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Nowruz celebrations no longer small scale

New Year grows with Iranian community

BY SIMONE JOSEPH
Staff Writer

When Saeed Ziaee came to Canada 15 years ago from Iran, he and his wife celebrated Nowruz, the Persian New Year, in a very limited way.

Part of the Iranian New Year celebration, which starts on the first day of spring, involves calling and visiting relatives and friends you may not have spoken to during the year. Since the new Canadians knew few people, there was hardly anyone nearby to call or celebrate with.

So the two University of Toronto students did a spring cleaning of their apartment in downtown Toronto, gathered seven items that begin with 'S' and tried calling their family back in Iran.

The cleaning they did is the first step in preparing for Nowruz. In ancient times, Iranians believed spirits of their deceased families and friends would come to visit their descendants and their homes.

For this occasion, the hosts cleaned house. The gathering of the seven 'S' items is known as the Haft Seen or the spread, around which the family gathers to celebrate the New Year. It is the focal point of the celebration. Iranians take pride in putting together a lavish spread to signify all they hope for in the new year.

See PROCLAMATION, page 4.

CYBER CRIME BECOMING BIGGER THREAT THAN ROBBERY

Hackers terrorize business

BY MARTIN DERBYSHIRE
Staff Writer

Cyber crime is a threat to any business, just ask Aurora Cable Internet.

In December, the Internet and cable service provider was hit by a denial of service attack that has cost the company hundreds of thousands of dollars, general manager Linda Morrison said.

Somebody got on to its network and forced the company's servers to send out millions of e-mails, slowing the system to a crawl.

With limited ability to track or stop the hacker, the company was forced to add more servers just to get things back up to speed.

"We've been attacked here and we're still under attack," Ms Morrison said. "There is nothing more we

can do to protect ourselves. All we can do is handle it as it flows."

The perpetrators of this kind of cyber crime may have done it to try and legitimize a spam e-mail by putting the Aurora Cable Internet e-mail tag on it.

Or maybe they just did it on a lark.

The fact its origin is hidden behind different servers across the

globe makes it near impossible to tell.

But, whether it's a disgruntled employee who rendered the network useless because she's upset with the boss or what cops call a "script kiddie" who uploaded a server-scrambling program to impress his teenage buddies, Det. Const. Phil Shrewsbury of the York Region

See ONLINE, page 8.



STAFF PHOTO/MIKE BARRETT

BLOWIN' IN THE WIND

Lisa Emmons, as Lily, brandishes an umbrella in a special preview performance of Motus O's East of the Sun, West of the Moon Thursday at the Stouffville Public Library. Children had a chance to see the show before it went on the road.

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