

# Stouffville Sun-Tribune

SATURDAY, JUNE 7, 2003 ■ SERVING THE COMMUNITY OF WHITCHURCH-STOUFFVILLE ■ 40 PAGES/\$1 INCLUDING GST



**11** Gormley's Tyler Brooks did his homework for provincial title.

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## Murder part of crime wave in Stouffville

Grow house, robberies also investigated

BY KATHLEEN GRIFFIN  
 Staff Writer

Sleepy Whitchurch-Stouffville is in the midst of a rare spate of criminal activity — an actual crime wave.

In the past week, police and residents have had to cope with murder, a gunpoint robbery, the raiding of a marijuana grow operation and the discovery of an illegal chop shop, along with several residential break-ins and smash-and-grab thefts worth thousands of dollars in the normally quiet, law-abiding town.

Beginning last Friday, when thugs smashed out the front glass window of Shoppers Drug Mart at 11 a.m. and, in a bizarre twist made off with a large quantity of diabetic and urine testers, criminals have kept York Regional Police hopping.

Later that day, sometime between 1 p.m. and 6 p.m., a residential break-in on Orchard Park Boulevard netted thieves more than \$5,000 cash, money collected by the Stouffville Kinsmen during a charity event.

Thieves broke in through the side door and ransacked closets and cupboards before discovering the cash, which was well hidden, rolled up in three separate bundles and secured with elastics.

Police are investigating. The gruesome discovery

MILLIONS PROMISED FOR QUICK START, GO TRAIN ADDITIONS

## Tories ante up for transit

BY MIKE ADLER  
 Staff Writer

Frank Klees opened up a provincial grab bag for transit this week with an announcement said to be "tailor made" for York Region.

The rookie transportation minister and Oak Ridges MPP produced assorted measures to bust local gridlock, including:

- \$50 million for Quick Start, a program allowing the region to load

buses quicker and move them faster along its main routes.

- The restoration of GO train service to Barrie and improvements that will lead to all-day train service on GO's Stouffville and Bradford lines.

- \$67 million for the first stage of GO's inter-regional busway, planned to eventually link York University, parts of Keele Street and Markham Road through a separate

lane along Hwy. 407.

- High-occupancy vehicle lanes on Hwy. 404 north of Hwy. 401, and

- \$25,000 for turning lanes at 16th Avenue and Hwy. 48 in Markham.

In his Richmond Hill constituency office Thursday, the minister said the Tory government had committed to long term support for public transit.

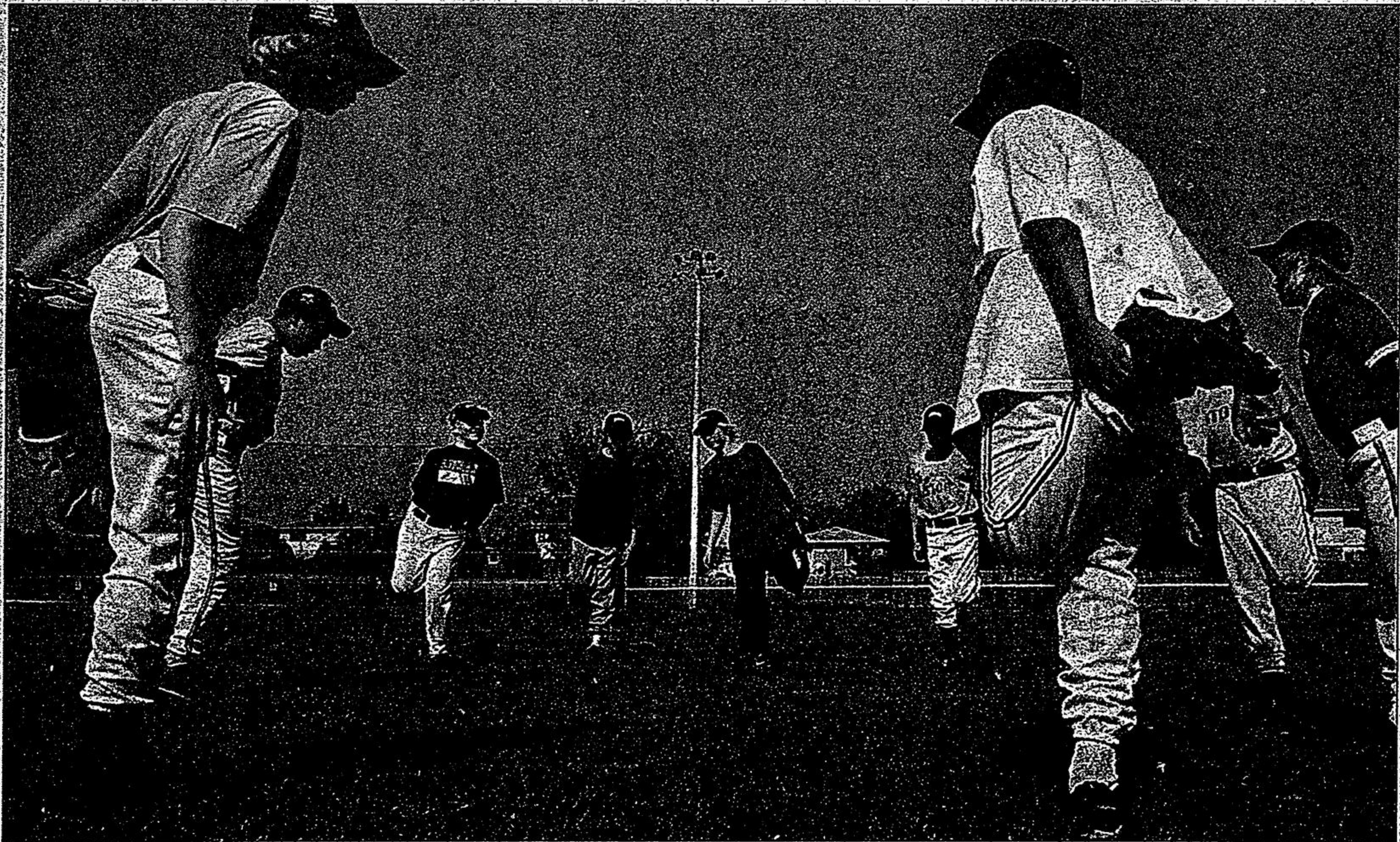
"It's not just about the economy,

it's about the quality of life," Mr. Klees said.

York Regional chairperson Bill Fisch called the package "tailor made" for the region and said it will make a huge difference.

People will see Quick Start begin to take shape in a few months and operate in about 15, he said. The program will use preferential sig-

See HIGH OCCUPANCY, page 4.



STAFF PHOTO/BILL ROBERTS

## STORM ON THE HORIZON

Members of the Stouffville Storm squirt rep boys fastball team do warm-ups prior to one of their regular practice sessions at Stouffville Memorial Park Monday.

See GROW, page 10

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