

# School board streamlines supervising

**JULIE CASPERSEN**  
Staff Reporter

The York Region Board of Education will close four area offices, save \$400,000 and no employees will lose their job.

Since 1992 the board has saved \$2.8 million in three phases of restructuring its operation, starting with the 1992 budget.

The second phase involved hiring Bill Hogarth to start as

the new director of education last July while the third phase will halve the number of area offices.

Markham and Stouffville are now served by three offices: one attached to Milliken High School, one at Dickson Hill Public School and another in Thornhill.

The Thornhill office will remain open but the other two will close in the next month and a new area office serving all

schools in Whitchurch-Stouffville and Markham (except Thornhill) will be leased in Unionville starting Dec. 1.

One of the current complement of supervisors retired and the remaining seven will be joined by six supervisors from the board's Aurora headquarters to be nearer the schools and the communities.

A team of four superintendents of education and community services will be responsible

for the local schools which have the total highest student population.

The other three areas in York Region will each have three supervisors.

"This is a pro-active measure to ensure the success of our students," Hogarth said at a press conference last Wednesday.

The plan was passed unanimously by trustees last week after which staff was given details.

Teachers were filled in at information meetings held at each school.

Any area office staff, such as secretaries, deemed surplus will be absorbed somewhere else in the system, Hogarth said. "We've done it in a sensitive way."

And wording plays an important role in the restructuring. Divisions will be replaced by teams, and area offices by community education centres.

## Open line of communication is priority for public board

The York Region Board of Education has pledged to be more open and accountable with staff, students and taxpayers. Gaining trust is a top priority of the communications action plan approved by the board last week.

The plan aims to help teachers share strategies and programs, and inform teachers about board policies and decisions.

It outlines how the board will address the demand for the tightening of the public purse, relevancy in education and global comparisons.

A one-time cost of \$30,000 plus ongoing costs of \$144,000 were proposed. This includes resuming daily courier service at a yearly cost of \$100,000.

All costs items were referred to the budget committee, and trustees will look for other options when considering the reinstatement of daily courier service.



PHOTO/SJOERD WITTEVEEN

## New Brownies

The 5th Stouffville Brownies accepted 11 new members last Thursday. In the front row are the new Brownies, from left, Kelly Ferguson, Jackie Orsetto, Sara D'Alessandro, Lacey Juk, Erin Button, Jennifer Arthurs, Laura Meimari, Cheyanne Provis, Shannon Watts, Megan Berry, Eilish McMahon. In the back row from left are Carley McIlwaine, Shannon Cartwright, Dara Neale, Julie Nighswander, Katelyn Button, Sabrina Williams, Joanne Crymble, Joanna Eagar, Andrea Sauter, Stephanie Harrott, Helly Dodds, Lindsey McIlwaine and Jennifer Iannuzzi.

## Welfare dip in August attributed to seasonal job openings

**TRACY KIBBLE**  
Staff Reporter

York Region's welfare rolls decreased slightly during August this year due to seasonal employment opportunities.

The latest general welfare assistance report by the region's community and social services department shows a slight dip in the number of welfare cases from

July to August.

But community services commissioner, Peter Crichton has said the temporary lull is based solely on summer employment gains and should not be misconstrued as the end to hard times for York Region welfare recipients.

There were 8,765 people who cashed welfare cheques last

August, down from 8,870 in July, but a 10.3 per cent hike from the same period in 1992, the report shows.

The region received 1,965 new welfare assistance applications during the one-month August period, but turned down 612 of those as "ineligible."

York Region's taxpayers have so far forked over \$7.9 million

this year to aid their non-working neighbors - and dished out another \$53 million as provincial taxpayers.

Recipients still use an inability to find regular employment as the number one reason they require welfare, followed by single family incomes, and an end to Unemployment Insurance Commission (UIC.)

## Board seeks waste watcher from within school system

The York Region Board of Education will look within its system to find a waste manager before hiring from outside.

The most cost-efficient way of filling the new waste management co-ordinator position is to find a current employee to fit the job.

The original plan of recruiting

a teacher with a salary of \$60,000 to \$80,000 was amended last May. Instead the board's environment council was asked to come up with a less expensive plan, and a report handed to the board finance committee recommends re-assigning a staff member.

In the event the board looks

outside, the position will pay \$30,000 a year plus benefits.

The report lays out a number of cost-cutting measures recommended for the school. Principals are being asked to monitor the trash and recycling bins to ensure they are being picked up only when full. Dianne More, a teacher at William Armstrong

Public School in Markham, said her school has gone from pick up every five days to every seven days by waiting until the bins are full.

In the past two years the board plant department has noted a 14 per cent reduction in waste. The environment council is asking for a further 11 per cent reduction. This will allow the bins to be replaced with smaller models.

And juice box programs have been cut in favor of the boomerang lunch: what goes to school comes home from school, said trustee Joanna French.

Parents are asked to pack all lunch items in reusable containers, including snacks, sandwiches and drinks. And everything a child doesn't eat, from half a muffin to carrot sticks to an apple core, makes its way back home where it can be thrown out or composted.

French said parents can keep tabs on what their child is eating or not eating at school and help cut down on waste and garbage byproducts such as fruit flies and wasps. Since starting the boomerang lunch, one school cut the number of full garbage bags from 88 to one.



## Stretttttch

Orchard Park Public School cross country runners shared a stretch before a race at Bruce's Mill Conservation Area recently.

From left are Brenda Robbins, Alex Chacinski, Jessica Weatherill and Lidija Jankulovski.

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