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ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE

More than 'a senior's moment' for families

Special report: Part 1 of 2

BY SANDRA BOLAN
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It starts with forgetting where your keys and wallet are, despite storing them in the same front hall table drawer for the past 10 years.

It then progresses to not being able to remember how to use the coffee pot you've automatically fired up for the past five years, or operate the microwave or even make a sandwich.

Eventually, the walk across the street to grab the mail turns into hours of walking aimlessly through unknown neighbourhoods.

These are not signs a person is getting older, but indications of Alzheimer's disease, which is a progressive, degenerative disease of the brain that impairs the ability to think and remember. It is the most common form of dementia, according to the Alzheimer's Society of Canada.

A report released this week by the Alzheimer Society, entitled *Rising Tide: The Impact of Dementia on Canadian Society*,

See **OUTINGS**, page 15.

VIEW FROM THE TOP



STAFF PHOTO/STEVE SOMERVILLE

Firefighter Tim Irwin keeps an eye on Gord Ridout as he operates the ladder atop a truck at the new Stouffville fire station during a tour of the facility last week. This is the first week of full-time, 24-hour fire service in Stouffville. For more looks at the hall, turn to page 3.

Tagger 'taunting' officials

Security camera no deterrent during New Year's Eve spree

BY SANDRA BOLAN
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Stouffville's tagger has graduated from public to private property and from small-scale scribbles to large-scale graphics right in the heart of town.

"It's almost like they were taunting us. It just seems to be getting more daring," said Councillor Richard Bartley, who heads up downtown's Ward 5.

Sometime between 3 and 5:45 a.m. on Dec. 31, the tagger left his or her mark on the side of Main Street's IDA and Basically Bagels buildings, as well as the former site of Reesor's Cafe and the Earl of Whitchurch restaurant.

"Whoever this person is, is really bold because there is a camera ... that is pointing right where that person was standing to do" the graffiti on the Earl's building, said the restaurant's owner, Scott Roskar.

York Region Police have three investigators working on the case, who are canvassing area businesses, high schools, plazas as well as following up on leads, according to Robertson Rouse, York Region Police superintendent, Five District.

Supt. Rouse noted the police do not suspect this is gang-related.

"I just think it's someone trying to make a statement of some sort," Mr. Bartley said. "What that statement is, I don't know."

"It's a slap in the face to all that we've tried to do on Main Street," said Mayor Wayne

See **MAYOR**, page 12.

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