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STAFF PHOTO/SJOERD WITTEVEEN

Water wars

Adriane Devlin, 5, and Mikel Devlin, 6, let loose with buckets of water in the Stouffville outdoor pool. See page 3 for more photos.

Apologies for Haitian mistake

Stouffville teacher went to Caribbean to help up young people but ended up in jail

BY HANNELORE VOLPE
Staff Writer

A Stouffville resident went on a one-week trip to the Dominican Republic to help people and ended up being thrown in jail.

Garry Thoms, who teaches auto mechanics and auto body at Sir Robert Borden Business and Technical Institute in Scarborough, "wanted to do something with my time in the summer," he said.

He started in a resort in Punta Cana, but quickly got bored. He went to the nearby town of Higüey, where he had arranged to teach English at a local school, but the woman he had made the arrangements

with had disappeared.

Mr. Thoms later travelled to Santo Domingo, where he met a pastor who had spent the past 11 years helping people in Haiti on the same island in the Caribbean. He advised Mr. Thoms to visit there.

Mr. Thoms had no trouble crossing the border. He was with a Haitian friend, Marley, who lived in Higüey and whom he had met on an earlier trip to the Dominican Republic.

Once in Haiti, they visited a school and orphanage in a little town called Belladere, about three hours from the capital of Port-Au-Prince. Mr. Thoms ended up leaving teaching materials and gave the two

women running the school instructions on how to teach English as a second language. The women look after 30 or 40 youngsters between the ages of three and seven, former street kids whose families could no longer look after them.

The conditions in Haiti shocked him. One of the poorest countries in the world, 80 per cent of Haitians live in poverty.

There might be running water one hour in the morning and hydro one hour in the evening. Unmaintained roads were crumbling, making travelling by car difficult.

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'STANDS TO REASON'
 YORK REGIONAL POLICE

Heat is on: Crime rate rises with temperature

BY MARTIN DERBYSHIRE
Staff Writer

Turn up the air conditioning and lock the doors, because the mercury may not be the only thing going up when the heat is on.

The crime rate rises as well, researchers say.

"Actually the phenomenon has been accepted for some time," Simon Fraser University criminal psychologist Ehor Boyanowsky said. "The areas in the world that have the highest violent crime rates also have the highest temperatures."

In fact, widely accepted research from Iowa State University, psychology professor Craig Anderson shows not only are violent crimes, including murders and assaults, more prevalent in hotter U.S. states, but the rate goes up across the country in warmer months.

Using statistical analysis, researchers from the Université de Montréal examined the relationship between weather and the number of crimes in the late 1990s.

They found violent crimes were more common on warm and humid days in that city, as well.

York Regional Police don't track crime statistics according to temperature, but Const. Laurie Perks said there very well could be more crime in the summertime.

"It's busier and more people are outside," she explained. "It does stand to reason that there would be an increase in crime because there are more people out on the street, more people on holidays, less people

See FEELING, page 9.

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