



Chief for a Day Matt Gilmour got some tips from York Regional Police Chief Armand La Barge Thursday.

# Mini-chief impresses classmates

BY SIMONE JOSEPH  
Staff Writer

Matt Gilmour lived a 10-year-old boy's dream Thursday morning.

The Grade 5 student went to his Unionville school dressed as the York Regional Police chief and garnered a more than satisfactory response from his classmates at Parkview Public School.

"They were really amazed at how I look. They clapped and said 'nice uniform.' They were probably thinking, 'I want to be chief for a day,'" he said from his swearing-in ceremony at police headquarters in Newmarket Thursday.

Matt was the finalist in the York Regional Police's annual chief-for-a-day essay contest. Students from 147 York

schools participated. Matt was York's 14th chief for a day.

Standing at about four feet, 10 inches tall and wearing his custom-made uniform, Matt looked like Chief of Police Armand La Barge's "Mini-Me" as Matt's father took pictures while reporters questioned Matt.

One reporter asked Chief La Barge if he had any advice for the mini chief.

"Be kind to the media and remember the individuals out there counting on you," he responded.

When Matt was asked which aspect of the day he was most looking forward to, he responded assuredly: "the canine unit. I have a dog and really like him."

But he was not as self-assured when it came to his

career aspirations.

When asked if he would go into policing, he said: "I haven't thought of what I want to be when I grow up."

But he sure has passionate opinions.

Borrowing from his winning speech, Matt spoke with disgust Thursday about people who drink and drive.

Matt will present his speech once again in front of 1,000 people at the police appreciation dinner April 27.

His schedule as chief for the day was packed. He visited York's Community Safety

Village and watched as the canine bureau's four-legged officers performed a demonstration.

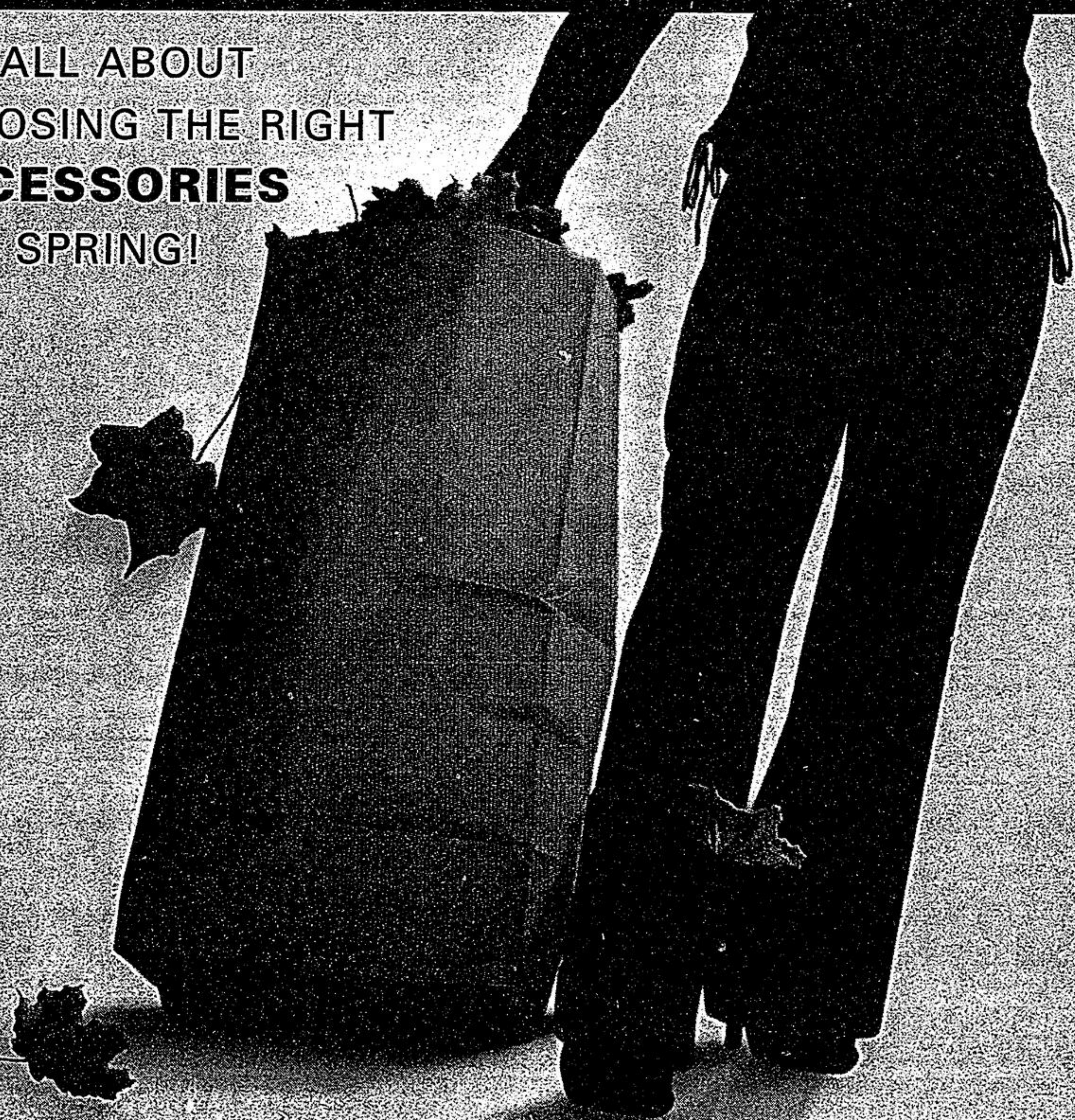
He had lunch with a member of the police force's executive command team at East Side Mario's in Aurora. After lunch, he had a tour of various specialized units, including air support, traffic, and emergency response. This tour included a viewing of the police helicopter. Matt's fun-filled day ended at about 3:30 p.m.

"Maybe I want to be a police officer," he said.

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