

Stouffville woman critical after Tuesday accident

JUDY PHILLIPS
Correspondent

A Stouffville woman was critically injured in an accident Tuesday afternoon on Stouffville Sideroad.

At about 4 p.m. Joy Rose, 32, was travelling eastbound on Stouffville Sdrd. between Kennedy Rd. and McCowan Rd. in a 1993 Pontiac Acadian when police say she crossed the centre line crashing head on into a 1991 GMC Van.

Stouffville firefighters and three different ambulance services worked in the pouring rain for about an hour, with the jaws of life, to free the woman from her car. She was taken by a Metro Toronto paramedic unit to Sunnybrook Hospital in Toronto where she is presently in critical condition in the Surgical Intensive Care Unit. Driving the van was James Pedwell, 33, with two developmentally handicapped adults, Karen Slark and Robert Brown also of Stouffville. The driver and the two passengers were taken to hospital with minor injuries.



Photos/JUDY PHILLIPS

Firefighters work to free Joy Rose, 32, from her Acadian after a Tuesday crash in heavy rains.



Education

Attorney General to be involved in Bob Cressman salary leak case

JULIE CASPERSEN
Staff Reporter

The Attorney General will be recruited to root out the person(s) who released private information to the press about the York Region Board of Education's director.

Trustees were called to an emergency meeting last Monday when the person who anonymously leaked confidential details of a Education

Director Bob Cressman's retirement contract was asked to step forward and apologize through the media.

A deal approved by the elected board April 7 will allow Cressman to work as a consultant for the board for the final year of his contract that expired June 30, 1994.

He'll receive his regular salary, estimated to be as much as \$135,000, benefits and a car, plus a \$48,000 consulting fee

paid to Cressman Enterprises for helping a new director make the transition. These figures are protected under freedom of information and protection of privacy rules, according to the board.

A board news release explains that although the original plan was to have Cressman in place as director in July 1994 and a designate director learn the ropes for a year, trustees voted to retire Cressman a year early

and pay him for his expertise.

"For Cressman, the revision recognizes the board's appreciation of his leadership," the release said.

"The board deeply regrets that some individual or individuals who may have disagreed with these objectives and strategies have taken steps to attempt to embarrass the board." Sarah Jones, spokesperson for the office of the information and privacy

commissioner, said, "There are some pieces of information that the legislation talks about."

Educational and employment history as well as financial transactions are considered private.

"Personal information is presumed to be protected," Jones said. "We'd have to look at the circumstances. Every case is different. There are some circumstances when an institution can disclose information." Jones said as of noon yesterday the commissioner's office had not received a request from the board to investigate the alleged privacy breach.

The freedom of information office said any requests for an investigation could not be confirmed under the privacy laws.



CRESSMAN

Junior Kindergarten put on back burner

Junior Kindergarten is once again on the back burner while the York Region Board of Education waits for a personal response from the education minister.

The board is one of 23 in the province that has never offered Junior Kindergarten, although the space has been

built into regional schools constructed after 1987. The Ministry of Education is targeting September 1994 for the province-wide implementation of JK, but the York Region trustees put off formulating a plan until the ministry responds to January letter advising that the board plans

to look at alternatives to traditional JK formats, such as housing the classes outside the school, placing the children in with the senior Kindergarten kids and having an all day/alternate day course.

Most boards will wait for a legal mandate before institut-

ing any plans and spending any money on JK, curriculum superintendent Win Procyshen said. A 1990 report estimates the cost of JK to taxpayers is \$4.5 million annually with start-up cost of \$18.7 million. Director of Education Bob Cressman suggested the trustees table the JK report, and write a follow-up letter to the ministry, asking for a reply.

Mayor defends town's 3% hike

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despite an estimated growth assessment of 1.65 per cent.

"Staff and council worked to reduce (expenses) drastically rather than put them directly on your tax bill...but many of these expenses are not within our control," Sainsbury read from a prepared statement.

The mayor defended the town's three per cent hike - two per cent of which will help patch miles of broken rural roadways.

Sainsbury said outstanding taxes, a six per cent hike in garbage costs to the town, loss of investment interest and a poor commercial tax base all contributed to the hike.

"I would love to see it at zero again but we don't have the advantages...some of these cities and towns have sewage capacity, growth and development fees and excellent industrial and commercial incomes. We are basically a rural municipality with few households to cover our ever increasing expenses," Sainsbury said.

Finance director Ed Blackburn said this year's budget was one of the more difficult processes he has experienced in his more than two decades at the helm of Stouffville's treasury department.

"It has been extremely difficult this year because so many things have had to be built in - it was hard this year to come up with a budget acceptable to the people, when a lot of people are hurting bad," Blackburn said.

The town will also chop services or financial contributions by:

- cutting Main St. hanging flower budget in half - from \$12,000 to \$6,000;
- eliminating some parks maintenance ie. grass cutting;
- cancelling the Strawberry Festival annual \$10,000 fireworks display;
- closing the town's outdoor pool for a nine-day stretch during the summer;
- decreasing recreation office hours to eliminate overtime;
- reducing curbside garbage service by \$100,000.

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