

Stouffville Sun-Tribune

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Cops, teens 'break down barriers' in Stouffville

Officer called to party re-unites with host, 17

BY ALYSHIA HIGGINS
 It was a reunion of sorts at the annual police youth forum in Stouffville Wednesday.

Megan Simone, 17, and York Regional Police Const. Melanie Moffatt, were seated at the same table during the event and realized it wasn't the first time they had met.

"I had a birthday party and the police were called and you were there," Ms Simone said after introductions were made.

The type of reunion was a common occurrence at the forum at Latham Hall.

Jevon Crooks-Khan, a Grade 11 student from Markham, has attended the forum three times and each time sees familiar faces among the attending officers.

"It's a great experience to talk to the officers and have a good time," he said. "I have a good connection with the officers because I see them around school, too."

The forum is run in conjunction with National Youth Week, May 5 to 10.

Const. Todd Snooks is the youth co-ordinator for District 5, which covers Markham and Stouffville.

"We try to break barriers and build bridges between the youth and police," the former Stouffville residents said. "We get a good perspective from the kids. It really allows youth to have a real understanding that police

See **1 THOUGHT**, page 10.

NO GOALS IN THAT BALL



STAFF PHOTO/STEVE SOMERVILLE

Stouffville District Secondary School Spartans forward Dayle Wilkinson (left) goes hard against Unionville High School Wolves Daniela Dipinto at Unionville field Monday in York Region senior Tier 1 girls high school soccer. It was the season-opening game for the two teams, who battled to a scoreless draw. See story on page 14.

Town reduces grant to Strawberry Festival, but picks up tab for popular pyrotechnics July 1 fireworks rescued by council

BY HANNELORE VOLPE
Staff Writer

One of Stouffville's best-attended events has been saved.

There will be fireworks for Canada Day after all at the Strawberry Festival.

The traditional Canada Day celebrations were in jeopardy. They were not listed on the Strawberry Festival website (strawberryfestival.ca) earlier this week.

The festival committee report-

ed it couldn't put on the fireworks since it received only \$5,000 from the town during budget deliberations in January.

The committee usually receives \$15,000.

At Tuesday's Whitchurch-Stouffville council meeting, Councillor Richard Bartley made the motion to provide \$10,000 to the festival committee for Canada Day celebrations.

The festival's request of \$15,000

wasn't granted in January because it already receives around \$15,000 in goods and services, as well as the annual donation, Councillor Rob Hargrave said.

The organization also has a reserve of about \$65,000, and there are other events that could use funding, he said.

In the end, however, council approved having the committee put on the fireworks, keep the \$5,000 it has already received and

sending the bill of approximately \$10,000 to the town.

The fireworks will be provided by "Pyro" Mario Vella, starting at dusk, entertainment begins at 7 p.m. and there will be a huge Canada Day cake.

Thousands of people attend the fireworks display in Memorial Park on Canada Day.

The festival runs from June 25 to 29 this year, plus the July 1 celebrations,

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