

**WELLNESS:** 65% of charges in Markham, Richmond Hill

# Inspectors keep watch on region's eateries

BY DAVID FLEISCHER  
dfleischer@yrmg.com

Just how clean is your local restaurant or grocer?

"I think we have one of the better food safety programs in the province," said Steven Rebellato, manager of the region's program that oversees every caterer, restaurant, variety store and institution that serves food between Steeles Avenue and Lake Simcoe.

His 39 inspectors are out there every day, checking out about 12,000 establishments over the course of the year.

Ultimately, the region's job is to find and eliminate any potential hazards and in most cases, that's what happens, Mr. Rebellato said.

## ANNUAL VISITS

York Region Media Group looked at all the charges filed between Jan. 31, 2011 and the present and found:

- 139 locations faced charges. Of those, 13 were charged more than once. There were only six actual closures, excluding those caused by fire.

- There were only two charges involving pest infestations and two with employees smoking where they shouldn't.

- The most common charges included "failing to protect food from contamination or adulteration", needing a thermometer in

## ON THE WEB

▶ You can read reports, fill out the survey and learn more at [york.ca/yorksafes](http://york.ca/yorksafes)

a fridge or freezer and having less-than-pristine food handling areas.

- The largest group of eateries — comprising about half of all charges — were Asian, primarily Chinese restaurants clustered near Leslie Street and Hwy. 7 and near Kennedy Road and Hwy. 7.

Despite the prominence of certain kinds of eateries and certain neighbourhoods, they're not being targeted, Mr. Rebellato said.

Instead, the program is designed to visit places more often based on their level of risk.

Banquet halls, for example, get visited three times a year because of the volume and types of foods in which they deal.

Your local pizzeria or convenience store, on the other hand, gets checked once a year.

If 65 per cent of charges can be seen in Markham and Richmond Hill, that's at least partly because of the sheer concentration of businesses and population in those areas.

"I think that's simply a function of statis-

tics," Mr. Rebellato said.

Richmond Hill and Markham Chinese Business Association president Kenny Wan agreed the numbers likely simply reflect the prevalence of Asian eateries.

He said he hasn't heard any local restaurateurs feeling targeted or otherwise put out by the program and trusts the region to do its job.

"If a restaurant needs to be inspected, it needs to be inspected," Mr. Wan said.

The region offers a food-handling course called PROTON (it's now being offered at a discount) that somewhat bridges the gap, being offered both in English and Chinese.

