

# Graffiti is 'art' to taggers

From page 1.

to clean up.

Since 2009, there has been very little graffiti reported in Whitchurch-Stouffville. Newspaper boxes were tagged in the downtown core this summer.

So far this year, according to Const. Gill, only two cases of graffiti have been reported to the police.

Tagging/graffiti is not a youth-specific crime.

"I can't generalize on who's out doing that because it could be anybody," he said.

"These incidents tend to centre around individuals who refer to themselves as taggers who commonly use spray paint and large thick markers for their purposes," according to a York police media release. "These individuals place a common marking or name on various types of property at a variety of locations. They believe that these markings are artistic..."

## In Our Community



The 2011 Ambassador Contest was held on Saturday September 17, 2011 at the Markham Fair Grounds. The Ambassador Contest took place during a Family Barbeque. The Contestants performed very well in their individual speeches and during the questions and answers portion in front of the crowd of 100+ Markham Fair family and friends. The 2011 Ambassador Team members are Christine Blizzard who won lead ambassador and her team Leslie Cosburn and Emily Johnson. Congratulations to the Ambassador Team. We look forward to their attendance at this year's fair events! Please come out and visit our 2011 Ambassador team at the Markham Fair which is held on September 29 to October 2, 2011.

ECONOMIST & SUN Sun-Tribune

## COMING UP: Markham Fair opens Thursday

# Residents, students get competitive at fair

BY SIMON MARTIN  
smartin@yrmg.com

Markham resident Joyce Lapp has been involved in the Markham Fair for more than 30 years.

Every September, she gets out her flour and sugar to bake pies and cakes.

This year, she plans to enter nine pies and three cakes in the baking contest. Apple pie is her specialty.

"I win something nearly every year," she said. "One year, I won best pie and best cake."

There's no secret ingredient or master orchardist behind her desserts, she said. Mrs. Lapp buys her apples from Garden Basket.

The Markham Fair opens Thursday and runs through Oct. 2 at the Markham Fairgrounds.

The fair, which started in 1844, has evolved into one of the larger fairs in Canada. But general manager John Peco said even though the fair has turned into a very large event, it still hasn't swayed from its roots.

"It's really a celebration of Ontario agriculture," he said.

Farmer Howie Burkholder has been going to the Markham Fair his whole life. He keeps coming back because of that local flavour.

"The fair is sort of a local community," the Stouffville resident said. "Even though it's a big fair, it still feels local."

This year, Mr. Burkholder is entering grain corn, shell corn, cob corn, soy beans, wheat and red clover. He's won every one of the competitions in the past.

Much like Mr. Burkholder, Christine Blizzard has been going to the fair since she was born; it's just she has been going for 50 fewer years.

The 19-year old Stouffville resident will be the fair's lead ambassador this year.

"I like the fact that all the different communities can

go to the fair and learn about agriculture," she said. "If you want to get away from the city we have rides and it's not too expensive. It's a good family outing."

Ms. Blizzard's duties at the fair include making an introduction speech and giving out ribbons at competitions. She was an assistant ambassador last year, so she said she knows what to expect.

Susan Richardet has been entering competitions at the Markham Fair for at least 10 years.

"I usually clean up pretty good," she said.

Her flower arrangements are her claim to fame. But she has won for best chocolate cake in the past. This year she's entering 22 items.

"It's really fun," she said. "You get to know people over the years."

Many schools from across York Region are getting into the spirit of the Markham Fair by submitting crafts and artwork to the competition.

Jim Spears is the principal at James Robinson Public School. He said several classes are making their annual entries into the fair.

Kindergarten and Grade 1 classes are submitting artwork and crafts as well as a community class composed of special needs students.

There will be about 3,000 exhibitors who will enter more than 12,000 items that will be judged before being put on display during the fair.

Mr. Peco said the fair has something for the whole family. The demolition derby, tractor pull, midway rides and farm animal displays are big attractions, he said.

New is an emphasis on substantial food items at the beer and wine tents. He said people of all ages will find something to enjoy on the menu.

"It will be a really exciting and fun fair," he said. "We're really promoting healthy food and sustainable agriculture."

## Get What You Really Want

LeaseBusters got me out of my boring car, so I could take advantage of a deal on what I really wanted to drive

See how easy it is to get out of your lease or finance payments. At LeaseBusters.com and FinanceBusters.com. We make it easy!

Call today 1-888-357-2678

Over 2,000 Vehicles to Choose From

Lease Take Overs, Finance Take Overs, Used Cars, Dealer & Factory Company Cars and more



## You're growing fast, Stouffville.



And so are we.

Stouffville  
**Sun-Tribune**  
905-640-2612