



18 Back to national taekwondo championships for Thompson

Opinion	6
Calendar	14
Our Town	16
Classified	20

Stouffville Sun-Tribune

THURSDAY, JUNE 30, 2005 ■ SERVING THE COMMUNITY OF WHITCHURCH-STOUFFVILLE ■ 24 PAGES/\$1 INCLUDING GST

Nice day for a walk up the street - 1,896 km long

BY CHRIS TRABER
Staff Writer

It's no small coincidence a quintet of local youths plan to walk the length of the world's longest main street in 40 days to raise funds and awareness for Big Brothers and Big Sisters of York Region starting tomorrow.

Traversing the 1,896 kilometres of Yonge Street from Rainy River to Lake Ontario in Toronto will be a minor miracle for the walkers and a blessing for the many children who benefit from the charity.

"Forty days and nights is a popular theme in the Bible," said Daniel Rossi of Stouffville, who calculated he and his four friends must cover about 49 km a day in their quest to raise a minimum of \$50,000 for Big Brothers and Big Sisters. "Our group has a lot of faith, something we need to do something this big."

Mr. Rossi is joined by his brother, Andrew, Unionville's Jody Chrobak and Jonathan Mishrigi and Newmarket's Mark MacDonnell on the journey scheduled for completion Aug. 9. They left York Region Tuesday for northwestern Ontario and their starting point.

The group, all university students in their early 20s, are either big brothers to York children or support children's charities.

"Every year we try and do something to raise funds for a charitable organization," Mr. Rossi said. "Usually we hike but we challenged ourselves to do something bigger, something different. We decided to walk Yonge Street."

Walking under the Five with D.R.I.V.E. (determination, respectability, initiative, valour, excellence) banner, the clutch of friends will take time

See WALKERS, page 9.



STAFF PHOTO/SJOERD WITTEVEEN

Berry, berry good weekend

Whitchurch-Stouffville Strawberry Festival chairperson Sandra Stronach (left) and past chairperson Liz Fraser prepare for tonight's official opening of the 21st annual festival in Memorial Park. For more information, see story on page 11 or log on to www.strawberryfestival.ca/

'EYESORE' LAST FARM BUILDING IN STOUFFVILLE

Heritage group still fighting for elevator

BY HANNELORE VOLPE
Staff Writer

The old grain elevator near the Stouffville train station did not receive the heritage designation that could prevent its demolition by GO Transit.

Whitchurch-Stouffville council voted against designating the building under the Ontario Heritage Act last week.

"We were very disappointed to hear council's decision," said Wayne Kelly, chairperson of the Whitchurch-Stouffville heritage advisory committee. "We hope they will reconsider."

Council agreed with the intention to designate the building 30 days ago and the decision not to go ahead is "unprecedented", Mr. Kelly said.

But Mr. Kelly hasn't given up all hope—he'll attend the July 12 council meeting, hoping to convince councillors who voted against the designation to change their minds.

Meanwhile, the grain elevator isn't in any immediate danger of being torn down to make way for more GO parking.

"There are no changes to the parking lot. We will plan around that building," GO Transit spokesperson Stephanie Sorensen said.

Still, during an earlier interview, Ms Sorensen said GO will have more options if the town doesn't protect the building.

"If it is not designated heritage, one of the options is to tear it down," she said last month. "That would be one of the main things."

The cost of maintaining the old building, liability issues and the need for more parking spaces are main considerations for GO Transit in deciding

See ELEVATOR, page 10.

McDonald's
24hr Drive Thru

YOUR HOMETOWN FORD STORE

BRAND NEW FORD TAURUS

\$18,995 Plus Freight and Air Tax

Air, Windows, Locks, Cruise, Tilt, Automatic, V6

HURRY... Only One Left!

HOUSTON FORD LTD.
5788 Main St., Stouffville;
905-640-4541;
www.billhoustonford.com

HAPPY BIRTHDAY CANADA!

Barthau Jewellers

6312 Main St., Stouffville
(905) 640-4646