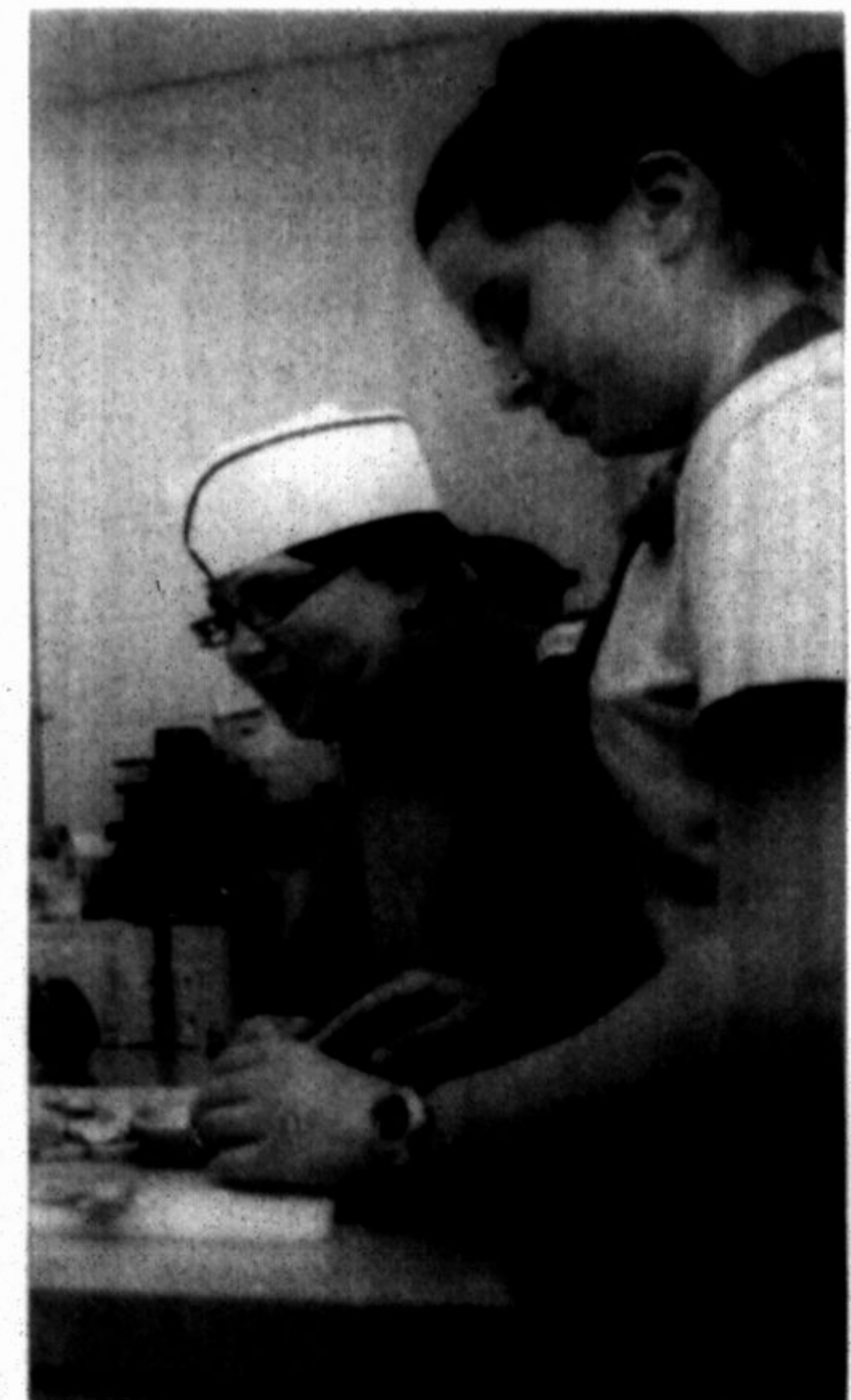
## CHECK RESTAURANTS ONLINE

Last fall, the region launched YorkSafe, putting inspection notices in windows and giving you more opportunities to review the state of establishments.

If you visit the website, you can click on any restaurant to see its latest inspection report and what charges, if any, were filed.

So far, it's had a "large, positive impact", according to Mr. Rebellato, including support from the businesses upon whom they're checking up.

The region also unveiled a survey Thursday to get input from members of the public and businesses about what's working and what isn't.



SUN-TRIBUNE FILE PHOTO

Stouffville students learn about food preparation and handling in school.



## Stouffville Hyundai Certified Pre-Owned

- 12 month 20,000 comprehensive warranty
- Roadside assistance
- 120 pt inspection and certification process
- 30 day / 2,000 km exchange privilege

- Car proof vehicle report
- First oil change free
- 90 day free trial for XM Radio
- many more vehicles available



**2012 ACCENT GL**  
4 cylinder, Manual, power windows, locks, mirrors, keyless entry, low kms and much more  
**\$117** plus tax or **\$15,988** plus tax or **\$109** b/w for 84 Mo. tax included with 0 dwn



**2011 HYUNDAI ACCENT GL HATCHBACK**  
4 cylinder, fwd, power windows, locks, mirrors, keyless entry, cruise and much more.  
**\$13,888** plus tax or **\$105** b/w for 84 Mo. tax included with 0 dwn 4.25% fixed rate



**2007 TUCSON GL**  
4 cylinder, fwd, power windows, locks, mirrors, keyless entry, cruise and much more.  
**\$12,888** plus tax or **\$109** b/w for 72 Mo. tax included with 0 dwn 4.25% fixed rate



**2009 HYUNDAI GENESIS**  
8 cylinder, fully loaded, leather, navigation, sunroof, heated seats and much more.  
**\$26,888** plus tax or **\$198** b/w for 84 Mo. tax included with 0 dwn 4.25% fixed rate



**2008 HYUNDAI SANTA FE GL**  
6 cylinder, fwd, power windows, locks, mirrors, keyless entry, cruise, 5 passenger, and much more.  
**\$16,088** plus tax or **\$138** b/w for 72 Mo. tax included with 0 dwn 4.25% fixed rate



**2009 HYUNDAI TUCSON GL SPORT**  
4 cylinder, fwd, running boards, alloys, navigation, sunroof, power windows, locks, mirrors, keyless entry and much more.  
**\$15,988** plus tax or **\$120** b/w for 84 Mo. tax included with 0 dwn 4.25% fixed rate

# Stouffville

