11 York residents charged

From page 1.

situations from a community crime perspective, it doesn't surprise me in the least that there are people involved in this type of criminal activity."

Thus far in 2008, York police have used 31 search warrants during grow-op investigations, Chief La Barge said.

"York is no worse than Peel or Durham; in fact, I would suggest that we have been probably the most aggressive police service anywhere in Canada as it relates to the fight against grow-ops.

> "I would suggest that we have been probably the most aggressive police service anywhere in Canada as it relates to the fight against grow-ops.'

"If we have someone that is the organizer, that is the brains, that is the profit receiver from all of these enterprises and we charge them, we need to see some serious sentences being handed out — I'm talking prison sentences, not anything less than two years. It's having an impact on our community safety."

Eleven York Region residents, including a Gormley man, are among the 20 charged after police smashed a marijuana grow operation, a case that originally sprang from a York police probe.

Two Toronto police officers, both of whom live in York, and three jail workers employed at the Toronto West Detention Centre in Etobicoke — are among those charged.

Both Toronto police officers were released from custody after court appearances in Newmarket yesterday.

"They are presumed innocent, they have a right to contest the allegations made against them, they recognize that they are serious but at this point in time it is premature to say how the matter is going to be resolved," said Gary Clewley, lawyer for both officers.

"In the meantime, they are maintaining their innocence and they are looking forward to getting disclosure of the evidence before them. They are happy to be out on bail."

Police have also laid gambling charges in the case but would not discuss why.

In February 2007, York police uncovered pot grow operations throughout the region and, during the course of the probe, linked a Toronto officer to a home under investigation, Toronto Police Chief Bill Blair said during a news conference Thursday.

York officers informed Toronto police, who launched their own probe that connected a second Toronto police officer, three corrections officers and others to what Chief Blair called a "criminal enterprise" that produced and distributed marijuana and other drugs and laundered proceeds of crime.

"We have identified the majority of the criminal behaviour alleged, to have occurred in York Region," Chief Blair said.

At about 6 a.m. Thursday, police used 63 warrants and charged 20 people — 19 adults and a young person, according to Toronto Supt. James Ramer. The charges have not been proven.

Three five houses, vehi-\$60,000 about cash and marijuana were seized in the investigation, police said.

Both officers have been suspended and while they are in custody, they will not be paid because they cannot report for work, Chief Blair said. If the officers are released, Ontario law only permits them to be suspended with pay until their employment status can be dealt with. That usually takes place at the end of criminal prosecution, he added.

Const. Patrick Lee, 31, an eight-year veteran assigned to a North York police station, and Const. Kevin Bourne, 33, a nine-year veteran assigned to a downtown police station, face a number of charges.



