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She shoots, she's scoring with hockey anthem

Bonny's song near top in CBC-TV contest

BY ALYSHIA HIGGINS

Whitchurch-Stouffville residents are proving they really do love the good old hockey game.

Bonny Morgan, a musician and Stouffville resident, has entered CBC's Hockey Anthem Challenge, and is sitting in the top one per cent of the 15,000 entries.

"I just couldn't not do it (create the anthem)," she said. "I was so thrilled to find out I was in the top-rated section."

Ms Morgan isn't the only Stouffvillite to enter the competition. Other entries from Whitchurch-Stouffville, according to the CBC website, are Orest Hrynewich, Robert Volk, Matthew Volk, Marion Drexler, Aaron Clubine, Caleb Winters, Iggy Natoli and John Wolff.

CBC created the competition after the rights to the song were bought by TSN earlier this year.

The winner of the competition gets \$100,000.

In addition, CBC will pay the songwriter half the royalties for the public performance of the theme. Hopefuls had to submit a jingle or song, an instrumental or song with lyrics. While this may seem hard to many, Ms. Morgan said she came up with her theme right away.

"I had to give it a try because a song came to me almost immediately and that was just it."

Judges from the network will

See **VOTE**, page 7.

MUM'S THE WORD



STAFF PHOTO/SJOERD WITTEVEEN

Dan Busato, whose family owns L&M Gardens Ltd. on Tenth Line in south Stouffville, gets mums ready from the greenhouses for shipping to retailer Sheridan Nurseries last week.

New nurses to shorten ER wait times

York ambulances, paramedics will be back on road faster

BY PATRICK MANGION
Staff Writer

York Region's hospitals have been flagged as having among the province's 14 poorest-performing hospital emergency departments because of growth demands, not service, Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care spokesperson Mark Nesbitt said.

York's rapid population explosion has heaped added pressure on Newmarket's Southlake Regional Health Centre, Markham Stouffville Hospital and Richmond Hill's York Central Hospital, where the number of annual emergency room visits ranges from 50,000 to 70,000 a year.

After receiving \$375,000 from the province, the region's three hospitals are expected to hire six new emergency room nurses to address ambulance delays.

Patients wheeled by ambulance to any of the region's three hospitals today would be forced to wait up to 30 minutes for care, but that's all about to change Oct. 1, the province vowed this week.

The much-maligned system — in which frustrated patients and backlogged EMS teams are caught in the same web of health care bureaucracy — has reached the breaking point and a solution is just weeks away, Mr. Nesbitt said.

The pilot project means paramedics can respond to more calls across York Region.

Rather than paramedics waiting in que for patients to be admitted to hospital, those patients will, instead, be turned over to specialized nurses.

See **T00**, page 8.

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