



**3** Nurse of year showed empathy during SARS crisis at Markham-Stouffville

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# Stouffville Sun-Tribune

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## Last call for GTA greenbelt next week

BY MIKE ADLER  
*Staff Writer*

If it works, a greenbelt around Greater Toronto will stop urban sprawl, keep farmers on their land and preserve Southern Ontario's ecosystem, supporters say.

If it fails, developers will leapfrog over the natural barrier, roads will run through it and politicians will slowly pick it apart.

"This is it. This is the final judgement on what lands will be protected," said Toronto Councillor Glenn De Baeremaeker, adding the coming greenbelt battle is "20 times more important" than the fight to save the Oak Ridges Moraine.

A greenbelt task force discussion paper released yesterday on what the government should do to stall sprawl in Canada's fastest growing region is short on specifics.

What the province actually does could be guided, in large part, by reaction to its greenbelt idea at a pair of public meetings next week in York Region.

New Democrat MPP Marilyn Churley, who sits on a provincial committee gathering input, expects to see developers and municipalities face off against environmentalists and community groups at public meetings.

But she said she wants to hear what ordinary people think of the greenbelt.

Builders and some politicians have said the greenbelt could drive up land prices, making housing unaffordable for many people.

The province froze new development in regions around Toronto, including York last December, to prepare for a greenbelt. An all-party group of MPPs could recommend amendments, such as including Simcoe

See FARMERS, page 8.



STAFF PHOTO/SJOERD WITTEVEN

## Unstoppable

Norm Fretz, of Stouffville District Secondary School's senior Spartans, sheds a tackler from SATEC@Porter Collegiate in Scarborough en route to scoring during the Spartans' high school rugby tournament Friday. The Spartans won the game, but lost in the championship final. The junior Spartans won their division. See page 19 for more information.

## THEATRE PART OF PROPOSAL Town hall arts centre back before council

BY HANNELORE VOLPE  
*Staff Writer*

Another chapter in the saga of bringing a performing arts centre to Stouffville's old town hall has begun.

The fund-raising kick-off for the centre came during a Motus O gala at the Markham Theatre in April, where a silent auction raised \$1,300. The proceeds were divided between Motus O, the non-profit theatre company based in Stouffville, and the Culture, Art and Heritage Committee for Whitchurch-Stouffville.

The committee is in the midst of being registered as a non-profit association so it can receive corporate donations.

In the meantime, the town's arts and culture committee is planning to come to council Tuesday to discuss using the old town hall as a performing arts centre and receive approval for working drawings, committee chairperson Wayne Hill said.

### ART EXHIBITIONS, MOVIES

This committee is looking at the old town hall, with an addition, for a theatre and possible additional uses such as art exhibition space and Friday night movies.

As the founder of the York Durham Academy for the Performing Arts, Mr. Hill wants to make sure the centre meets the community's needs.

"I don't want to build a theatre I can't use," he said.

This year academy is bringing four musical productions featuring hundreds of performers from six years old to young adults to the Vaughan City Playhouse.

See CONVERTING, page 8.

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