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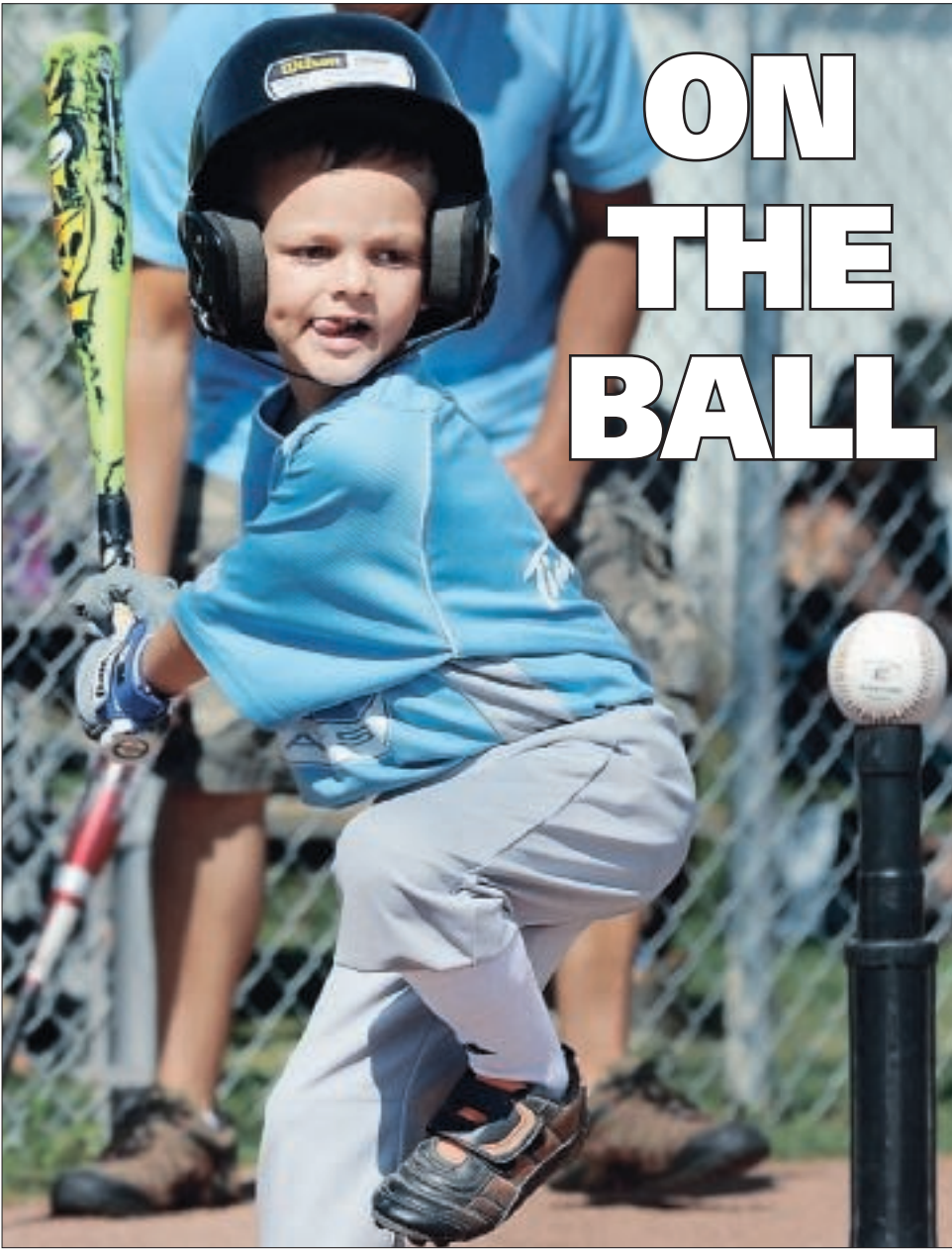


Dancing with stars
 Stephanie Hutchison aging well at National Ballet
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CANADA DECISION 2015
Meet the candidates
 Sun-Tribune, chamber hosting election meeting
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ON THE BALL

Colton Sackrle of the Rays is set to unleash on the ball during T-ball action at the Stouffville Baseball Association's year-end tournament at Bethesda Fields Saturday. To see more photographs from the event, go to yorkregion.com and click on 'Photo Galleries'.

STAFF PHOTO/MIKE BARRETT

Distracted drivers 'miss message'

Police chief, officers see it daily on our roads

BY JEREMY GRIMALDI
 Jgeimaldi@yrmg.com

Staff Sgt. Dave Mitchell has seen plenty of distracted drivers in his day, but few worse than the motorist who was watching a movie on a DVD player underneath his car's sun visor while he drove on Hwy. 7.

He was recounting the tale yesterday at Whitchurch-Stouffville's Community Safety Village, as MPPs and police gathered together to announce the new distracted driving laws intended to curb this kind of behaviour.

As part of the new Bill 31, which was introduced by the Liberal government and will come into effect Sept. 1, drivers can be fined \$1,000 (up from \$280) and receive three demerit points should they be caught by police.

It's intended to be so restrictive that motorists put down their phones and end what Staff Sgt. Mitchell called a distracted driving "epidemic" on our roads.

Even York Regional Police Chief Eric Jolliffe said his daily commute involves countless interactions with other drivers, where he'll toot his horn and motion for the drivers to put down their phones and focus on the road.

He noted that in York Region, alone, there have been 4,100 tickets for distracted driving this year

See **BIGGER**, page 22.

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