

Drive on for SDSS track

By BRUCE STAPLEY
Correspondent

An initiative by Stouffville District Secondary School Student Council President Julian Franklin to build a running track on school property seems to be picking up steam.

The student representative will meet with the finance committee of the York Region Board of Education Monday to see what the board is willing to

do to make the track a reality. And he says support for the track is building — he has received more than 300 letters of support from students in his appeal.

Previous meetings held between SDSS Principal Peter Bright and the school board officials have led to indications from Mr. Bright that the board would be willing to offer the site just east of the Recreation

Complex, but would likely pay just for an initial engineering study.

"After that, we'd be on our own," said Mr. Bright. "It would then become a community project."

Mayor Fran Sainsbury says that once board approval has been obtained, it is up to supporters of the plan to make a presentation before Council.

"I've always been behind

(the track concept)," says Mayor Sainsbury.

The mayor suggested that money from the town's Park Trust could be earmarked for the track, as well as other funds that could be obtained through grants.

But Mayor Sainsbury cautioned that there may be no funding in the school board coffers for such a project.

"The board has tried to

cater to every whim and desire in the world," she said.

Ward 4 Councillor Wayne Emmerson, who sits on Stouffville's Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, said once the need is established, it will be up to local groups, service clubs and businessmen to see the project through.

"It's been talked about. Now it has to be organized," he said.

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Separate board

Contract talks go to mediation

By JULIE CASPERSEN
Staff Reporter

A mediator has been appointed to help with contract negotiations between the York Region Roman Catholic Separate School Board and its 1,900 teachers.

Norman Bernstein has acted in the same capacity during three of the last four sets of negotiations.

But teachers are concerned that no trustees have yet been involved in the process.

"The teachers feel that success in mediation will hinge upon the direct involvement of trustees in the process," said Marshall Jarvis, president of the York Unit of the Ontario English Catholic Teachers' Association.

Charge laid in murder probe

A Stouffville man has been charged by Metro Toronto police with accessory charges stemming from a joint murder investigation with York Regional Police in King Township.

Police were sifting a wooded area at Jane St. and Aurora Rd. for clues over the weekend, and forwarded evidence found Monday for forensic testing, says York Regional Police Sgt. Norm Miles.

The identity of the victim hasn't been confirmed and the investigation continues, says Sgt. Miles.

Charged with being an accessory after the fact is Robert Calvin Cadwell, 38, of RR2 Stouffville. He is being held in custody.



Appointment

Steve Houston has been named Editor of the Stouffville Tribune.

Houston, who previously served as copy editor at the Tribune's sister newspaper the Markham Economist and Sun, succeeds Jim Thomas.

A graduate of the journalism program at Centennial College, Steve joined the Economist and Sun staff as a reporter in 1985, and was named copy editor last September.

"Although we're sorry to lose Jim Thomas, we feel Steve Houston will do a terrific job in Stouffville," said Don Bernard, editor-in-chief of the two newspapers.

See Houston's introductory column on Page 4.

Mr. Jarvis said direct trustee involvement would be beneficial to preserving the integrity of the school system. Currently, the teachers are represented by four teachers, two male and two female. On the board side, there are two administration representatives and a lawyer.

The teachers, whose three-year contract expires Aug. 31, are asking for salaries competitive to their public counterparts, increased preparation time and a lower pupil-teacher ratio.

The teachers believe that in the past two contract negotiations, former chairman Celeste Pelliccione played a key role in averting strike action.

Board Chairman Joseph Virgilio said the board is letting professionals deal with the negotiations.

"If I thought it was crucial for myself or other trustees to be there, I'd be there," Mr. Virgilio said in an interview yesterday.

Trustees are in constant communication with board negotiators and this indirect involvement does not reflect disinterest, he said.

Mr. Virgilio explained that the negotiation process is complicated. The previous negotiations lasted one year, with meetings carrying on into the small hours of the morning. He said Mrs. Pelliccione did not get involved until near the end of the process in 1987.

"The only thing we're not doing is we're not sitting across the table from them on a day-to-day basis," Mr. Virgilio said.

Mr. Jarvis said mediation will probably occur before the end of May, but if a settlement is not reached, the board and teachers will move on to fact-finding, where both parties present their position in written form to a representative and a full-scale hearing is held.

The board is looking into hiring a special employee relations officer to deal with employee groups.

