



**3** Homeowners dealing with skyrocketing heating costs

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Always room to improve: principals  
*Markham schools tops in EQAO tests*

BY CAROLINE GRECH  
 Staff Writer

Students at William Berzcy Public School in Unionville are among York Region's top scorers on the most recent round of EQAO tests but there is still room to improve, their principal says.

"The focus isn't so much that we need to get 100 per cent, but it's how much continued improvement can we accomplish?" principal Clayton La Touche explained. "We're not figure-driven."

*York Region District School Board grade 3 and 6 test scores/page 24.*

While hesitating to focus on the scores, he attributed the school's success to a variety of factors, including a program that allows schools to share their teaching strategies with one another.

"We were really able to benefit from learning from other schools," Mr. La Touche said.

Berzcy's scores in all subjects in grade 3 and 6 tests were more than 30 per cent better than the provincial averages, despite having more than 40 per cent of the

See PARENTS, page 10.

TORONTO COMMITTEE FIGHTING \$700-MILLION SEWAGE SYSTEM EXTENSION

# Big Pipe move irks mayors

BY JOAN RANSBERRY  
 Staff Writer

While York Region politicians are fighting mad over a Toronto committee decision to fight the \$700-million Big Pipe sewage system, some residents are calling it a victory for ordinary residents.

"It is a big win for the environment," said Dave Probert, one of about 60 York residents who con-

vinced the Toronto finance committee to call on the provincial and federal governments to halt the project. This just proves that York Region has not done its homework."

Insisting the project is depleting local water supply and threatening wildlife, Mr. Probert is demanding the province hold a complete environmental assessment. But region-

al chairperson Bill Fisch said work will not stop.

"We'll go to court if necessary," Mr. Fisch said. "Toronto has no right to decide what we are building. This project is about 70 per cent complete. We need to finish it now."

Environmental commissioner Gord Miller convinced the committee Thursday that York didn't properly assess the environmental

impact of sewer construction, which drained wells in Markham and Whitchurch-Stouffville.

Future phases cut through the Oak Ridges Moraine in Richmond Hill.

"When the environmental commissioner for the entire province comes here and says that York Region evaded the law, they

See T.O., page 12.



STAFF PHOTO/SJOERD WITTEVEEN

## DON'T FENCE ME IN

Girls from Markham and Stouffville head out on in a race during a York Region District Catholic School Board area cross country meet Thursday at Bruce's Mill Conservation Area on Stouffville Road.

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