

Stouffville Sun-Tribune

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3	Town to foot \$60,000 bill to fix John Michaluk's pond.	
	Our Town	5
	Jim Thomas	7
	Sports	13
	Classified	17

Residents will be notified of West Nile spraying

BY LISA QUEEN
Staff Writer

York Region is setting up a registry so people with respiratory illnesses or allergies can be notified if the health department steps up insecticide spraying to stop the spread of West Nile virus.

"We're doing this as an added level of protection for residents," Dr. Hanif Kassam said.

Residents with asthma, allergies or who are particularly sensitive to environmental agents can have their names added to the registry.

If the region decides to spray insecticide in an area identified as being at risk for West Nile, the region will personally notify residents on the registry so they can take appropriate precautions such as staying indoors and turning off their air conditioners or making alternate living arrangements.

Residents not on the registry will receive general notification through the media or door-to-door notices at least 48 hours in advance of spraying.

However, despite confirming Friday another three dead crows have been found in York Region with the disease, Dr. Kassam stressed the virus isn't threatening enough to warrant "adulticiding" mosquitoes anywhere in the region yet.

Adulticiding involves spraying a fine mist of an insecticide called malathion in a "hotspot" where the virus has been identified. Dr. Kassam said Health Canada's pest management regulatory agency has determined malathion is safe when used properly.

He said the insecticide won't be used unless the risks of West Nile

See HUMAN, page 4



STAFF PHOTO/BILL ROBERTS

Warm weather warriors

Austin Meliunas, 4 (left), and Matt Essai, 5, of the "skins" team vie for the ball during a road hockey game at an Alderwood Street benefit party for Stouffville resident and cancer patient Dawson Fraser Saturday. About \$500 was raised.

MAD COW RESTRICTIONS

Farmers protest with cheap hamburger

BY JOAN RANSBERRY
Staff Writer

More than 300,000 pounds of hamburger will be sold for 75 cents a pound on the roadside in York Region tomorrow morning in an attempt to draw attention to a troubled beef industry.

Canadian beef farmers will congregate at 10 a.m. with tractor trailers loaded with frozen lean ground beef at three locations, two of them in York Region.

Every time someone buys a pound of hamburger, he will be asked to recognize Canadian beef farmers are facing financial ruin if the Canada/United States border isn't open to their product, said Mount Albert farmer Ralph Smalley.

Severe restrictions were slapped on the industry in mid-May when one cow in Alberta was diagnosed Mad Cow disease.

Although no further evidence of the disease has been found the border remains closed to Canadian beef.

While farmers wait for Canadian politicians to convince leaders in other countries to lift restrictions, beef stands in fields, piles in freezers and sits on shelves.

Hamburger will be sold off trucks at Warden Avenue and Stouffville Road, Major Mackenzie Drive and Weston Road and Snelgrave Flea Market at Hwy. 10, north of Brampton.

"We're not trying to make money," Mr. Smalley said. "We're just trying to make a point. The beef

See BEEF, page 8

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