



STAFF PHOTO/SJOERD WITTEVEEN

Garry Vosburg (right) of York Regional Police chats with students during a forum in Richmond Hill Thursday. Teenagers and officers from across the region took part.

# Youths asked to share message

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youth co-operation is also a big issue. "We often have trouble finding youths who have information to come forward and talk to us. Hopefully, a day like this can give them some insight into the way we do things and we can come to an understanding," he said.

### SCHOOL LEADERS

"All these kids here today are leaders at their schools and, hopefully, they can pass that message on."

Most of the students at the forum Thursday had some interaction with police officers, both good and bad.

Markville Secondary School student Thomas Huxtable said he has had his share of difficulty with police and officers rarely treat him and other youths with the proper respect.

"They come into my house, they don't take their shoes off, don't listen to what I'm saying, assume I'm guilty. It pisses me off," he said.

Richmond Hill's Miranda Glover also

had a recent brush with the law.

"They don't respect teenagers," she said. "They act like we're all doing something wrong."

But Newmarket High School Student Samantha Arnold said respect is a two-way street.

"There's a lot of police officers that disrespect kids, but there's also a lot of kids who are always disrespecting cops. The thing is, not all cops are bad and not all kids are bad. Everyone just has to understand that."

### WEAPONS, DRUGS

In an increasingly violent world for teenagers, with weapon use on the rise and drugs readily available, St. Elizabeth Catholic High School student Nick Galati is not sure police always take youth issues seriously.

"They think it's all like petty, small stuff. In reality, it's pretty serious out there today," he said.

"There are a lot of fights, over anything. It's intimidating and that's when the weapons come in."

## Driver impaired at time of fatal accident: report

Drugs and alcohol may have played a role in the tragic death of Janette Montgomery.

The Whitchurch-Stouffville teenager died when she lost control of her car and hit a traffic pole in East Gwillimbury Aug. 29.

The 17-year-old student from Cardinal Carter Catholic High School in Aurora was transported to St. Michaels Hospital in Toronto where she later died.

A toxicology report from the Centre of Forensic Science has now indicated Ms. Montgomery had a quantity of marijuana and alcohol in her system and was impaired at the time of the crash.

## Suspected drunk driver rams police car

A man suspected of drinking and driving plowed into the back of a stopped police car in Markham early Thursday morning.

A patrol officer and his partner had a vehicle stopped in the curb lane on Steeles Avenue just east of Kennedy Road at approximately 1:30 a.m. The cruiser's emergency lights were flashing at the time. Officers watched as a vehicle smashed into the back of the police car.

A 34-year-old Scarborough man was arrested and later charged with impaired driving.



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