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The Tribune

Weekender

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Stouffville's Laurie Campitelli admires some of roses — Wednesday, Aug. 7, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the farm. For more information, contact White Rose Crafts and Nursery Sales Limited's farm on the 4th Concession, Uxbridge. White Rose, celebrating its 30th year in business, will be holding a birthday celebration — a Festival — Sjoerd Witteveen

Ambulance operators may strike

A strike of Stouffville-Uxbridge ambulance personnel is imminent unless a settlement can be reached during negotiations this week, a union spokesman says.

Pat Rooney, staff representative for the Ontario Public Service Employees' Union, said workers want wage parity with Ministry of Health ambulance attendants.

"Our position is that they should be getting the same money as the Ministry's employees," he said.

Mr. Rooney expects talks to begin following Monday's civic holiday and likely continue "for one full week." If the parties fail to reach a settlement, picket lines will then be established at ambulance bases at Uxbridge Cottage Hospital and Stouffville's firehall. The affected coverage area extends from Hwy. 404 to Port Perry, and

from Steeles Avenue to Mount Albert.

The Stouffville-Uxbridge workers, who've been without a contract since Jan. 1 of this year, are currently under the tentative, "caretaker" control of a private firm, Whitby-Bowmanville Ambulance Services.

But workers here argue that they're still governed and funded by the Ministry of Health, so should be entitled to the same wages and benefits as government employees.

The present salary average of the Stouffville-Uxbridge service is \$10.50 per hour, compared to \$11.78 for Ministry of Health workers (who are now negotiating a minimum three per cent hike).

There are nine full-time and six part-time ambulance officers employed in this area.

Mayor Tom Wood He'll fight!

Although the proclamation isn't official, Tom Wood has indicated he'll not give up the mayoralty without a fight.

Wood's expected to announce his candidacy, Aug. 8. Councillor Fran Sainsbury has already made her move. She confirmed, July 25, what had been rumored several weeks. To date, no others have come forward.

Mayor Wood, at a press meeting Thursday, was visibly upset over a comment by Councillor Sainsbury claiming the mayor's job is primarily a public relations post.

"I have news for her," he said. Although the election (Nov. 12) is still more than three months away, an all-candidates meeting is already being planned at the High School with Oct. 30 the tentative date.