

Stouffville Sun-Tribune

THURSDAY, JUNE 12, 2003 ■ SERVING THE COMMUNITY OF WHITCHURCH-STOUFFVILLE ■ 40 PAGES/\$1 INCLUDING GST



7 Stouffville man with cerebral palsy bucks odds to earn university degree.

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Baby geese poachers stopped at reservoir

BY JOAN RANSBERRY
Staff Writer

Four adults, pretending to be fishing, were nabbed stealing baby geese at the reservoir in Stouffville last week.

Had it not been for a concerned citizen, the goslings could have faced a very questionable future at the hands of the poachers.

Cindy Elder, of Whitchurch-Stouffville's leisure services department, reported just after 6 a.m. Wednesday, a motorist on his way to work spotted two men and two women standing on the water's edge at the Millard Street park.

Concerned, the citizen stopped his vehicle, approached the four middle-aged people, to ask what they were doing. They told him they were fishing," said Ms Elder.

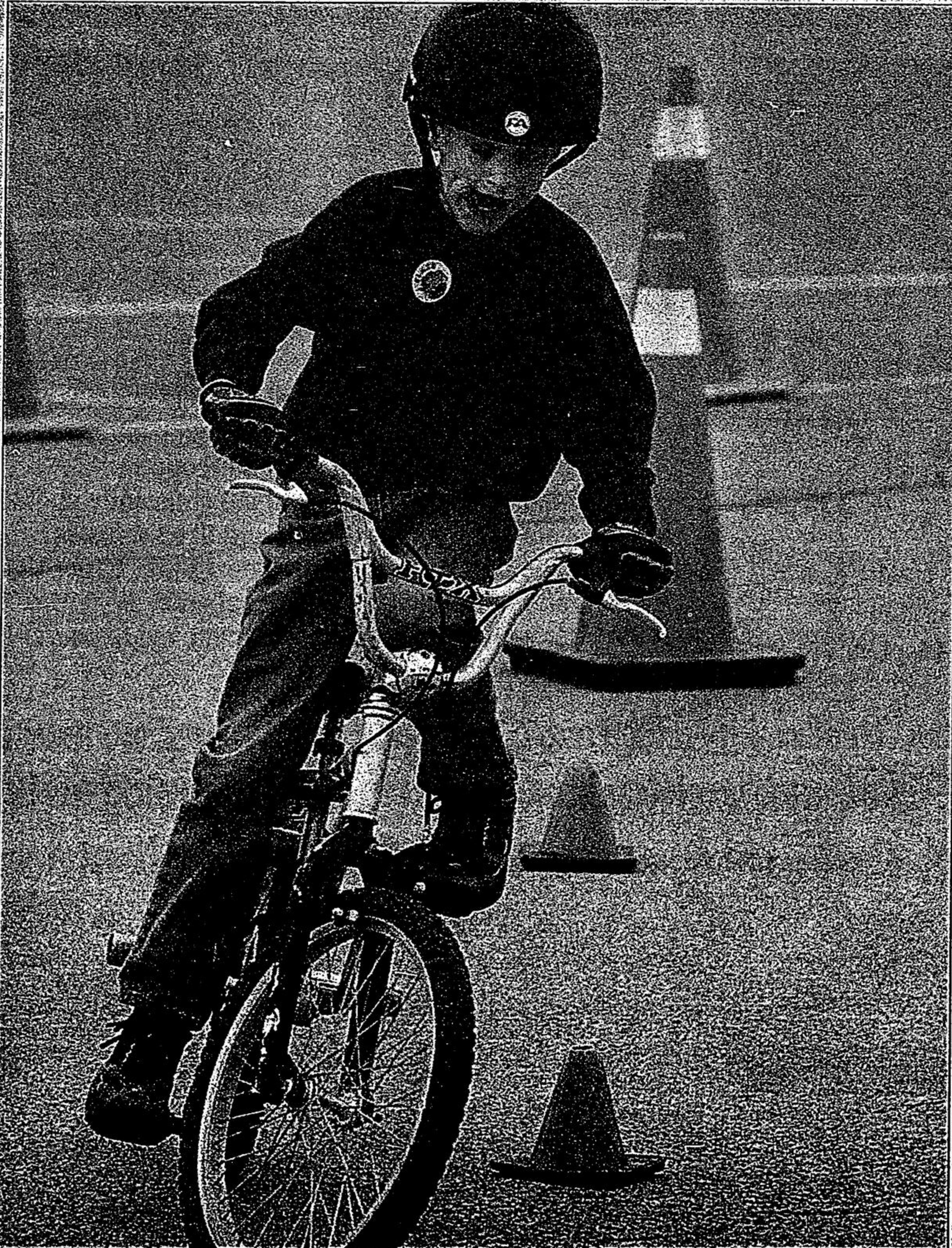
GOSLINGS POPPED OUT

The motorist noticed motion from a white bucket. "All of a sudden, a number of baby goslings popped up," said Ms Elder. They were sticking their little heads out of the bucket.

Alarmed at what he had discovered, the citizen ordered the anglers to release the goslings. He assumed the goslings were let go. The four got into a vehicle and left," said Ms Elder.

This is a very serious incident, said Ms Elder. Because it threatens wildlife, the incident has been reported to the Toronto Region Conservation Authority and the Ministry of the Environment. The Ministry has people in authority who can deal with this," said Ms Elder. This is poaching.

Meanwhile, residents of Whitchurch-Stouffville are being asked to keep an eye out for sim-



Rodeo circuit

Lukas Kubbinga, 7, rides around the cones on his way to earning a certificate for completing the Bike Rodeo at the Stouffville Arena Saturday. The Stouffville Community Policing Centre hosted the third annual event.

BILL ROBERTS PHOTO

FIGHTING WEST NILE

Councillor opposes new spray program

BY LISA QUEEN
 AND JOAN RANSBERRY
Staff Writers

The war against the West Nile virus is underway in Whitchurch-Stouffville. Hot spots for the potentially deadly virus have been identified.

A catch-basin cleaning project is being carried out now, while a larviciding project, designed to kill West Nile-infected mosquito larvae, takes place in Whitchurch-Stouffville from June 18 to 27.

Meanwhile, a municipal mosquito larvae monitoring program is in place, said Kelly Batt, manager of facilities and parks for the town.

York Region's health department has pinpointed mosquito danger spots along 19th Avenue on the Markham/Whitchurch-Stouffville border and on Davis Drive between Warden Avenue and McCowan Road.

Larvicide pellets are being placed in catch basins of storm drains within a two-kilometre zone where positive human, bird and mosquito cases were identified last year and this year.

Catch basins where larvicide has been applied will be marked with a mosquito symbol.

The project does not, however, have the blessings of everyone. Ward 11 Councillor Steve Plakes fears larviciding will do more harm than good.

"Larviciding will be done in my ward but I don't support it," said Mr. Plakes. "When we larvicide, we spread a chemical. It would be better if we encouraged people to use common sense."

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