

Stouffville Sun-Tribune

THURSDAY, OCT. 30, 2008 ■ SERVING THE COMMUNITY OF WHITCHURCH-STOUFFVILLE ■ 24 PAGES/\$1 INCLUDING GST



9 Student music scholarship concert grew from humble beginnings

Home tour 14
 Things to do 16
 Sports 18
 Classified 20

COMING SOON: TO YOUR FRONT DOOR



STAFF PHOTOS/BILL ROBERTS

William Poulter (from left), 2, Thomas Abbott, 9, and Deanna McAulay, 4, rehearse for Halloween night fun during the downtown Stouffville BIA trick-or-treating event Saturday.

YOU'LL WAIT SIX MONTHS FOR A DECISION IN YORK REGION, MISS UP TO EIGHT DAYS OF WORK

Delays plaguing region's court system

BY JOE FANTAUZZI
 Staff Writer

If you have a legal matter at York Region's courthouse, you can expect to wait at least six months for a decision and miss as many as eight days of work for court appearances.

Delays and backlogs are slowing justice to a crawl, records from Ontario's attorney general show.

To help alleviate the problem, the attorney general's office announced the Newmarket fac-

ility, which serves all of York Region, including Whitchurch-Stouffville, has been chosen as an "action site", along with courthouses in North York and London.

The provincial effort aims to move cases through the justice system faster by reducing unproductive criminal court delays and appearances by making more effective use of justice system resources.

The province is targeting 30-per-cent reductions in average of days and court appearances

needed to complete a case. It plans to meet the target within four years.

York Region's population growth, commuting population and its proximity to Toronto have led to delays at the Newmarket courthouse, Attorney General Chris Bentley admitted.

Within four to five months, the province should have a fairly good idea of solutions to implement, he said, adding Ontario is determined to make its justice system more effective.

There were 29,732 charges received at the

Newmarket courts last year, requiring an average of 195 days and 8.5 appearances until a judgment, statistics indicate.

That compares to 2000, when 24,858 charges were received in Newmarket, requiring an average of 176 days until disposition and an average of 6.8 appearances before a judgment was made.

While the average days to disposition and appearances required in Newmarket cases are up

See CHARGES, page 7.

GOING GREEN AT 410 AUTO
 Volkswagen • Audi
 Hybrid • Porsche
 European & Asian
410-AUTO
 138 Sandford Dr., Unit 5 • 905-642-2886
 www.410auto.ca

LIVE WELL WITH
PHARMASAVE


With this coupon
\$5.00 OFF
 Pharmasave
 Brand products

 Offer valid at this location only
 LIVE WELL WITH
PHARMASAVE
*No cash value. Other restrictions apply, see store for details. Offer excludes all products containing codeine.

Stouffville Pharmasave®
 6601 Main St.,
 Stouffville, Ont.
 L4A-6A9
905-642-9595

 www.stouffvillepharmasave.com

Expert Jewellery Repairs
Barthau Jewellers
 6312 Main St
 Stouffville
 905-640-4646