



STAFF PHOTO/STEVE SOMERVILLE

A York Regional Police officer works on a laptop computer inside a cruiser. Keeping up with technology is an ongoing expense for the department.

Courts must help curb crime: senior

From page 3.

or safety.

"It's still a good place to raise a family, but it has changed over the years," he said.

Mr. Scott has seen crime rise over the last two decades and believes the trend will continue and public safety will remain at risk unless something is done to improve the justice system.

"The justice system does more to protect the criminals than the victims. There are too many backlogs in the courts and weak sentencing. We need a swifter justice system. Police are doing their job, it's the courts that aren't," he said. "It's also up to the parents to raise their kids right. More parents need to take responsibility for their children."

With marijuana grow operations, guns and gangs, home invasions and carjackings making their marks and new street drugs such as crystal meth, which can be pro-

duced cheaply almost anywhere, rising in popularity, the future is not without its threats.

But former Toronto Police chief and Vaughan resident Julian Fantino, who just became Ontario's commissioner of emergency management, predicts the province will remain one of the safest places in the world.

"There are always threats. Unexpected things like Sept. 11 or issues we've dealt with like SARS and the blackout. All these things can happen and we know they can, so we do the best we can to prevent and prepare," he said. "In this office, in the business of emergency management, you prepare for everything and prevent the things you can."

"I believe we are safe," he said. "But we can't be complacent or believe we are always going to be completely safe. You can't take anything for granted. We hope nothing happens, but we have to be ready."

THE STATE OF PUBLIC SAFETY

April 28: Where we are:

Staff writer Martin Derbyshire examined the realities and perceptions of public safety in York Region in 2005, discovering while crime rates are relatively stable, violent crimes and weapons are taking their toll on the public psyche. Link: www.yorkregion.com/yr/newscentre/special-feature/Public_Safety/story/2744671p-3176984c.html

May 1: Where we were:

Staff writer Pat Mangion looked back about 20 years, focusing on 1984, the year York Region lost its innocence with the murders of nine-year-old Christine Jessop and two York Regional Police officers. As well, editor Rick Vanderlinde looked at the impact of a provincial audit that led to the downfall of former chief Bryan Cousineau. Link: www.yorkregion.com/yr/newscentre/special-feature/story/2751185p-3184106c.html

Today, Where we're going:

Mr. Derbyshire finishes the series with a prediction of public safety in the future, looking at community policing, technology and the type of crime that may become more prevalent.

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Shawn Fowlds



Interests/Hobbies:
Playing on trampoline,
basketball, soccer, snowboarding
& video games.

Saving Money:
10% for charity, 20% long term
savings, 70% for summer camp



Vanessa Rabito



Interests/Hobbies:
Horseback riding, swimming,
skiing

Saving Money:
Saving money to be able to board
my own horse



Kara Schut



Interests/Hobbies:
Playing soccer, reading & knitting

Saving Money:
Saving points for special prize
contests
Saving money for education



Michael Setnyk



Interests/Hobbies:
Chess, collecting cards and
playing on the computer

Saving Money:
Saving money for cards,
video games and Bionicles



Angelin Soosaipillai



Interests/Hobbies:
Playing the piano and listening
to music

Saving Money/Points:
Saving money for University

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