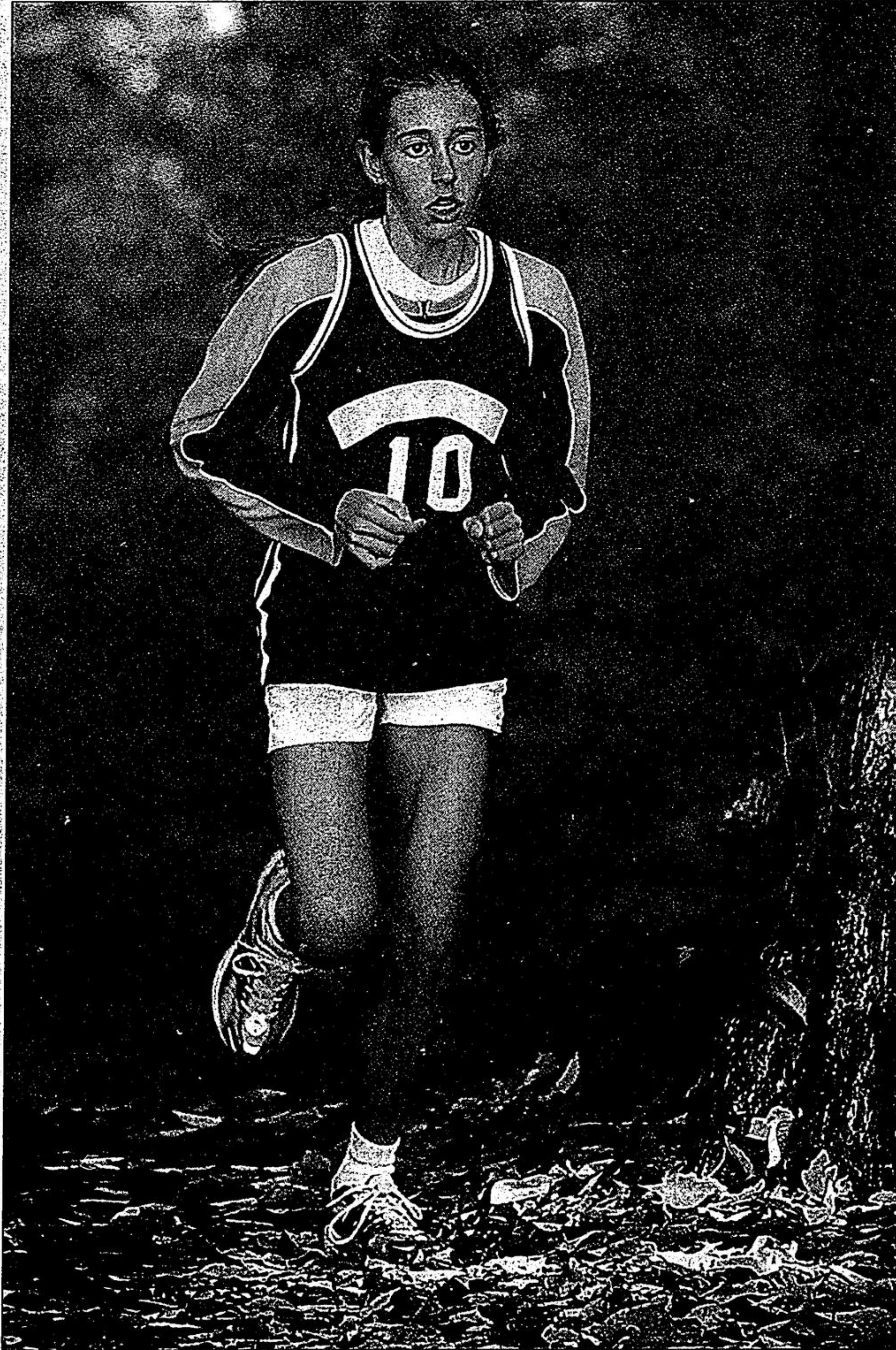
"That means it's real. They sell them over at the convenience store and at the flea market with plastic on them, but there's no balance and it falls apart."

He prefers to buy his Beyblades at the Book Connection, a small bookshop on Stouffville's Main Street that stocks the toys and the still-popular Yu-Gi-Oh! cards (a Pokémon progeny) among its selection of bestsellers and children's books.

"The demand from kids is there, sure," store owner Marco Benevides said.

"Three or four months ago, I was lucky to have some people who gave me a couple of boxes

*The form of a champion*



STAFF PHOTO/SJOERD WITTEVEEN

Natalie Geiger of Summitview Public School in Stouffville was the winner in the Grade 7 girls' York Region elementary school cross country run held Thursday at Bruce's Mill Conservation Area on Stouffville Road.

See STOUFFVILLE, page 7.

## 17 teens charged in police sweep

*Complaints led to surveillance at Stouffville Arena, schools*

BY KATHLEEN GRIFFIN  
 Staff Writer

Teenagers trashing Stouffville's Main Street, intimidating residents and smoking pot in full view of families trying to enjoy public spaces will no longer be tolerated by York Regional Police.

In fact, officers arrested 17 youths last week and charged them with a variety of offences, including possession of a controlled substance, trespassing, breach of probation and assault, in an initiative that will continue through the next few months as officers respond to increasing public complaints.

"The problems result from kids trashing Main Street, hanging out on the sidewalk not letting people by, drug use, trespassing, drinking, vandalism — you name it, it's there," explained 5 District's Sgt. Frank Auld, head of the Markham-Stouffville station's Community Oriented Response (COR) unit.

"Up to 20 or 30 youths gather at the pavilion and people can't get through — they won't move out of the way and people have to go around them. They have destroyed the gazebo (on Main Street), the pickets are kicked out and garbage, including bags of dope, is everywhere. They just don't care."

In what has become an on-going police blitz, undercover COR officers patrolled Stouffville for four days last week looking for "liquor violations, drugs, vandalism, anything of a nuisance nature we could deal with," Sgt. Auld said.

See DRUG, page 10.

**Seaway Pools & Hot Tubs**  
 27 HERITAGE RD., MARKHAM  
 294-8930

**MARKHAM MAZDA'S Inventory CLEARANCE**  
 A-Z AND X PLAN  
 5398 HIGHWAY #7, MARKHAM  
 905-294-1210

**MAZDA PROTEGE LX**  
 VOTED NOVEMBER 2002 #1 CAR & DRIVER  
**MAZDA PROTEGE 5**  
 VOTED JUNE 2002 #1 CAR & DRIVER

PURCHASE FINANCING FOR 36 MTHS

PLUS

NO PAYMENTS UNTIL 2003

OR

GREAT LEASE OFFERS ON ALL MODELS!

OR

CASH PURCHASE INCENTIVES!

2002 MOST IMPROVED DEALER AWARD  
 "SOMEWHERE ELSEWHERE"

**Sutton GROUP**

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

Markham Mazda