

Poisonous black widow likely arrived with grapes

BY SANDRA BOLAN
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It's not often you enter your basement and find a black widow spider at your feet. But that is exactly what Whitchurch-Stouffville resident Chris Shearstone found recently.

Upon discovering the potentially poisonous aphid at his feet, Mr. Shearstone scooped it into a baby food jar.

The spider, which he said is bigger than a quarter but smaller than a loonie and has three red dots on the top of its body, has since made itself at home by spinning a web inside the jar.

Mr. Shearstone took it to the Toronto Zoo to have its identity confirmed – it is a young female black widow.

How did she land on a rural York Region property just west of Ballantrae?

"Occasionally they do show up in grapes," said Marilyn Taylor, area communications specialist with the Canadian Food Inspection Agency. "They are still rare but come this time of year, the spiders are a little more active and do show up."

During the summer and in the warm regions of the United States and Canada, spiders can be com-

monly found outside under shrubs and garden plants, according to the inspection agency's food safety tips on spiders and grapes.

"The chilling causes spiders to become dormant and immobile, making their way to retailers and consumers' homes."

Black widow spiders have a black or brown, round shiny body. They also have two reddish or

yellowish triangles on the abdomen and have long, slender legs, according to the food agency.

"The black widow spider will bite in self defence if physically disturbed," according to the food agency's spider and grape safety tips. "The spider's venom is poisonous."

Spiders have always been in and around grape vineyards, but there is an increased frequency of finding black widows in imported table grapes, despite being inspected, according to the Canadian Food Inspection Safety Agency.

"Grapes are also chilled prior to being transported. The chilling

causes spiders to become dormant and immobile, making their way to retailers and consumers' homes," according to the food agency's spider and grape safety tips.

All produce should be washed before being consumed. Place grapes under warm running water, which will likely immobilize any live spiders. But also wash them in the sink, recommends the inspection agency.

The agency recommends if a spider falls into the sink, rather than trying to capture it, kill it.

For more, go to www.inspection.gc.ca/eng/lish/tssa/concern/specif/grapraise.shtml

REGISTRATION

Arts Integra Theatre
www.artsintegra.com
905-471-3001

House of Music

CASTING CALL
AUDITIONS!

REGISTRATION & INFO SESSIONS:
Unionville Millennium Bandstand
Saturday, September 10th, 2011 1:00 p.m.
Sunday, September 11th, 2011 1:00 p.m.
Main Street (Unionville & Peel's sites) 1:00 p.m.
Children & Adults of All Ages are Welcome!

AUDITIONS: September 16, 17, 19, 23, & 24, 2011

MARKHAM SPEED SKATING CLUB

OPEN HOUSE

Sunday, September 11 • 1:00 pm to 3:30 pm
Mount Joy Arena (16th Ave., East of Hwy. 48/Markham Rd.)
Everyone welcome to try this exciting sport for free.

Go fast on ice!!

We provide the skates: you bring a helmet and gloves.
Visit www.markhamspeedskating.org/newcomers

STOUFFVILLE AREA REGISTRATION

Scouts Canada offers exciting programs for youth of all ages. Programs are age specific and teach leadership, self reliance, community service/values and many outdoor skills. Please come to one of the following meetings to register.

Beavers ages 5 to 7 Wednesdays 6:45 - 8:00pm
Cubs ages 8 to 10 Tuesdays 7:00 - 8:30pm
Scouts ages 11 to 13 Thursdays 7:00 - 8:30pm
Ventures ages 14 to 17 Thursdays 7:00 - 8:30pm

Meetings held at Stouffville United Church
All Youth Welcome
Parent/Volunteers Needed

STOUFFVILLE SPIRIT wants to Thank our fans, sponsors and volunteers like Terri, Ruth, Kelly, Dave and Wendy to name a few!



UPCOMING HOME GAMES:

SUN. SEPT 11 @ 2:30pm vs Orangeville
THURS. SEPT 22 @ 7:30pm vs Aurora
SUN. SEPT 25 @ 2:30pm vs Hamilton
SUN. OCT 2 @ 2:30pm vs Huntsville
MON. OCT 10 @ 2:30pm vs Markham
THURS. OCT 13 @ 7:30pm vs Orangeville
THURS. OCT 20 @ 7:30pm vs Aurora
SUN. OCT 23 @ 2:30pm vs Newmarket
SUN. OCT 30 @ 2:30pm vs Georgetown

www.stouffvillespirit.com

NEWS AND UPCOMING EVENTS...

- BIG HOME OPENER with Police Department, Fire Department, and Mayor honouring our friends to the south on the 911 10TH ANNIVERSARY
- Several STOUFFVILLE SPIRIT PLAYERS have RECEIVED NCAA SCHOLARSHIPS this past year
- Trevor CARRICK on NHL WATCH LIST
- CELEBRITY SERVE FOR UNITED WAY Spirit Jr A Players to help out on September 8th 2011
- Stouffville Spirit Jr A Hockey Team doing the ANNUAL HOUSTON FORD CAR WASH for the Terry Fox Run September 10 2011 11-2
- Stouffville Spirit Jr A Hockey Team going to FUN FAIR AT HARRY BOWES PUBLIC SCHOOL on September 22 2011 from 4 - 5:30pm
- STOUFFVILLE SPIRIT COACHES/CASINO NIGHT \$100 per ticket November 3, 2011 @ Pastaggio's Panini Italian Restaurant with Guest Speakers Mike Richards from TSN Radio 1050 AM and Legendary Coach Paul Titanic share their Hockey experiences with the crowd - For TICKETS call Mike Humphreys 416-577-2835.

