

# Stouffville Sun-Tribune

THURSDAY, AUG. 14, 2003 ■ SERVING THE COMMUNITY OF WHITCHURCH-STOUFFVILLE ■ 32 PAGES/\$1 INCLUDING GST



**19** Squirts win Ontario championship, midgets baffled by ruling at nationals

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STAFF PHOTO/BILL ROBERTS

## Kids and the classics

Mikey Murray, 7, (left) and Griffen Elliott, 5, have fun playing tag among the 325 vehicles 30th Annual Antique and Classic Car Show at the Whitchurch-Stouffville Museum Sunday. About 1,400 people attended. See story on page 14 and additional photos on pages 15 and 16.

## Travellers undeterred by African unrest

BY HANNELORE VOLPE  
Staff Writer

Several Whitchurch-Stouffville teens are in Zimbabwe this week to take part in the Mennonite World Conference in Harare, the country's capital.

The eight residents, Michael Turman, Paul and Ruth Plett, Graham Taylor, Leah and Jessica Reesor, Ryan Dudge and Joel Nash, are from the areas Mennonite churches — Stouffville Community Mennonite Church, Hagerman's Mennonite Church and the Rouge Valley Mennonite Church.

They are part of a group of 53 young people which left Toronto Aug. 3 to fly to London,

England before starting the second leg of the journey to Harare in the southeast African nation.

The travellers continued to monitor reports about political unrest in Zimbabwe, but weren't deterred from going on the trip.

There is not a lot of violence and certainly not against tourists, delegate Michael Turman said. "I am looking forward to meeting people from Africa and seeing their culture and meeting people from around the world."

The international conference of Mennonites and Brethren in Christ takes place every six years. After several days at the conference, the teens travel to a local youth centre to

help repair buildings, paint and do other maintenance work. They also have an opportunity to sightsee in London and visit Zimbabwe's Victoria Falls.

Another part of the group is attending the inaugural Global Youth Summit taking place just before the Mennonite World Conference. Around 700 young people are expected to attend the summit with about 200 teens coming from around the world to join delegates from Zimbabwe.

Afterwards, the Canadian group is helping at a local orphanage.

See STUDENTS, page 8.

## DAMAGE AT PARKS, COMMUNITY CENTRES

# Ballantrae vandals 'lucky they didn't die'

BY JOAN RANSBERRY  
Staff Writer

A rash of vandalism across Whitchurch-Stouffville has taken a potentially deadly twist.

Hydro One, York Regional Police and town staff are appealing to parents over recent acts of vandalism including the smashing of high-voltage Hydro One meter boxes attached to public buildings. The most recent incident happened over the weekend at a construction site at the Ballantrae Community Centre.

Kelly Batt, manager of facilities and parks for the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville, and Pierre Meilleur, a construction supervisor, discovered broken Hydro boxes Monday during an inspection of the Aurora Road community centre, which is being renovated.

The kids were very lucky they didn't die, Mr. Meilleur said. "They could have dropped dead on the spot. If they poked around with an iron prod, this much voltage would kill instantly."

Hydro One officials agree. "This is very uncommon situation. It's such a potentially hazardous thing. Someone could be killed or seriously injured," spokesperson Al Manchee said.

Outdoor washrooms at the site were vandalized and signs were pulled from the community centre.

York Regional Police Supt. George Kydd said police need to reinforce the message that vandalism is a costly, illegal and, in this case, "it carries the potential to cause serious injury or death."

Police are responding to the situation, Supt. Kydd said. Police will increase the number of checks

See VANDALISM, page 8.

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