

# Stouffville Sun-Tribune

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**3** Environmentalist wants creeks to have their own names

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STAFF PHOTO/BILL ROBERTS

## New chief in town

Whitchurch-Stouffville's new junior fire chief, Matthew Dunlop, 9, drops the puck in ceremonial faceoff to commemorate fire safety week last Thursday before the Stouffville Spirit Jr. A hockey game at the Stouffville Arena. Looking on are fire chief Tim Beckett, mascots Sparky of the fire department and Spike of the Spirit, along with captains Michael Lombardo of the Spirit and Mitch Dillon of Thornhill. For more on Matthew, see page 21. The Spirit won the game 3-0. See sports, on page 22, for more.

## Remembering the wrath of Hurricane Hazel

BY FRED SIMPSON  
 Correspondent

It was 50 years ago Bill Perry waved good-bye to his grandmother for the last time. The date was Oct. 15, 1954. A short time later, she and her nephew had become two of the 81 victims of Hurricane Hazel. "It had been raining heavily all day," recalls Mr. Perry, now of Richmond Hill, "but they decided to drive to Shelburne anyway to visit her brother who owned a funeral home there." Mr. Perry, a resident of Willowdale at the time, was supposed to go with them but the

weather conditions had worsened to the extent his parents decided to keep him home. It was a decision that probably saved his life. "They were also concerned about my grandmother and her nephew, who was driving, deciding to make the trip," he said. Minutes later, on Hwy 7 near Islington Avenue in Woodbridge, her nephew attempted to cross a Humber River bridge that had been washed out in the torrential downpour. They both drowned. "It was about a year later they found my grandmother's purse in a farmer's field," he

said. "The purse and its contents were still intact." Spawned in the Caribbean Sea, Hurricane Hazel savaged the Greater Toronto Area one day and night leaving an indelible memory in its wake of death and devastation. "It's long and furious trek up the eastern seaboard of the United States saw its high winds and lashing rain ending up in Lake Ontario and then heading to Toronto and points north." Yet another grim episode saw a Woodbridge couple, their seven-year-old

See HURRICANE, page 10.

## THREE RESIDENTS CHARGED IN \$3M MARIJUANA HAUL

# Drug bust linked to organized crime: OPP

BY JOAN RANSBERRY  
 Staff Writer

A \$3-million drug bust in the Lindsay area, involving residents from Whitchurch-Stouffville and Keswick, is linked to organized crime, police say. Three people from Whitchurch-Stouffville and three from Keswick were among those charged in the Coboconk area last week. OPP drug enforcement unit officers executed several warrants on four Coboconk farms, seizing marijuana and \$200,000 in vehicles. Nineteen people were arrested. Facing drug-related charges are a 49-year-old man and a 38-year-old man from Stouffville and a 48-year-old man from Musselman's Lake. Those charged from Keswick are a 58-year-old woman, a 65-year-old man and a 25-year-old man. The arrests were the result of a month-long investigation, which was running 24/7 by the last week, OPP Staff Sgt. Rick Barnum said. "It's a perfect example of local organized crime," Sgt. Barnum said. "We had officers working round the clock, and help from Crime Stoppers and informants as well." The marijuana was in various stages of production, from plants to buds, when it was seized along with items used to process the drugs, police said. Also found in the raid were scales, a rifle and a 30-foot trailer. The vehicles included a luxury Denali sports utility vehicle and a rusty older pickup truck.

See MARIJUANA, page 8.

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