

Stouffville Sun-Tribune

SATURDAY, MAY 10, 2003 ■ SERVING THE COMMUNITY OF WHITCHURCH-STOUFFVILLE ■ 48 PAGES/\$1 INCLUDING GST



3 Avoiding the myths about West Nile Virus in York Region.

Letters	6
New You	10
Sports	24
Classified	26

Thomas enjoying cup run with Ducks

'Still feel I should be playing in Toronto'

BY MIKE HAYAKAWA
Staff Writer

Steve Thomas was disappointed when the Toronto Maple Leafs didn't offer him a contract after the 2000-2001 season.

But these days, the 39-year-old former Markham resident appears to be having the last laugh, Disney-style.

Since being dealt to the Anaheim Mighty Ducks from the Chicago Blackhawks at the NHL's March 11 trade deadline, "Stumpy" as he's known in hockey circles, is on the verge of attaining a lifelong goal — reaching the Stanley Cup finals.

On Monday, the Disney-owned Ducks took a giant step toward that target after upending the Dallas Stars 4-3 to win their Western Conference best-of-seven semi-final series in six games. The Ducks now face the Minnesota Wild in the conference final.

Minnesota eliminated the Vancouver Canucks — who had Stouffville and Markham minor hockey product Brad May on their roster — with a dramatic 4-2 come-from-behind victory Thursday in the final game of the series.

The 31-year-old May was in his second stint with the Canucks. He's also played for Buffalo and Phoenix.

This is the first time in

See THOMAS, page 12.

TORIES 'VERY CLOSE' TO NEW DEAL ON TOLLS, CUSTOMER SERVICE

Liberals may take 407 to court

BY MIKE ADLER
Staff Writer

Ontario Liberals took their toughest line yet on Hwy. 407, vowing this week to lower its tolls by going to court if necessary.

In a Woodbridge parking lot yesterday, the Liberal candidates for York Region's five ridings rolled out a bumper sticker campaign — "407, it's highway robbery" — hoping to

cement the Tory government's handling of the highway as an election issue.

But Oak Ridges MPP Frank Klees, who started as transportation minister threatening to force the highway's owners to freeze tolls, said Liberal Leader Dalton McGuinty's pledge to roll back toll rates has made him "a laughing stock in the business community."

Tolls on the 407 have risen five times since 1999, when the Tories sold a 99-year lease on the highway for \$3.1 billion.

The Tory minister, negotiating with the 407 consortium, said he is "very close" to an agreement covering tolls, customer service improvements and a dispute resolution mechanism for bills.

He said he won't do anything

that would be contrary to good business practices or the integrity of the government to achieve his goals.

But Mr. Klees suggested he may offer to restart the province's former practice of blocking licence plate renewal for delinquent 407 customers.

The controversial practice was

See ROLL, page 8.



STAFF PHOTO/STEVE SOMERVILLE

IN YOUR FACE

Stouffville District Secondary School's Andrea Meyer works her way upfield, with her elbow to the face of a Father Bressani (Woodbridge) Catholic High School defender in York Region high school girls' rugby action at Aurora High School Wednesday.

Seaway Pools & Hot Tubs
27 HERITAGE RD., MARKHAM
294-8030
beachcomber HOT TUBS

2003 MAZDA PROTEGE
2.0L DOHC 130-hp engine • 16" alloy wheels • 4-wheel disc brakes with ABS • AM/FM/CD 4-speaker stereo • Cruise Control • 60/40 split seats • Fog lights • Remote keyless entry • Power group

zoom-zoom

0% PLUS NO PAYMENTS FOR 6 MONTHS

2003 MAZDA PROTEGE
Best Buy
Lesse From \$199/mth

THE MAZDA CREDIT CANADA PLATINUM RECORD WINNER FOR 2002

5396 HIGHWAY #7, MARKHAM

MARKHAM MAZDA 1-800-387-1000

Sutton GROUP

Town and Country Realty Ltd.
640-0888