

# Stouffville Sun-Tribune

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## BACK TO SCHOOL

### Cops teach drivers ABCs of safety

BY JOE FANTAUZZI  
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A safety expert is calling for a harsh crackdown, including impounding vehicles, for motorists who fail to stop for school buses with lights flashing.

Ontario Safety League president Brian Patterson made the comment as York Regional Police launched their annual back-to-school traffic safety enforcement blitz this week.

Nineteen motorists have been charged with driving past school buses with overhead lights flashing in the early weeks of the school year the past three years.

It's one of the most egregious examples of careless driving York police encounter during its Operation ABC (Always Be Careful) traffic safety blitz, run in partnership with both school boards.

This year's operation began in earnest Tuesday.

Ignoring flashing lights on school buses could result in a minimum \$500 fine, six demerit points and jail time for convicted drivers. But the law could go further, Mr. Patterson said.

"I think that is the next opportunity for impoundment," he said.

See **CHARGES**, page 15.

## NEW HERE



STAFF PHOTO/SJOERD WITTEVEEN

Whitchurch Highlands Public School secretary Rita Cooper writes the bus number on the hand of new kindergarten student Megan van Buren, 4, as sister and Grade 3 student Amy van Buren, 8, and mom Kathy Ritson look on. The new school, at Bloomington Road and Warden Avenue, opened Tuesday. Students were housed at Orchard Park School last year.

## ELECTION 2010

### Three-way race on for mayor

*Newcomer joins field; nominations close tomorrow*

With less than a week before nominations closed, a third candidate for mayor of Whitchurch-Stouffville registered.

Political newcomer Christine Vlachos submitted her papers Friday.

The Musselman's Lake resident joins the incumbent, Wayne Emmerson, and Justin Altmann in the race.

Ms Vlachos was unavailable for an interview earlier this week.

Former mayor and councillor Sue Sherban, who announced in March she was running for mayor, has not registered.

*Whitchurch-Stouffville council shuts down until after Oct. 25 election/page 13.*

Deadline day is tomorrow.

All members of council are seeking re-election. Only Ken Ferdinands (Ward 1) is unopposed.

The newest council candidate is Iain Lovatt, who is running in Ward 5.

Election day is Oct. 25.

The Sun-Tribune and the Whitchurch-Stouffville Public Library are hosting an all-candidates meeting at Stouffville District Secondary School Sept. 23.

**ELECTION ISSUES, ANYONE? TELL US IN A LETTER TO THE EDITOR. E-MAIL JMASON@YRMG.COM**

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