

Stouffville Sun-Tribune

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CALANDRA: 'I HAVE DONE NOTHING WRONG'

Radio station bidders donated money to MP

BY SANDRA BOLAN
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Paul Calandra says he has done nothing wrong.

The two-term MP for Oak Ridges-Markham is being accused in a national publication of accepting money at fundraising parties in Markham and Richmond Hill earlier this year that involved people attempting to secure a new Toronto radio station licence.

The Stouffville resident is also parliamentary secretary to the Canadian Heritage Minister, which oversees the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission, the body that is reviewing bids for the FM station.

"I'm not too worried about it," Mr. Calandra told The Sun-Tribune in a telephone interview from Minden yesterday afternoon.

"I attended two fundraisers, we took in money, followed all the rules we were supposed to with Elections Canada," he said.

The value of the donations is more than \$20,000.

However, according to the MP, the money was not accepted by

See **INAPPROPRIATE**, page 14.

HELP IS ON ITS WAY



STAFF PHOTO/NICK IWANYSHYN

Bronze swimming lesson participants Rayyan Alibux and Adwin Do help mock victim Skylar Masse during an exercise aimed at helping teenagers learn how to swim while fully clothed at the Whitchurch-Stouffville Leisure Centre, formerly the Lebovic centre. This is national drowning prevention week. See our editorial on page 6.

Town suing for \$800,000

\$3.9M museum expansion over budget, late, 'major headache'

BY SANDRA BOLAN
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The Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville is suing VGN Construction Ltd. and its bonding company for almost \$800,000.

VGN was awarded the Whitchurch-Stouffville Museum and Community Centre renovation in 2010, but the contractor was fired from the project last year after failing to meet deadlines, the town says.

The project had a budget of \$3.2 million and a deadline of March 31, 2011. The 9,600-square-foot addition that connected the existing Bogartown Schoolhouse and Vandorf Public School buildings to the main facility actually cost about \$3.9 million and was made suitable for occupancy by another contractor, last November.

The project was funded equally between the federal, provincial and municipal governments. The delays did not affect the town's receipt of the grant money.

The museum renovation was the largest infrastructure grant-funded project undertaken by the town, according to a July 17 report to council by Rob Raycroft, director of leisure and community services for the municipality.

The bonding company is a part of the lawsuit because it guarantees the contractor's work in two separate bonds – one for 50 per cent of the contract's value based on performance and the other for 50 per cent of labour

See **EXPANSION**, page 11.

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