

Police officer hurt in crash

A York Regional Police officer suffered serious injuries after a crash in near white-out conditions around 11 a.m. today.

The officer responded to a van rollover on the York-Durham line at Doane Road in East Gwillimbury.

A Durham officer arrived soon after and their cruisers were parked on the side of the road when a truck driver headed south lost control of his vehicle, police said.

The truck's trailer detached, smashing into the Durham cruiser. The officer inside suffered minor injuries.

The truck itself slammed into the York cruiser, seriously injuring a 33-year-old officer, police said.

He was taken to hospital but is expected to survive.

Durham Police are leading an investigation into the incident.

Martin Derbyshire

Conference helps students get behind environment

BY SERENA WILLOUGHBY
Staff Writer

While other teenagers focus on PS2 games and celebrity couple Britney and K. Fed, two Richmond Hill girls are busy taking care of mother Earth.

Grade 11 students Selina Anggawinata and Elise Visco, co-presidents of the environmental council at St. Theresa of Lisieux Secondary School, organized an ecology conference Wednesday at the Richmond Hill school.

The conference was attended by students from across the region and was aimed at increasing environmental awareness and promoting youth leadership.

It all started last April when the girls initiated a recycling program at the school to celebrate of Earth Day 2005.

But the program only lasted until November 2005, when the town informed the school it would no longer pick up the school's recycling.

Since then the girls have tried to revive the program and decided holding a conference would be a good way to make peers more aware of environmental issues.

"It's important for youth to recognize the importance of the environment and to find the voice to make a difference," Selina said.

Presentations centred on everything from organic food and the dangers of pesticides, given by University of Toronto students, to Richmond Hill's wind power project to a presentation by local Green party representatives Michael White and Lloyd Helferty.

"Our school is new, our council is new, it's a good way to



Elise Visco and Selina Anggawinata organized the Eco-conference at St. Theresa of Lisieux on Wednesday.

start a tradition and get as many people as we can who care about the environment, to come together," Elise said.

The conference was very enlightening said Ariel Levitsky, Richmond Hill High's student association environment vice president.

"I learned a lot about how food impacts the environment with pesticides. I'm a vegetarian and I'm going to start buying organic," she said.

Generating interest in environmental programs is hard because people don't see how the issues play a role in their life, she noted, but it helps when

students can come together and exchange ideas.

Her group has protected five acres of rainforest in Brazil and organized an earth day conference at her school.

Selina and Elise have been successful with a number of environmental initiatives at St. Theresa of Lisieux, including a cell phone and ink cartridge recycling program, a fundraiser to adopt a lion from the Metro Toronto Zoo and a live animal outreach show.

"If you start with little things, like planting trees, environmental awareness will grow in the community," Elise said.

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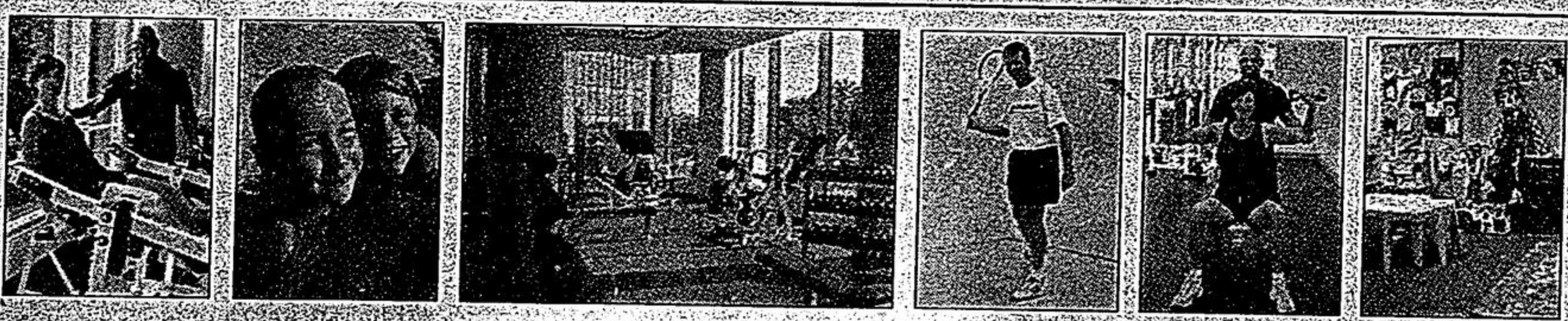
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Area bars nailed in blitz

A total of 278 Liquor Licence Act charges were laid in a four-night blitz targeting bars and restaurants in Markham and Whitchurch-Stouffville last week.

Violations included serving alcohol to minors, failing to request identification, serving intoxicated patrons, permitting illegal liquor on the premises and permitting removal of liquor from the premises.

York Regional Police and Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario officials inspected 68 licensed establishments.

Another 20 smoking bylaw charges were laid and one man was arrested outside a Markham bar with a large quantity of marijuana.

Bookkeeper sentenced for bilking church

A Newmarket bookkeeper has been sentenced to nine months house arrest after

she bilked a church and day care centre out of almost \$200,000.

Marjorie Joy Hume, 55, worked for the Grace Church on Carlson Drive.

Her duties included looking after the financial affairs of the Grace Church Day Care Centre and the Newmarket and District Christian Academy.

A routine audit of the organizations books turned up evidence Ms Hume had been ripping the church off to the tune of \$199,000 between March 2000 and March 2005.

She pleaded guilty to one count of fraud over \$5,000 and was sentenced Wednesday by Justice Peter Tetley to a 12-month conditional sentence, including nine months of house arrest.

She was also put on probation for two years and is required to complete 200 hours of community service.

Martin Derbyshire