

# Stouffville Sun-Tribune

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PEOPLE

## Sprinter hitting comeback trail

*Hip ailments plague Geiger at Notre Dame*

BY MICHAEL HAYAKAWA  
mhayakawa@yrmg.com

For Natalie Geiger, much of her time on the Notre Dame University track team might be deemed a pain in the hip.

Causing grief to the 20-year-old Stouffville resident and Stouffville District Secondary School graduate was an injury to her right hip that began rather innocently towards the end of the indoor campaign during her freshman year in 2008.

These days, she is in the process of overcoming that ailment and others related to it with the hope of regaining the form that enabled her to be a two-time junior Canadian champion in the 400 metres and five-time Ontario Federation of School Athletic Associations gold medalist.

"I was running through with (the hip injury) at that time because I only had small issues of pain, but gradually it got worse," Ms Geiger said. "My coaches (at Notre Dame) at the time felt I was still competitive and I was close

See **SPRINTER**, page 7.

## FESTIVAL OPENS IN SONG



STAFF PHOTO/STEVE SOMERVILLE

Men of Note help open the 27th annual Strawberry Festival during the Music Town, Ontario concert at Stouffville United Church Wednesday.

'PEOPLE WILL SPEND THOUSANDS ON LANDSCAPING, BUT NOT \$4 ON A NEW BATTERY'

## Half of homes missing smoke alarms

BY SANDRA BOLAN  
sbolan@yrmg.com

About half of Whitchurch-Stouffville homes visited by the fire department in 2010 were not in compliance with smoke alarm requirements.

"People will spend thousands of dollars on landscaping, but they

won't spend \$4 on a new battery for the smoke alarm. Maybe it's because it is out of sight, out of mind," said fire chief Rob McKenzie.

Of the 682 homes visited in 2010, 110 had smoke alarms installed by the fire department, according to the Whitchurch-Stouffville

Fire and Emergency Services 2010 annual report.

Every home in Ontario must have a working smoke alarm on every storey and outside all sleeping areas, according to the Ontario Fire Marshal's office.

"It's just one of those little things that pays off huge dividends," Mr.

McKenzie said.

Last year, during a routine inspection, the fire department came across a property that was overstocked with fireworks.

"It's like having a dynamite factory in your municipality," Mr.

See **FIREWORKS**, page 10.

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Sandy MacKenzie, Agent  
6336 Main Street  
Stouffville, ON L4A 1G8  
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