

Students' teeth show effects of fluoride-free water

TRACY KIBBLE
Staff Reporter

The water children drink at school affects the quality of their teeth, according to Dr. Mary Bullen, dental director for the regional health department.

A public school dental health study shows children who drink fluoride-treated water at school have better teeth than children who drink untreated water, says Dr. Bullen.

The study, performed last year at "randomly-picked" public schools across the region, shows northern children — where only "a few" schools supply treated water — have more decayed, filled or damaged teeth, than children in the southern areas, Dr. Bullen told the Tribune.

Although other factors contribute to the quality of children's teeth, Dr. Bullen says water is a factor to consider.

And although the majority of schools in the Whitchurch-Stouffville area were not part of the study, it was found the school that was tested had no fluoride in its water supply.

According to Dr. Bullen, the Whitchurch Highlands school — (the only randomly-picked school in the area) does not have fluoride in the water and results show "more decay" there than other southern area schools.

"There is a difference (in tooth quality) with flouridation, and 3/4 of schools in the south have flouridated water."

About 66.7 per cent of regional schools have flouridated water but only 20 per cent of northern schools supply it.

The study, (funded by the regional department of health and the Ministry of Health), involved 54 schools "picked from a hat." The overall results showed most children's teeth were in good condition, Dr. Bullen says.

But results showed children in the north of the region

had 31 per cent more decayed, filled or missing teeth than their southern neighbors, and about nine per cent need dental care as opposed to about four per cent for southern area children.

Because the flouride study showed "the dental health of children in York Region is generally good" only seven schools will receive continued treatment — a cut-back from 54.

"The program proved not to be cost efficient and although every child in York Region schools will still receive tooth education we will be taking our resources and focusing more in areas where children need help the most," she says.

The health department will be setting up "mini dental offices" in schools to provide treatment for those children whose parents do not have insurance or the money to provide proper dental care.

Plan to share funding has boards at odds with ministry

JULIE CASPERSEN
Staff Reporter

The York Region boards of education agree that government funding is inadequate.

But they disagree over the Ontario government's plan for the sharing of commercial and industrial assessment for boards in York Region.

Currently, for every \$1 raised by the York Region Roman Catholic Separate School Board, \$4.48 is raised by the public board. As of Sept. 1988, the separate board was responsible for the education of 35 per cent of York Region students but had ac-

cess to 21 per cent of the assessment base.

The separate board, in a Sept. 26 presentation to the Select Committee of Education, said sharing assessment with the public board "is a major step toward equity in the financing of education in Ontario."

Currently, urban public boards are considered assessment-rich because of the concentration of an industrial and commercial tax assessment, which automatically goes to the public school system.

In the case of a partnership, if only one partner is a public school supporter, assessment

goes to support the public system, no matter how many partners are separate school supporters.

The education ministry has come up with a pooling plan that would redistribute industrial tax assessment more equitably between the two systems.

Public school boards could lose money if the legislation is passed, especially if the government does not compensate for funding redirected to the separate board.

The York Region Board of Education, in its presentation to the committee last week, said coterminous sharing would erode its assessment base and "seriously hurt our long-term viability as a board."

The main thrust of both presentation was the scarcity of provincial funding for the high-growth boards.

Since 1981, the region's population has grown from 252,000 to more than 409,000.

The public board reports it taken in an additional 3,000-4,000 students each year and is the fastest growing school board in Ontario. The September 1989 enrolment is 60,800.

Enrolment for the separate board has skyrocketed from 17,218 in 1984 to 36,748 this year. By 1998, the board expects student population to jump to almost 64,000.

Board develops hiring process

The York Region Board of Education approved a \$33,500 expenditure in 1989 for recruitment and induction of staff.

