

## LEGAL CENTRE STILL HANGING T.U.F.F.

Although the Legal Aid Ontario Area Office is slated to close in June 2010, the Northumberland Community Legal Centre (a legal clinic funded by Legal Aid Ontario) remains open and busier than ever.

Not surprisingly, the recession produced an increase in the demand for the services of the Legal Centre, which provides advice and help to low-income Northumberland residents in the area of poverty law. Worker's compensation, tenants' rights, employment insurance, Ontario Works, Ontario Disability Support, Canada Pension Plan, employment standards, criminal injuries compensation and human rights are the focus of the Legal Centre's work. Since opening in 1991, this small legal clinic has responded to more than 55,000 requests for such help, offering services that are both free and confidential.

Like its sister agency, The Help Centre, the Northumberland Community Legal Centre has only a fixed amount of funds available to deliver this help. The need to raise funds to enhance client services prompted the Legal Centre to call on the community to join in again in its third annual T.U.F.F. Ride, an organized motorcycle ride through the county, which was held on May 29. The T.U.F.F. Ride initials stand for Together United For Fairness, and the name epitomizes the vision of the Legal Centre for the Northumberland community.

Together with funding from Human Resources Social Development Canada, TUFF Ride funds raised this year are being used hire an articling student, who will be an extra person to provide direct client service to low-income County residents. Kulvinder Deol, an Osgoode Hall Law School graduate, started work on May 31 and will be with us for 10 months completing her articles of clerkship.