



Sports/12

No. 1 Eagles face No. 2 Predators



Clarington Community/5

Resource Centre makes connection

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Durham drugging incident revisited

Charges never
laid in nursing
home incident

BY JEFF MITCHELL
Staff Writer

DURHAM -- Police in Durham Region are revisiting a bizarre incident at a Bowmanville nursing home following the arrest in Alberta of a nurse accused of secretly administering drugs to her colleagues.

Sarah Christine Bowes, who was arrested by RCMP in Grande Prairie Feb. 21, was employed at the Strathaven Lifecare Centre in Bowmanville when similar incidents occurred there over three years ago, several sources have confirmed.

Three workers at the home were treated after they ingested morphine pills that had been placed in their drinks on Oct. 30, 2002. Durham police launched an investigation but never laid charges.

While Durham police are saying the case has remained open since that time, one Durham cop who investigated the incident at Strathaven said developments in Alberta have created renewed interest here.

"It's getting another look," Staff-Sergeant Paul Hamilton said.

Staff-Sgt. Hamilton said police identified persons of interest during the investigation into the drugging of the Strathaven workers, but did not form the grounds to charge anyone.

"We had our suspicions," he said. "We were never able to prove anything; it came down to just a few people."

Ms. Bowes, a 27-year-old nurse, is facing more than 50 criminal charges in Alberta, including mischief, endangering life and administering a noxious substance. The charges came after a year-long investigation at the Queen Elizabeth II hospital in Grande Prairie, where for months staff members complained of flu-like symptoms.

Police have determined the victims were being given tranquilizers without their knowledge, RCMP said. Police in Alberta also allege staff had credit cards stolen during the same period.

Meanwhile, workers at Strathaven have been rocked by news that Ms. Bowes has been charged. The development packed particular impact for two of the woman who were sent to

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A.J. Groen/Metroland Durham Region Media Group

Taking a slap at Winterfest

COURTICE -- Jack Thompson takes a slapshot at the goal set up by the Town of Clarington Recreation Services department. It was part of the Clarington Winterfest held at the Courtice Community Centre.

Firearms bylaw gets first approval

BY JENNIFER STONE
Staff Writer

CLARINGTON -- Fake guns displayed in public will be a thing of the past for local youth, under a bylaw that received preliminary approval from Clarington councillors Monday.

Clarington's General Purpose and Administration Committee approved a bylaw yesterday, modelled on one put in place by Scugog in January, which makes it illegal for those under 18 to possess a replica or imitation firearm in public.

The bylaw, says a report to Clarington committee, is intended to not only stop those under 18 from possessing such items in public, but to stop them from using them in such a way that is reasonably likely to cause harm or damage to a person or property, or to instill fear in or intimidate someone.

It's an issue of police often being unable to tell the fakes from the real, Constable Todd Petzold, of the North Durham Office of Durham Regional Police, recently told Clarington council. That could have tragic consequences, since in such cases, police have to respond as if it is the real thing. Such a bylaw gives police a tool to get such fake firearms off the street, he said then.

"This bylaw is not an attempt at gun control. This is more due to young people not having an idea of the consequences of their actions," he told council last month. "This is not gun control; this is child protection."

Council will vote on the bylaw March 20.

Decision is now in the hands of CAW workers

Vote will take
place this week

BY IZABELA JAROSZYNSKI
Staff Writer

OSHAWA -- Thousands of Canadian Auto Workers union members gathered at the Oshawa Civic Auditorium on Saturday to hear the details of the cost savings deal reached between the union and General Motors Canada on March 1.

Members will vote for or against the deal this week.

The deal includes concessions

on a number of points that had previously been agreed to in collective bargaining less than six months ago. Many reacted with anger that the company was forcing the union to renegotiate an agreement just recently signed.

One worker went up to the microphone to ask why the company hadn't brought up these issues during negotiations.

"What are they not telling us now that they will say in 2008 or 2009," she asked to wild applause.

In an interview this week, Local 222 president Chris Buckley said that GM did bring up some of

these issues in the September negotiations, but he said that the union was in a better position at that time to resist the demands.

He pointed to the declining auto industry in Canada and a strong Canadian dollar as reasons for the sudden change.

Mr. Buckley said that the anger expressed at the meeting was directed to what workers see as mismanagement by the company.

"It isn't fair," he said of the company's strategy to look to workers to cut costs.

The union agreed to a shelf agreement, one that would only

come into effect should a new product be guaranteed for Oshawa. In the deal is a restructuring agreement that will allow the outsourcing of 388 non-trades maintenance housekeeping jobs over the term of the collective agreement. All but 150 of these jobs are to be outsourced as soon as arrangements can be made with a third party service supplier, with 71 jobs being outsourced early in 2008.

The union also agreed to decrease the current levels of paid relief time. The four straight eight-hour shifts in Car Assembly Plants No. 1 and No. 2 would

see a three minute reduction, while a two minute reduction would apply to the three factored 7.5 hour shifts in the Oshawa truck plant and the one 7.5 hour shift in Car Assembly Plant No. 1.

Should the deal go through, GM will have the green light to implement the Global Manufacturing System -- a standard operating procedure that the company says maximizes performance. The union had previously resisted its implementation, but has now agreed to work coopera-

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College teachers off the job

Pickets set up
outside campus
entrances

WATCH VIDEO

AT
DURHAMREGION.COM
for more on this story

BY CRYSTAL CRIMI
Staff Writer

DURHAM -- School's temporarily out for college students.

With picket signs reading 'College faculty on strike', Durham College's teachers, librarians and counsellors were stationed at campus entrances Tuesday morning, temporarily blocking driveways to hand out information on why they're striking.

"All we're asking is that people

honour the picket lines," said Debbie Rautins, vice-president of Ontario Public Service Employees Union (OPSEU) local 354 and the local strike co-ordinator.

Just before 9 a.m. Tuesday morning, some people had already driven through the lines without slowing down, which is very dangerous, she said.

The teachers were in a legal

strike position Tuesday following Monday's failed contract negotiations between the College Compensation and Appointments Council and OPSEU, the latter representing the province's college academic staff. According to the information handed out, faculty want workload, salary and staffing improvements. It says the faculty at the province's 24 colleges want a contract that addresses smaller classes, more teachers and more faculty time for students.

According to a March 7 release by the Association of Colleges of Applied Arts and Technology of

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Walter Passarella / Metroland Durham Region Media Group

OSHAWA -- Faculty of Durham College walk the picket lines as OPSEU members walked off the job at all 24 of Ontario's community colleges. The main issues still unresolved after the strike deadline passed on Tuesday are workload, salary and staffing.

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