

# United Way of York Region's new boss feels like he is coming home

BY MICHAEL POWER  
Staff Writer

While working a part-time job in university helping adults with intellectual challenges, something inside Vaughan's Daniele Zanotti clicked.

The organization acted as a clubhouse for mentally challenged people. But those who used the club were also given jobs, both there and in the community.

The traditional approach to dealing with people with handicaps might have been to focus on shortcomings, said Mr. Zanotti.

"But to see how the clubhouse changed their lives was inspiring," he said.

The experience of working with that organization taught him the importance of focusing on what people can do, rather than on shortcomings, said Mr. Zanotti, 38, who is taking over March 12 as the new chief executive officer of United Way of York Region.

The position represents a sort of homecoming for Mr. Zanotti.

He used to work for the organization, as its director of allocations, before taking over as director of its fundraising campaign.

Even after Mr. Zanotti left the United Way, he was asked to return to speak to the organization's staff during one of its campaigns, United Way's board chairperson John Rogers said.

Staff there clapped and cheered

when Mr. Rogers told them Mr. Zanotti would return as CEO.

"This fellow is very dynamic," said Mr. Rogers, who has known Mr. Zanotti for about seven years.

"He's a passionate person who is inspiring to the people he works with."

*'He's a passionate person who is inspiring to the people he works with.'*

When Mr. Zanotti worked as the United Way's campaign director, a councillor at a shelter told him about a mother and two children who showed up to the shelter after leaving an abusive home with nothing more than their clothes.

The mother looked scared and her young son stared at the floor, Mr. Zanotti said.

But her young daughter grinned widely. The next day, when the girl still had the grin, a councillor asked why she looked so happy.

The girl said her father had threatened to hurt both her and her Barbie doll.

But the girl managed to sneak the doll out with her, and would still be able to take it to show-and-tell.

"That literally inspired me that you can make a difference," Mr. Zanotti said.

"It happens next door. It happens in your neighbourhood. But

you have to get involved."

His new job also represents the latest step in a career spent in social work.

After graduating from York University in languages and literature, he completed a masters degree in social work from the University of Toronto. Mr. Zanotti worked for York Region's government in community services and housing and was involved in York's first homelessness study.

He also worked on the region's Early Years program and York Link, a directory of services here.

Next came his first stint with the United Way, during which he decided his ultimate goal was to become CEO of the organization.

To build the necessary skills, he later took a job as chief executive officer of a non-profit group called Family Day, which is among the largest child care providers in the GTA. He now works as the president of another non-profit called Safe Communities.

Because much of York Region is suburban, developing a strong community sense can be tough, Mr. Zanotti said.

But a strength of the United Way is bringing groups together.

"It's really putting a face to those stories and those neighbours," he said.

"We have the opportunity to be in the neighbourhood at the ground floor — I think it presents unbelievable opportunities."



STAFF PHOTO/SJOERD WITTEVEEN

Daniele Zanotti of Woodbridge is the new United Way of York Region chief executive officer.

## Del Zotto, Trivino like Whitehorse ice

A Whitchurch-Stouffville resident and a member of the Stouffville Spirit Provincial junior A club are making key contributions for the Team Ontario under-17 squad at the Canada Winter Games in Whitehorse.

Michael Del Zotto, a first-year defenceman for the Oshawa Generals, and Corey Trivino, a rookie forward for the Spirit, helped Team Ontario post wins in its first three contests.

In Saturday's opener against Prince Edward Island, Trivino scored a goal and added three assists while Del Zotto had a goal and two helpers in an 11-3 victory for Team Ontario.

Facing Manitoba Monday, Del Zotto scored a goal and Trivino earned an assist in a 5-2 win for Team Ontario.

Del Zotto had a goal and two assists during Ontario's 6-0 win over Nova Scotia in a quarter-final action on TSN Tuesday.

Ontario meets British Columbia in the semifinals.

For more on the Canada Winter Games in Whitehorse, go to: [www.2007canadagames.ca](http://www.2007canadagames.ca)

## SPORTS DIGEST

### AE team starts strong

The Stouffville minor atom AE Clippers got off to a good start in their best-of-five York Simcoe playoff series against the Georgina Blaze, winning the opener 3-2 in Keswick Sunday.

Ryan Nelson, Matt McCune and Jackson Newlands scored once each for the Clippers. After a game Tuesday, the series returns to Stouffville Friday at 7:15 p.m.

The victory by the Clippers atoned for a loss they suffered against the Blaze in the final game of their York Simcoe round-robin playoff series Feb. 20 as they fell 3-1.

Nelson scored the lone goal for the Clippers.

Leading up to that game, the Clippers defeated East Gwillimbury 3-1 in Sharon and tied the Markham Waxers 1-1 in Stouffville.

Nic Rabito, Quintin Volpe and Tyler Moffatt scored for the Clippers against East Gwillimbury.