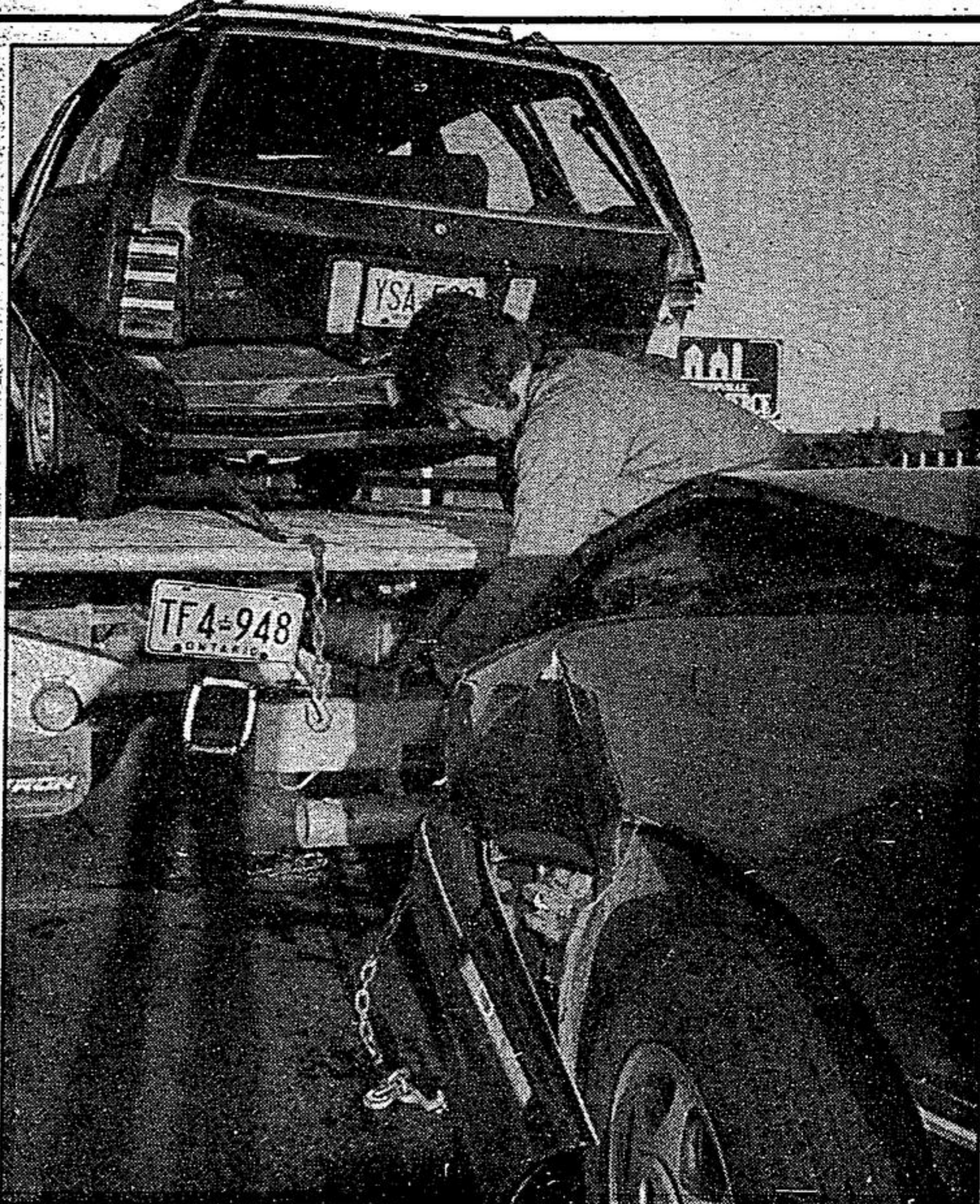
The money would pay for a promotional video in both French and English; a staff development director and secretary and a pool hiring process.

John Laughlin, human resources superintendent presented the board with a four-year staff development plan last week.

A constant interview and selection process for custodial and secretarial staff is recommended for 1990.

Under induction, Laughlin recommended a series of workshops for teachers new to the profession, a handbook for teachers new to the board and workshops for potential principals and vice principals.

In October, trustees will discuss the creation of a staff development centre and four themes: curriculum and the learner, leadership, climates for growth and educational environment.



Photo/BRUCE STAPLEY

Triple threat

Three Stouffville motorists were involved in this crack-up on Highway 47 last Wednesday about 5:35 p.m. Ontario Provincial Police said a 51-year-old driver was stopped on the highway and another motorist was stopped behind him. A third car travelling eastbound struck the second vehicle, causing a chain-reaction collision. The driver in the rear has been charged with careless driving.

Beer okay at the Steer

A burger with the works could now include a cold beer on the side at the Steerburger Restaurant on Main St.

Sign of the Steer applied to the Liquor Licence Board of Ontario early last month for a dining lounge licence and neither the town building or planning depart-

ments objected to the application to add liquor to the charbroiled menu.

Members of council accepted the application and Mayor Fran Sainsbury added the location was structurally good as far as fire road use and other potential emergencies were concerned.

Students take in local town council meeting

TRACY KIBBLE
Staff Reporter

A group of 10 Summitview Public School students came to Tuesday evening's council meeting as part of their human geography course.

The Grade 7 and 8 students, studying local community as part of the course, took notes, and watched intently as council bounded through the business agenda.

Teacher Joan McCool says the focus of the project is to "examine various issues around the community and to express things they like or would like to change in Whitchurch-Stouffville."

Here's what the majority of the youths would like to see in the community:

- More activities for young people (ie. a theatre)
- Lights in front of their school
- A down-tone of lights on Main St. that they say are "too bright"

Although the students did not voice these opinions to council — there lesson was to observe only — the group listened with interest (and sometimes confusion) to the business at the front of the room.

Mayor Fran Sainsbury handed out Whitchurch-Stouffville town pins and welcomed the students as they "observe local government in action."

Chief Brown ready to wage war on fire crime

TRACY KIBBLE
Staff Reporter

Whitchurch-Stouffville Fire Chief Bill Brown was off to college last week to learn more about fire crime and the various methods practised in investigations and arson detection.

Chief Brown packed his bags and books and headed to the Gavenhurst-based Ontario Fire College where he and about 35 other firefighters lived during the five-day course — the last of a three-course series in fire crime.

"I've been there so often it's like going home," says the chief.

The course is a "hard one to get into" because of its limited

capacity for students and features experts from the RCMP bomb squad, members of the OPP force and lawyers trained in the field.

Lawyers instruct the firefighters exactly what reports and documents are necessary in court to prove arson and other fire-related crime.

"It was very interesting. The course puts every step of an investigation together in a logical order," Mr. Brown says.

The ins and outs of arson investigations and the methods of determining the cause of fire crime will be brought back to the Whitchurch-Stouffville department and the chief's newly learned skills will be passed on to his brigade.

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