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Principal will miss first half of year

MATT NICHOLS
Correspondent

Stouffville District Secondary School principal Peter Bright will likely miss the first four months of the school year because of an "unexpected" ailment, the school's interim principal said last week.

"Mr. Bright will have surgery next week at Toronto General Hospital," Alan Dixon said in an interview. "At this point we don't know what the surgery is for."

The former vice-principal at Huron Heights school will fill in for Mr. Bright while he is in the hospital.

Mr. Dixon said the possibility exists that Mr. Bright may return Jan. 8 for the beginning of the second term.

Mr. Dixon said he has talked to Mr. Bright and his family, but they do not want to give out any information on the surgery.

"At this point it's best to say it was unexpected surgery," Mr. Dixon said.

Peter Bright has been the principal at SDSS for the past four years. During that time there have been no indications of a health problem, Mr. Dixon said.

"Everyone was very surprised to hear the news," he said.

With Mr. Bright absent from SDSS for four months, an adjustment period for students and teachers seems imminent.

But Mr. Dixon said he doesn't foresee any major problems occurring because of the change.



At Children's Aid

Drive for new foster homes stalled

MATT NICHOLS
Correspondent

The York Region Children's Aid Society's drive to attract new foster parents is moving at a snail's pace, the organization's Supervisor of Foster Care said last week.

Michael Shultz told the Tribune last week the drive has stalled because of a lack of funding, a lack of manpower and a lack of public knowledge.

"There isn't enough funding to completely fulfill our needs," Mr. Shultz said.

"We are short-staffed at the moment and this has compounded the problem."

The York Region CAS has approximately 45 foster homes in the region.

The homes are funded almost entirely by the Ontario Ministry of Community and Social Services and the CAS receives almost \$5

million a year in funding.

But Mr. Shultz said to successfully compete with other foster homes in Metro Toronto more funding is needed to keep the homes operational and to compensate foster parents.

"We are in a tough spot at the moment," he said.

"I think it's going to mean a lot of work ahead for all of us."

Mr. Shultz said the organization's current advertising campaign to attract new foster parents is not proceeding as well as expected.

He cites a lack of public knowledge and a lack of commitment as two reasons for the shortage.

"It's a full-time job really," he said, describing the role of a foster parent.

"But we're not necessarily saying the parents have to be highly-trained. They just have to be willing to work at it."

He added some parents shy away from the role because of the commitment involved.

Terry Fox run set

The ninth annual Terry Fox Run for Cancer Research will be held Sept. 17 in Stouffville.

Participants can run, walk, jog, ride, or wheel around the new 10 km course which weaves throughout the town.

Anyone wanting to take part can collect pledges for the race or pay a \$5 entry fee. For more information call 640-1913.

RECOVERY

Stouffville goes into the swing for Shane Stapley. See page 2.



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YESTERDAY

Walt Waterston takes a look back at past Tribunes. See page 12.