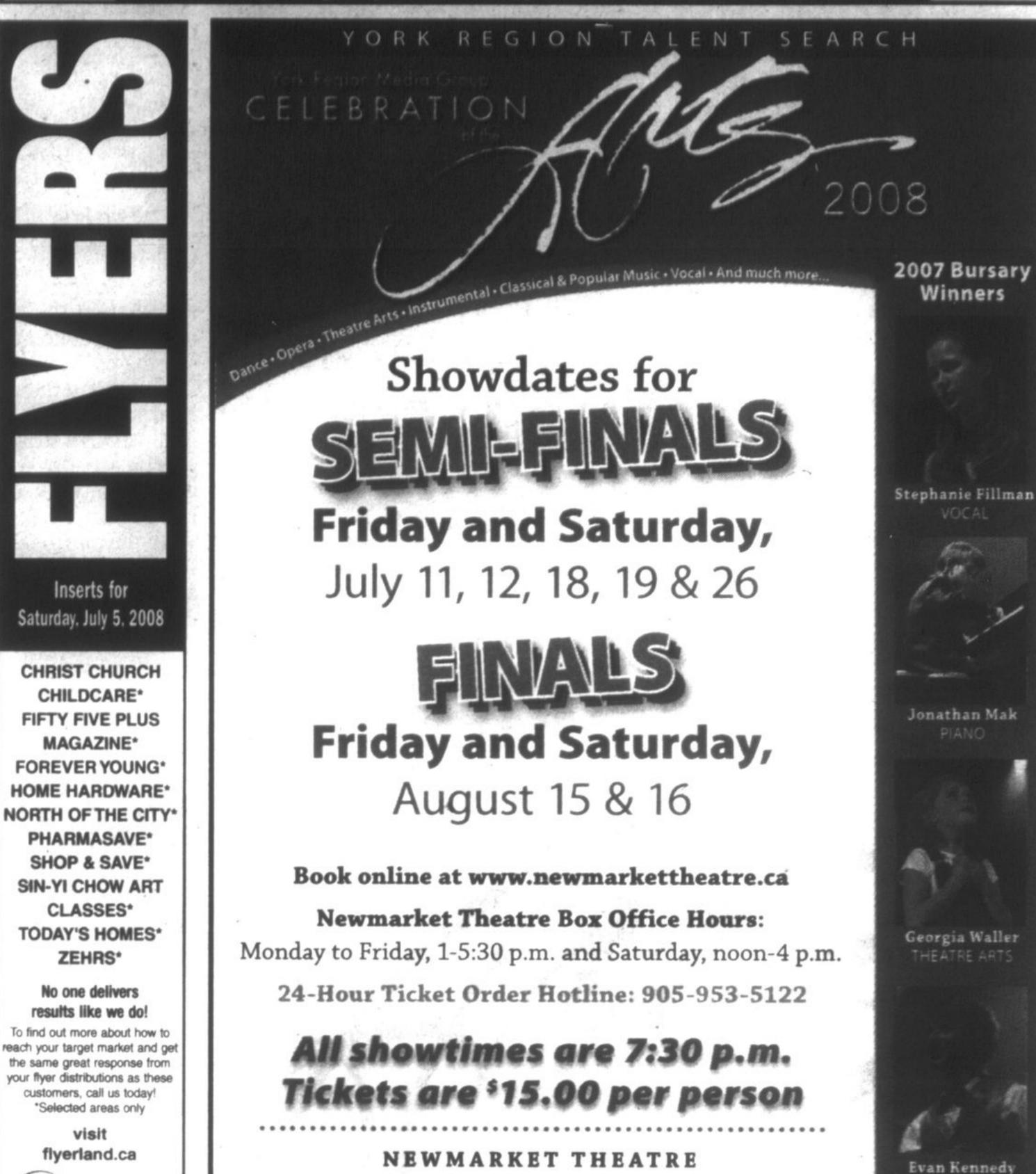
Sun-Tribune

(905) 294-2200

ARRIVE ALIVE....

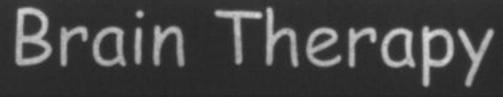
Please Don't Drink and Drive This message brought to you as a community service of The Economist & Sun/Tribune





505 Pickering Crescent, Newmarket

yrmg



Imagine Your Potential



DISABLED OF CANADA

WWW.AND.CA 416-244-1992

- · Learning Disabilities, ADD, ADHD
- · Autism, CP, Down Syndrome, Stroke . · Treatment of the Problem at its Cause
- · Preventative Developmental Screening · Functional Neurological Assessments
- · Individualized Treatment Programs · Sensory-Motor & Developmental Programs
- · Specialized Activities and Exercises
- · Strengthening of the Nervous System
- · Diet, Nutrition and Lifestyle Counselling

Home-based Programs since 1983

Are You Sick and Tired of Being Sick and Tired?

If you suffer from chronic fatigue, persistent neck or back pain, weight gain, headaches or digestive problems, you may be suffering from adrenal burnout. To find out the latest research on this topic, attending this free symposium may be the most important thing you do this year. You will discover the true causes of these conditions and natural solutions you can use right away. Many are feeling healthy again for the first time in years. Dr. Allen Turner is an international speaker and lecturer who has been featured on the Dini Petty Show, National News and Canada AM. He will present a free symposium on Thursday, July 10th, 7:30 pm at the Stouffville Health Centre.

Call 905-640-4440 for reservations.

