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SPORTS



Riding to Rio

Belinda Trussell gets another shot at Olympic medal
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COMING UP

Ribfest menu grows

Margaritas, Wipeout games added to popular event
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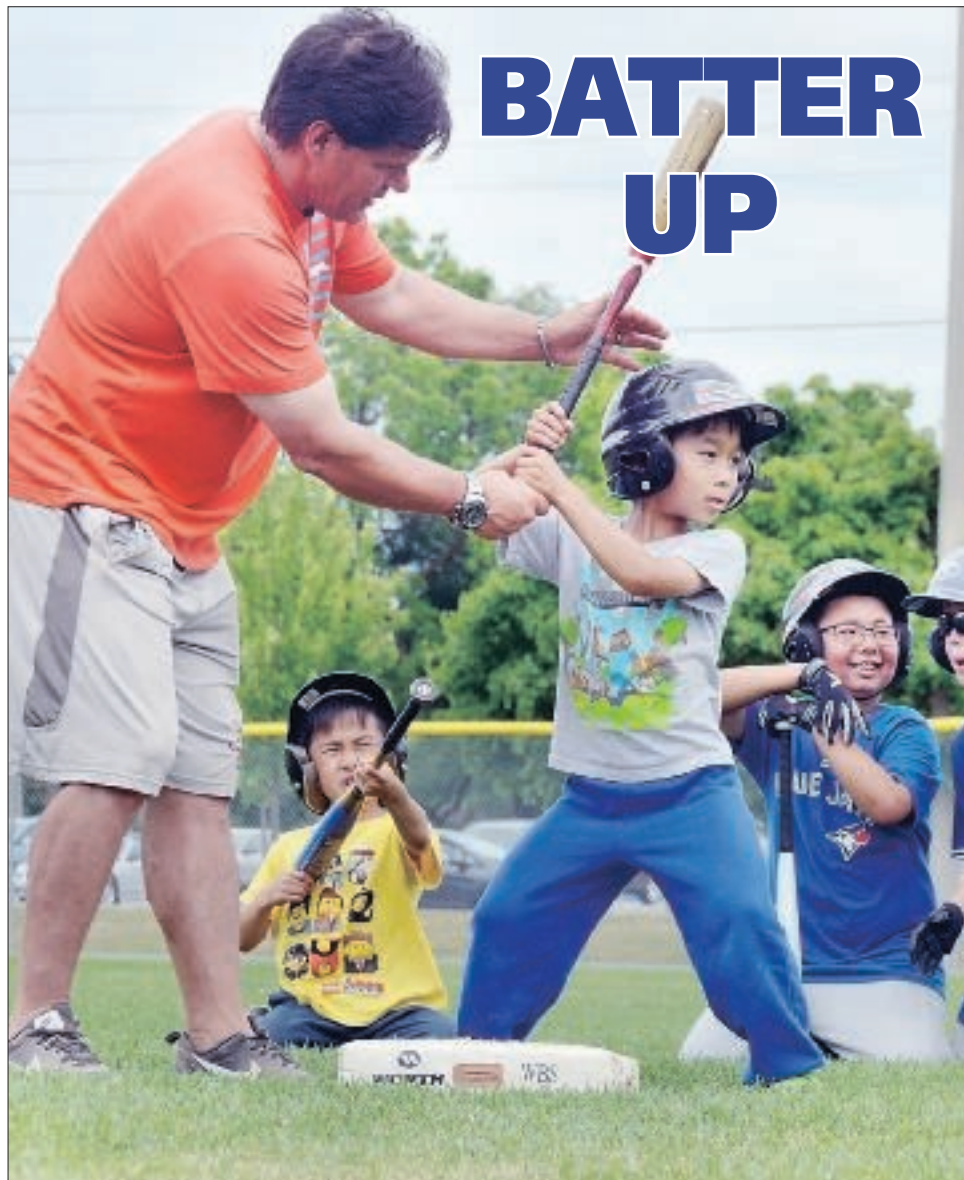
GOVERNMENT

Help for children

MP praises extra funding for needy families in riding
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**Hot Tub Sale!
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BATTER UP

STAFF PHOTO/MIKE BARRETT

Former Toronto Blue Jays Rob Butler (left) and his brother Rich brought their Butler Baseball Academy to Stouffville Memorial Park last week. Here, Rob works on batting stances with eight-year-old Chikara Katsuka during the week-long camp. Rob was a member of the Jays' 1993 World Series championship team. For more on the Butlers and a Stouffville man who works for the Blue Jays, turn to page 3.

Pokémon craze hits Main St.

BY ALI RAZA
 aliraza@yrmg.com

It's got some people running into walls and open traffic, but for Stouffville it's bringing people together and keeping them active.

Pokémon GO, based on the popular and decades old franchise Pokémon, was released in Canada on Sunday. Since then, those not plugged into the new game are wondering why kids are suddenly going to church.

It's because churches, along with other real-life locations, make up the interactive game that features augmented reality allowing players to search — and catch — famous creatures known as Pokémon. Pokémon appear via the smartphone's camera in real-life areas and players then have the option to "capture" them.

The game forces players to be active, as it requires them to physically walk around their neighbourhood. It also brings people of all ages together in circumstances otherwise absent.

Five people were playing in front of the Latham Gallery yesterday afternoon.

"It caters to so many different generations," says player Aaron Elson, 25. "These guys (high school students) grew up with the newer games, but I grew up with the originals (Pokemon Blue and Red). I think it's a good idea because it gets people out and you meet a whole bunch of people."

"I've seen 40-year-olds playing this game," he added.

See **POKÉMON**, page 9.



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