



Long may they reign

Hayes Angus and Cathlene Steele were voted king and queen of the Green Gables picnic on Saturday. Cathlene was visiting from the Casa Verde Nursing Home in Toronto.

Photo/SJOERD WITTEVEEN

Parent councils a positive step: Crothers

By JULIE CASPERSEN
Staff Reporter

The onus for forming school councils should be on school boards, not the provincial government, says York Region Board of Education chair Bill Crothers.

The Ontario Parent Council recommendation calling for mandatory parent committees at every school in the province is a step in the right direction,

Crothers said, however he favors giving school boards the authority to mandate local school councils over amending the Education Act.

"I don't think writing it in legislation is a particularly positive notion," Crothers said.

The council released its report to the Royal Commission on Learning Wednesday. Parents should also be given an advisory role in the hiring

and performance review of principals and teachers, have full control over fundraising activities and money, and be involved in program, policy and curriculum development, says the report.

"It represents some changes moving further along a path that a lot of school boards have started, certainly along the path our board is moving along," Crothers said. "It sounds pretty supportable."

But although he endorses an advisory role for parents, he said he does not support giving parents decision-making control. "There has yet to be a parent advisory model with authority values that has worked."

Crothers estimates at least 95 per cent of the public schools in York Region have

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Armed Forces Hercules aircraft departing for Rwanda Thursday morning.

Novopharm will donate half a million dollars worth of life-saving antibiotics to help combat spreading life-threatening disease such as dehydration, infection and cholera.

"Leslie Dan saw on television the incredible suffering of the refugees from Rwanda and felt that this suffering requires immediate action and a special donation," states a press release issued from the company's head office in Scarborough.

Novopharm, which was instrumental in founding the Canadian Medicine Aid Program (CAN MAP) which has been sending hundreds of shipments of medicines over the years to the sick and needy of the Third World, has made donations since 1987.

"Novopharm is well known for its charitable actions in donating large amounts of pharmaceuticals to countries all over the world. Over the past seven years, Novopharm has made substantial donations of medicines to relieve the pain and suffering of the sick and needy around the world," the release states.

Last year the company donated more than \$2 million worth of medicine and "intends to continue to do so in the future."

C.A.R.D. celebrates 25 years

By KATE GILDERDALE
Correspondent

The Community Association for Riding for the Disabled is celebrating its 25th anniversary in 1994 with what is hoped will be the biggest and best C.A.R.D. A-Thon ever.

Founded in 1969, the organization provides therapeutic horseback riding for disabled people living in the greater Toronto area. The program is supervised by specially trained physiotherapists and skilled equestrian staff.

More than 300 volunteers are involved in helping disabled individuals enjoy the numerous benefits of equestrian therapy and in introducing them to the sheer joy of horseback riding.

Physical, cognitive, psychological and social skills are all enhanced by the program, which attracts more than 700 students of all ages annually. For the first 10 years of its operation, C.A.R.D. ran its programs from privately owned stables in the area.

By 1979, demand had exceeded capacity at the stables and the Variety Club Equestrian Centre for the disabled was constructed as C.A.R.D.'s permanent home. Among the facilities available at the centre are indoor and outdoor arenas, a special mounting platform with hydraulic lift and trapeze, and special light and sound systems for the blind and deaf.

The entire centre, including the stable area, is wheelchair accessible. C.A.R.D. is a non-

profit, charitable organization which is governed by a 12 member board of directors. Riders, who range from 4-year-olds to senior citizens, include people with cerebral palsy, spina bifida, muscular dystrophy, accidental injuries and mental handicaps.

All applicants are assessed by a physiotherapist, in consultation with a medical advisory committee made up of qualified physicians, to ensure that each rider is placed in a program which matches his or her individual ability.

The physical benefits of the program include improved coordination, balance, mobility, cardio-vascular function and relaxation of spastic muscles. From a psychological standpoint, the program enhances self-confidence, increases the attention span and improves motivation and concentration.

Thirty-six one-hour sessions are held weekly for approximately 200 riders, with a summer program which can accommodate 110. Each session is run by a qualified instructor assisted by a group of volunteers. While C.A.R.D. receives a portion of its funding from the Ministry of Community and Social Service and fees paid by its riders, it relies heavily on private and corporate donations to offset costs. The C.A.R.D. A-Thon, held annually from Al's Tack Shop in Stouffville, is a major fundraiser for the organization. This year's trail ride takes place Aug. 13 and 14 in the Vivian forest with both disabled and non-disabled riders

taking part.

Whitchurch-Stouffville Mayor Fran Sainsbury will be at the opening of the ride-a-thon, which takes place at 8:45 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 13. Entertainment and a pig and corn roast are scheduled Sunday afternoon at the conclusion of the event. Pledge books, riders' registration forms and tickets to the roast are available by calling 640-2909.

Co-op out of gasoline business

The Stouffville Co-op will remove its gasoline pumps outside the Edward Street store - a fixture which has been part of the establishment for many years.

Manager Doug Watson said the gas tanks will be removed to cut costs since the service provided no great revenue.

"There's no problem with the gas tanks. We're removing them because the volume is fairly low and the liability and risk is too great," Watson said.

Watson added the underground tanks have remained in tact and said there has been no leakage over the years.

Stouffville's Co-Op recently joined forces with other local facilities as a cost-cutting measure and restructuring move in order to continue its long-time services to local farmers and members.

Novopharm sends aid to Rwandans

By TRACY KIBBLE
Staff Reporter

Novopharm Limited, which operates a plant in Stouffville, is offering \$500,000 in medical aid to Rwanda in its on-going effort to help war-torn countries around the world, the company announced this week.

Chairman and chief executive officer Leslie Dan said he hoped the efforts will trigger other pharmaceutical companies to provide donations to Rwanda refugees who are dying by the thousands of disease.

Dan told *The Tribune* Monday that the company will donate eight and a half tons of antibiotics which will be transported to Trenton, Ont. by truck. The medicine will then be loaded onto a Canadian

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Company sues politician

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the second lowest bidder, a Queensville company.

Pachino, which has operated from its 30-employee Stouffville business since 1987, came in \$10,000 lower than the second lowest bidder, Palma said.

Regional roads staff had recommended last April that the Region hire Pachino to perform the works but after several in-camera sessions last June officials awarded the job to Queensville's Novacor Construction.

"These meetings were done in-camera so I can't tell you what (Brunelle) said blow by blow, but we're assuming he exhausted every means of having us disqualified. He has publicly questioned us before," Palma said.

"We've done absolutely nothing wrong. Every time we bid in Durham Region (Brunelle's) always putting in his two cents. Why should people in politics say things and not be held accountable?" Palma said.

Silgailis said the region had no choice but to award the job to Novacor because of the police investigation, but added Pachino "will be treated like any other contractor for future work" now that the police probe is over.

But Palma said losing the \$1.5 million job affects Pachino revenues substantially because work for Durham makes up about 40 per cent of its load each year.

"That's a fair chunk for a small company," Palma said. Brunelle was unavailable for comment.

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