

# Stouffville Sun-Tribune

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**IMMIGRATION**

## Judge: 'You may now say I am Canadian, eh'

St. Mark students witness swearing-in

BY SANDRA BOLAN  
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They once called Bangladesh, Bolivia, China, England, Guyana, Hong Kong, India, Iran, Jamaica, Lebanon, Morocco, Panama, Pakistan, Russia and Uganda home.

But as of Thursday morning, more than 40 immigrants started calling Canada home.

The citizenship swearing-in ceremony took place in front of students and staff at St. Mark Catholic School.

"This is a day you can proudly say: 'I am Canadian,' eh," Judge George Khouri, the residing official for the ceremony told the country's newest citizens.

Each person had their own reason leaving behind their friends, family and careers to start all over again in Canada. Some of those reasons included better career opportunities, more freedom and because the people here are nice.

"We love the country," said Richard Burden, who seven years ago came to Canada,

See **NEWCOMERS**, page 7.

**BRUSH-OFF**



STAFF PHOTO/SJOERD WITTEVEN

Stouffville Spartan Kurt Batty escapes the clutches of a Don Mills Collegiate senior rugby player in the opening game of the Ontario Sevens Championships at Fletcher's Fields in Markham Wednesday. Stouffville, which won 35-5, will host a team from Wales. See story on page 14.

## Brave bandits sign of hard times?

BY JIM MASON  
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York Regional Police continue to investigate middle-of-the night burglaries in Stouffville this fall while wondering if they're linked to the faltering economy.

Tough times can lead to desperate measures, Det.-Const. Steve Beale said in an interview. That now includes entering houses while

people are asleep in Stouffville and other communities across southern Ontario.

"Most bandits hit when you're away from home," he said. "They can avoid the risk of confrontation. This is much riskier."

"Why go at night when you can have the run of the house during the day? Here, they have to stay on the main floor."

Someone entered a home

on O'Brien Avenue in Stouffville through an unlocked front door overnight Sept. 24 and discreetly rummaged through the home, stealing electronic items while residents and the family dog were sleeping upstairs.

Early on Oct. 2, suspects are believed to have entered a Lori Avenue home through an unlocked, side-garage door.

They left with electronics, cash,

credit cards and a black four-door, 2001 Volvo S60.

Keys to the car are believed to have been in a purse, belonging to one of the residents.

There are similarities between both incidents, police say.

The incidents are part of a growing trend of break-ins in Markham and Whitchurch-Stouffville this fall.

See **BURGLARS**, page 5.

**ELECTION-NIGHT COVERAGE: STORIES BEHIND THE NUMBERS AT YORKREGION.COM**

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