STAFF PHOTO/SJOERD WITTEVEEN

HEADING FOR A RECORD

Nick Halliwushka sets the tempo as fellow lifeguard Heather Henry and others prepare for the Break a Guinness World Record and Help Save Lives event tomorrow from 4 to 5 p.m. at the Lebovic Leisure Centre. Swimmers can register tomorrow. The event, taking place at 90 pools in Ontario, will also raise money for the Lifesaving Society's drowning prevention campaign.

Movie shoot stops at service station

BY JOAN RANSBERRY
Staff Writer

Actors Woody Harrelson and Julianne Moore ran out of gas in Whitchurch-Stouffville Wednesday.

The mishap happened by design. The pair was shooting a 1950s-style gas bar scene for the movie *Prize Winner of Defiance.*

Mr. Harrelson and Ms Moore were in town for one day.

Prize Winner of Defiance, a DreamWorks Pictures and Revolution production, based on a real life story, will be released in 2005. The production is being shot in and around Toronto.

The story is about the life of housewife Evelyn Ryan, portrayed by Ms Moore. Mr. Harrelson plays her husband.

DEFUNCT STATION

The movie crew used a parking lot at the Stouffville Country Market as home base for the day. The scene was shot at a defunct service station on York-Durham Line.

Evelyn Ryan, the 1950s housewife, faces a myriad of obstacles including little money, an alcoholic husband, a psychopathic rooster and 10 mouths to feed. To keep the family going, Mrs. Ryan enters radio jingle contests and manages to win big prizes.

JULIANNE MOORE: In Stouffville this week with Woody Harrelson to shoot movie.

The movie is based on the book *Prize Winner of Defiance, Ohio* by Terry Ryan, the sixth of Mrs. Ryan's 10 children.

Woody Harrelson won an Emmy for outstanding supporting actor in a comedy series in 1988 for his portrayal of Woody Boyd on Cheers.

HARRELSON CREDITS

His movie credits include *The People vs. Larry Flynt, Kingpin, Natural Born Killers, Indecent Proposal* and *White Men Can't Jump.*

Julianne Moore has appeared in *The Fugitive, Benny and Joon, Boogie Nights, The Big Lebowski, Hannibal* and *The Hours.*

Seniors knew what to do in apartment building fire

A recently instituted fire safety program was put to the test early yesterday morning when fire forced the evacuation of Stouffville's Parkview apartments.

When smoke from a kitchen fire filled the hallways at the Rupert Avenue seniors building at 5:30 a.m., residents organized and carried out their own evacuation, Whitchurch-Stouffville Fire Chief Tim Beckett said.

"When we (firefighters) got there, the residents were almost all out," he said. "The residents had the good sense to know what to do. They'd been taught."

The fire was confined to a stove. While it caused minimal damage to the apartment, firefighters used large electrical fans to clear the hallways of smoke.

ATTENDED WORKSHOP

In April, officials of the fire department hosted an Older and Wiser training workshop at the Parkview apartments. There, about 40 seniors learned fire safety tips, including evacuation procedures.

Three weeks prior to the workshop, fire caused $100,000 in damage to one of the apartments. Firefighters evacuated the two-story building when smoke filled the halls. While no injuries were reported, it prompted fire officials to recognize that seniors in Whitchurch-Stouffville needed a fire safety course.

GREATER RISK

When it comes to fire, "adults over 65 years are at greater risk" than any other group, Deputy Fire Chief Paul Stover said.

"As most fire deaths occur in the home, it is important that older people know how to protect themselves. We targeted the seniors with this particular program."

The fire safety workshop has also been taught at Eastern Gate Retirement Community in Stouffville, with plans to hold it at the Silver Jubilee Seniors Club and Buckingham Manor seniors residence, both in downtown Stouffville.

—*Joan Ransberry*