Framers' strike has 'no effect'

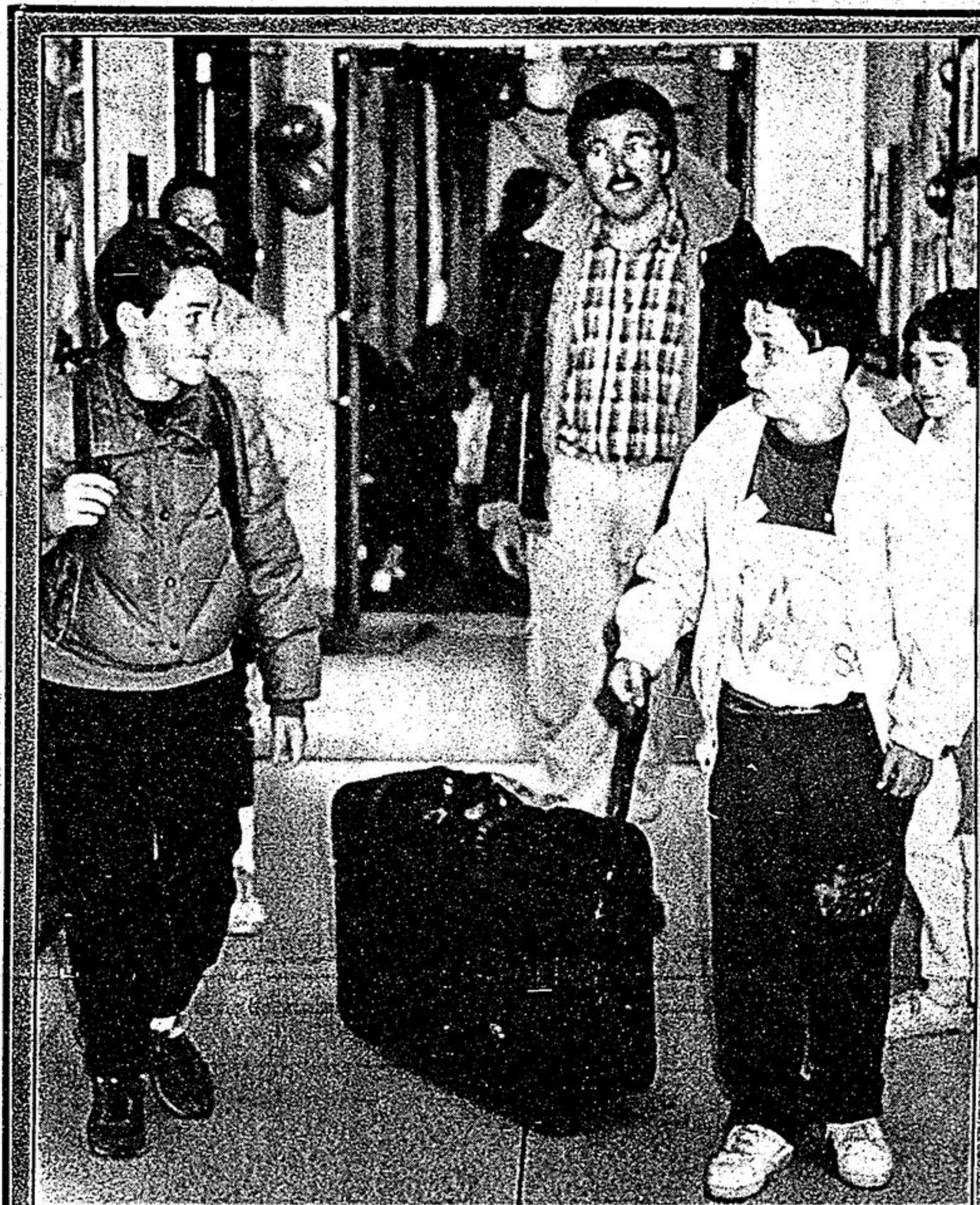
Neither of Stouffville's two ongoing housing construction projects, nor a prominent local contracting company, have suffered setbacks from a strike of unionized framers in the housing industry.

The strike, which threatens to shut down the construction of 10,000 homes in the greater Toronto area, is in its third week.

Kevin Miller, foreman at the Greystone Homes site on Hwy. 47 in Stouffville's west end, says his company's homes have been framed for more than a month.

Similarly, an official with Fairpark said his firm's 23-unit townhouse development on Millard St. were well past the frame-building stage.

Dick Sandiford, co-owner of A and S Construction in Stouffville, said his company, which uses non-union employees, won't have any projects affected in the Stouffville area.



They're here!

Grade 6 students from Dickson Hill Public School welcomed a group of exchange students from Strasbourg, France on Sunday after months of preparation and fundraising. Here, Dickson Hill student Aaron Small (left)

strolls along the hall with newfound friend Naimi Aleki. In the background are Aaron's father, Allen, and his sister, Adele. Turn to Page A-3 for more photos of the arrival.