## SPORTSBOARD

E-MAIL: [mhayakawa@yrng.com](mailto:mhayakawa@yrng.com)

### HOCKEY

#### Markham Stouffville Girls Hockey Association

##### HOUSE LEAGUE

Feb. 24 - 26

##### NOVICE TIMBITS SCHOOL

Red Timbits 2 (Rachel Walker, Madeleine Frogley) vs Black Timbits 1 (Colleen Lamanna)

##### ATOM

Mr. Electric 4 (Vanessa Kezwer 2; Kenzie Murray, Erin Brophy) vs Tim Hortons Stouffville 0; Entertainment One 5 (Bianca Cugno 2, Shannon McCormick, Haley Catalano, Brianna Miller) vs Harry Bowes 4 (Ellen Brown 2, Fallon McGee, Jessica Tyson)

##### PEEWEE

PACE Savings & Credit Union 5 (Brooke Naim 3, Franca Zupo 2) vs Unionville Motors 5 (Kyle Templeton, Jessica Burt, Lauren Jeffs, Alexandra Gardner, Natalie Mangos); Timber Creek Golf 4 (Ardyn Tettmar, Lauren Rogers, Stephanie Rogers, Shauna Bartlett) vs Calithness Marketing 0

##### BANTAM

Schollen & Company 2 (Cassandra Stanton, Britlyn Preston) vs Pronto Automotive 2 (Courtney Gibson 2); Southwire 7 (Hilary Sherrard 2, Melanie Carlin, Krista Rovo, Annamaria Avarino, Julia Lennox, Deanna DeLaurentis) vs William Lee-Chartered Accountant 3 (Talia Faubert, Stephanie Halkidis 2)

##### MIDGET

Schickedanz Bros 6 (Andrea Moscoe 2, Claire Schickedanz 2, Rachel Rust, Corina Schickedanz) vs Moller Insurance 0; Shoppers Drug Mart 3 (Kelly Hobson 2, Katherine Jones) vs Stouffville Lions Club 2 (Stephanie Heim 2)

#### Whitchurch-Stouffville Minor Hockey Association

##### HOUSE LEAGUE

ATOM

##### FEB. 3

Govedaris 5 (Matthew Hamilton 2; Cameron Nash, Ben Risi, Jason Rankin, Shutout by Griffin Stapley) vs Houston Ford 0; ReMax 5 (Brendan Nasevski, Jason Mistelbacher, Erik Tammisto 2, Justin Pickup) vs Country Style 1 (Joey Hutton); Todd Pools 4 (Ryan Daniels 2, Tyler Asselin, Robert Mulhead) vs Swiss Chalet / Harvey's 2 (Braydon McNeil, Reed Savage)

##### FEB. 10

Govedaris 6 (Rose Wideman 2; Luke Simcoe 2, Jason Rankin, Blake Hembruff) vs Country Style 4 (Matthew Pehar 2, Joey Hutton 2); ReMax 3 (Erik Tammisto, Mitchell Bell, Justin Pelowich-Pickup) vs Swiss Chalet / Harvey's 2 (Braydon McNeil, Marco Magnante); Todd Pools 2 (Ryan Daniels, Tyler Asselin) vs Houston Ford 1 (Anoop Manjunath)

##### FEB. 17

Country Style 6 (Conor Mullins, Joey Hutton 2, Matthew Pehar, Callaway Smith 2) vs Todd Pools 5 (Tyler Asselin 4, Kyle

Ophelders); Swiss Chalet / Harvey's 9 (Savage Reed, John O'Boyle, Cody Provis 3; Marco Magnante, Thomas Darlington 2, Braydon McNeil) vs Houston Ford 1 (JP Creighton); Govedaris 3 (Ben Risi 2; Matthew Whitehead; Shutout by Griffin Stapley) vs ReMax 0.

##### FEB. 24

ReMax 4 (Erik Tammisto, Mitchell Bell 3) vs Todd Pools 1 (Kyle Gushue); Govedaris 2 (Luke Simcoe, Blake Hambruff, Matthew Whitehead; Shutout by Griffin Stapley) vs Swiss Chalet / Harvey's 0; Country Style 5 (Matthew Pehar 3, Joey Hutton 2) vs Houston Ford 4 (Carson Weeks 2, Brendan Tunney, Michael O'Donnell)

#### Stouffville Amateur Hockey League

##### STANDINGS AS OF FEB. 26

	OPEN DIVISION			
	W	L	T	P
All-Weld Co. Ltd	12	5	3	27
Houston Ford	10	8	2	22
KenDon Contracting	10	9	1	21
Miller Waste Systems	8	8	4	20
pendesign	7	9	4	18
The Lion	7	9	4	18
K.R. May Real Estate	8	11	1	17
Boyd's Sports	7	10	3	17

##### OVER 35 DIVISION

McKay Mortgages	14	5	2	30
Main Course	12	6	3	27
Williamson's Uxbridge	12	7	2	26
Painters Edge	9	7	5	23
Schell Lumber	8	11	2	18
Dundee Securities	6	12	3	15
Steve&Liz No Frills	6	12	3	15
Dermody Insurance	5	12	4	14

##### SENIOR DIVISION

Hamilton Resources	11	6	2	24
Robillard Chartered	10	7	2	22
Nesbitt Burns	9	6	4	22
State Farm Insurance	9	7	3	21
Phillips Steeplejacks	8	9	2	18
Royal Le Page	3	15	1	7

##### WOMENS DIVISION

Wild Wing	11	5	4	26
Rosswill Pools	10	5	5	25
Choice Insurance	10	7	3	23
Eastern Drywall	10	7	3	23
Warchuck Dental	8	7	5	21
Curves	6	12	2	14
Jack, Tarry, McCalmont	5	11	4	14
Boyd's Sports	5	11	4	14

## THE PLAYOFFS!

**TONIGHT**  
**THURSDAY**  
**March 1**  
**7:30**



**VS**  
**Collingwood**  
**Blues**

**Game 3**  
**North Conference**  
**semifinal**

Other home games  
**Saturday 7:30\***  
**Tuesday 8:30\***  
*\* if necessary*

**Stouffville Arena**