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BRUCE'S MILL

Camping, BMX area scrubbed

Public outcry over
major park plans

BY SANDRA BOLAN
sbolan@yrmg.com

This time last year, it looked like Bruce's Mill Conservation Area was headed towards becoming a recreation mecca with RV and tent camping, rope climbing and a BMX bike trail.

But the outcry was crystal clear.

All of those proposed activities, except for perhaps a splash pad, have been taken off the table in favour of more nature-based activities.

"They felt it was being over-programmed. We were putting too much on the site," said Mike Bender, manager of conservation lands for the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority, which operates the Stouffville Road park. "There were a lot of good ideas, but trying to fit all of these ideas in one location was too much."

So it was back to the drawing board.

The TRCA presented its updated master plan for Bruce's Mill at an open house meeting Monday night in Stouffville.

"How can we build on what's

See **ACTIVE**, page 11.

REALLY BIG SHOW



STAFF PHOTO/SJOERD WITTEVEEN

Susan Whitebread directs the St. Mark Catholic choir at the 18th annual Student Music Scholarship Concert at Stouffville District Secondary School Friday. The big crowd heard from six schools, which will share \$7,000 in proceeds. For additional photographs, see yorkregion.com and page 3.

New chief wants stronger community ties

BY JOE FANTAUZZI
jfantauzzi@yrmg.com

York Region's incoming police chief says he plans to strengthen ties with community groups across the region once he takes over next month.

Deputy Chief Eric Jolliffe has served with York Regional Police 29 years. He will take over as police

chief Dec. 13, the region's police services board announced yesterday.

He replaces Armand La Barge, who retires Dec. 12.

"We have grown community-based policing here in the region and the way you grow community-based policing is by developing partners in the community and that's exactly what we've done and

exactly what we're going to continue to do," the incoming chief said.

He called the announcement of his new job a "pretty exciting moment" and admitted he has big shoes to fill.

"I'm still wrapping my head around this opportunity," he said.

York Regional Police has more than 1,400 officers and 520 civilian

support staff.

Meeting with command staff, with an open ear to ideas, will be at the top of his list after taking over.

Incoming chief Jolliffe, who grew up in Thornhill, worked with Edmonton police before coming to York police.

During his career he has served

See **NEW**, page 18.

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