Abuse stats 'shocking'

By ALAN SHACKLETON
Correspondent

Sexual abuse of children and wife assault occurs in every Canadian community, and Stouffville is no exception.

How to deal effectively with the problem was the purpose of a special meeting Monday night at Markham's Neighbourhood Support Centre.

Representatives from a number of York Region's social service agencies, the police and local residents attended.

Kim Harpur, chairperson of the York Region Committee on Abuse and Assault, said the purpose of Monday's meeting was to get area residents involved in the prevention and reporting of wife and child abuse.

"This is the beginning of creating awareness in the community," she said of the meeting. "It's important for the community to be involved in this, because ultimately they are responsible for it."

Statistics on the subject are shocking.

In Canada, one out of four girls, and one out of 10 boys under age 18 are the victims of some form of sexual abuse.

Eighty per cent of the time the offender is known to the child,

and in half of those cases the abuse is being committed by either the natural father or stepfather. Sexual abuse can be anything from flashing and fondling to intercourse.

The numbers on wife abuse are equally disturbing, and statistics say one in 10 Canadian women are beaten. Just as shocking is that it takes an average of 35 beatings before women will seek help from the authorities, said Brenda Greenberg, program manager for the Markham Stouffville Family Life Centre's Youth in Transition project.

There are no specific statistics on how big the problem is in Stouffville, but the number of reported cases of sexual abuse in York Region has increased dramatically in the last eight years.

In 1980, there were 16 cases of child sexual abuse reported to the Region's Children's Aid Society (CAS) but that number jumped to 244 reported cases in 1988.

Barb Zapf, co-ordinator of Child Abuse Resources for the branch, said the increase was a result of the region's rapidly growing population and better public education.

"I think population growth has something to do with it," she

said. "Better public awareness also has a lot to do with it. We know this because we're getting referrals from areas we never used to before. It used to be mostly from the schools, but now they're coming from the community at large."

However, getting a community to even recognize a problem exists, let alone reporting it, can be a difficult task.

Discussion at Monday night's meeting indicated there may be many who don't believe such things could happen in a well educated and healthy community such as Stouffville.

"By far, there are more cases that aren't reported than are," she said. "We know there is a lot more of it happening than we're told about."

Ms. Harper said child abuse and wife assault occur at every educational and economic level.

Often, it is the more affluent communities that try to hide the problems by ignoring them, said Ms. Greenberg.

"Single parents and poorer families are more likely to be discovered," she explained. "It's the wealthy families that cover up more easily."

The opposite side of that coin is (See Help — Page A-2)

Brawl damages set at \$600

STOUFFVILLE — Town officials are confident they will receive full compensation for damages at the Rec Centre following a teen brawl in March.

Stouffville Recreation Director Marlene McKee-Wetherall said Monday that \$600 in damages will be charged to the teen responsible for renting the room. Earlier police damage estimates totalling \$3,000 were high, she added.

The damage estimates came days after a resolution by town council that recommended the town treasurer do what was necessary — including a court battle — to recover the damage costs.

"There has been, in our contact with them, no reluctance on their part (to pay for damages)," said Ms. McKee-Wetherall. The issue arose in March when several teenagers arrived uninvited at a function organized by other teens. A fight subsequently broke out, resulting in damage to the centre.

Consequently, new rental policies for the Rec Centre are being drafted, says Mayor Fran Sainsbury.

"The one person I feel sorry for is the young man who went up and got the permit," the Mayor said in an interview.

The Mayor said new regulations will likely include the presence of a town employee or hired duty police officer for such functions.

A larger deposit for hall rentals may also be considered, and York Regional Police will be notified of coming events at the hall, the Mayor added.

Happy trails in Stouffville?

Stouffville residents could soon have a network of nature trails to share with local wildlife.

Town council is planning to review a proposal that would see the development of several trails surrounding the Stouffville Reservoir lands if given the go-ahead by officials.

It is slated for review by council members at a meeting on May 23.

If approved, the trails would provide a spot both for local residents and displaced wildlife and plants, says Whitchurch-Stouffville Mayor Fran Sainsbury.

"We'd try to make it into a people place to enjoy using," Mayor Sainsbury said in an interview.

And along with the development of walking trails, a Metropolitan Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (MTRCA) study report calls for a forest management plan and the development of "recreational sport fisheries."

Despite that, Mayor Sainsbury offered an optimistic view of the bid:

"We're trying to beautify it so all can benefit," she said. "It has a lot to offer but it does need some tender loving care."

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