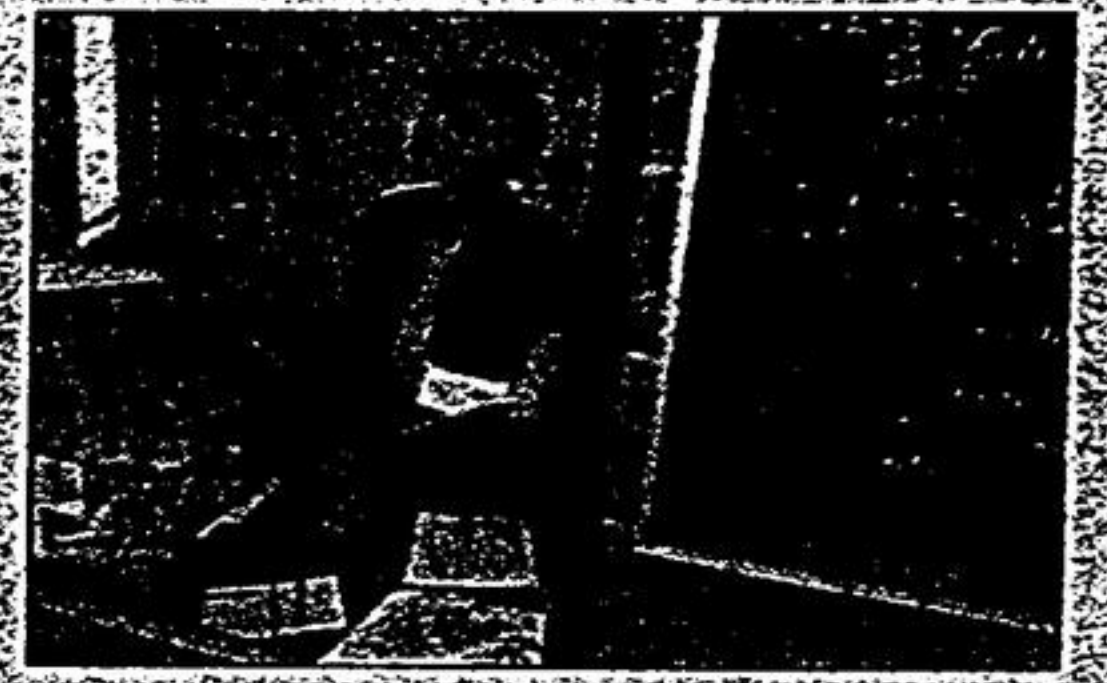


# Stouffville Sun-Tribune

SATURDAY, JULY 5, 2003 ■ SERVING THE COMMUNITY OF WHITCHURCH-STOUFFVILLE ■ 36 PAGES/\$1 INCLUDING GST



**15** Diversions: community theatre thrives on York Region stages.

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## Player shut out by hockey politics

BY MIKE HAYAKAWA  
 Staff Writer

In early May, 12-year-old hockey player Genio Caira was on cloud nine.

But by the end of the month, the Gormley boy was devastated.

It's so bad now, he's debating whether to play the game again or not.

The youngster's plight began when he left the Mississauga Reps organization this spring to try out with the rival Markham Islanders AAA peewees. He played the last three Greater Toronto Hockey League seasons with Mississauga, but Markham was closer to home.

The GTHL is perhaps the highest profile minor hockey league in the world. Graduates include NHL stars Brendan Shanahan (Detroit Red Wings), Eric Lindros (New York Rangers) and John Madden (New Jersey Devils).

The Islanders and three Vaughan organizations — the Kings, Rangers and Panthers — belong to the GTHL.

### MADE MARKHAM TEAM

Genio passed the audition and was told he would be one of six defencemen on the team for the 2003-04 season.

He was also given first choice of what number he wanted on his Islander uniform. He picked nine, the number he has donned since he was a tyke.

But an envelope sent by the Islanders to the Caira household May 30 sent them into a tailspin. Enclosed was a cheque with a full refund of Genio's registration fee. No explanation was given.

After a series of phone messages, the Islanders acknowledged



## Big shot

Whitchurch-Stouffville Soccer Club player Chris Dier, 9, takes his turn in goal during team practice demonstration at the 19th annual Strawberry Festival in Memorial Park last weekend.

BILL ROBERTS PHOTO

## ON THE ROUGE

### North Markham park plan slammed by environmentalists

BY MIKE ADLER  
 Staff Writer

Markham is about to betray a vision of Rouge Park the town has supported for years, conservationists charge.

Special protections promised for the river are missing in the proposed official plan amendment to create a Rouge Park North in Markham, Glenn De Baeremaeker, president of Save the Rouge Valley System, said this week.

He called the town document a useless mishmash of motherhood statements that really mean nothing.

### INTO WHITCHURCH-STOUFFVILLE

Passage of the amendment at Markham council Tuesday evening would produce the first York Region stretch of Rouge Park, meant to protect the Rouge River through Markham to its headwaters in Whitchurch-Stouffville and Richmond Hill.

The plan, about eight years in the making, has already come too late for the river in Richmond Hill where it was ruled this year to have no binding effect over the town's remaining undeveloped land — and in Whitchurch-Stouffville, it has become redundant through provincial legislation protecting the Oak Ridges Moraine.

Mr. De Baeremaeker and Jim Robb, president of Friends of the Rouge Watershed, both said they believe town staff, in efforts to make the amendment less vulnerable to challenges, have effectively sabotaged the plan.

see ENVIRONMENTALISTS page 10

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