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23 What's up, Doc? Students not fooled by animated hucksters.

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Hockey parents still under microscope

Baiting refs, yelling good for hall of shame

BY JOHN CUDMORE
 Staff Writer

Canadians are known to play a decent game of hockey.

But we can also talk a pretty mean game, too.

For years, that trait has been a sore spot for hockey in this country, particularly at the youth level, where rarely, if ever, a season passes without a headline-grabbing incident involving rink rage.

Hockey is by no means singularly guilty in this respect, but its popularity from coast to coast keeps fanning the fires of outrage.

Unbecoming behaviour occurs at ball diamonds and soccer pitches, too.

BOORISH BEHAVIOUR

Name a sport and the potential exists for boorish behaviour from the sidelines.

Believe some of what you may hear, but do not go to the rink for the sole purpose of witnessing riots, fights and referees strung up in the rafters.

By and large, hockey parents — all sports parents, for that matter — are civilized people who wouldn't dream of making a stink from their spot in the stands.

But it's just that, as Canadians, we place our so-called game under the microscope, allowing it sometimes to be overshadowed by off-ice antics.

See PARENTS, page 12.

SUBURBAN SMOG WORSE THAN TORONTO, HAMILTON, ENVIRONMENT MINISTRY REPORTS

York real 'big smoke': study

BY PATRICK MANGION
 Staff Writer

Smog wafts up from bustling downtown Toronto to taint the pristine suburban landscape of York Region, right?

Wrong, says the Ontario Environment Ministry.

Air quality data compiled by the ministry indicates smog levels measured in York are higher than

downtown Toronto and downtown Hamilton, long considered among the province's largest polluters.

But ministry officials said that has more to do with weather patterns and local pollution than big cities casting a long shadow over the suburbs.

But it would be wrong to discount Toronto as a source of air pollution, according to some environ-

mental experts.

Ministry data revealed Newmarket, a predominantly residential town, has had 48 days of less than satisfactory air quality due to smog so far this year, including two days where air quality was considered poor.

By comparison, Toronto had 39 days and Hamilton 44.

A rating of 32 to 49 is considered

moderate, 16 to 31 is good.

Air quality in Newmarket was listed at seven, or very good, on the ministry's website Thursday.

The ministry records smog levels at 37 locations across the province, including Newmarket.

The peak season for measuring smog levels is from May to September, ministry spokesperson

See SMOG, page 10.



STAFF PHOTO/SJOERD WITTEVEEN

SHARP CHAPEAUX AT HOME SHOW

Lynn Barrett (left), Jan Osborne, Joan Brown and Anneke Field of the Red Rovers of Georgina chat with Marica Marton-Wiles at the Mennonite Products booth on the first day of the Markham Home Show yesterday. The show continues today and Sunday at the Markham Fairgrounds.

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