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Rail shut-down strands Stouffville commuters



GO train sits idle at Stouffville station.

By JOAN RANSBERRY
Staff Reporter

GO Transit users from Stouffville were forced to find alternate transportation Monday morning. While the federal government is poised to legislate an end to the nation-wide railway shut-down, most Toronto-bound commuters in Stouffville took the GO buses to the Scarborough Town Centre and linked up

with the subway, street cars and city buses.

CN crews, who run the trains for GO, walked off the job on Saturday forcing GO Transit to suspend all train lines. The walkout affected some 50,000 commuters in the Toronto area.

Stouffville GO Train users must have been well organized.

Local commuters buy their tickets from Stonehouse Travel. Sally Thomas, spokesman for the travel

company, said no one turned up to buy a train ticket.

It was announced late Monday that should the strike continue, a late bus will be leaving for Stouffville from Union Station at 7:30 p.m.

The bus will then travel to Uxbridge from Stouffville.

GO Transit has established an information hot line. Stouffville commuters can call 1-800-387-7049 for more information.

Swimming pool wins Trib poll

By JOAN RANSBERRY
Staff Reporter

Everybody into the pool. According to a poll carried by *The Tribune* over the past week, the preferred recreation facility for the residents of Whitchurch-Stouffville is an indoor swimming pool.

A week ago, Whitchurch-Stouffville council struck two separate steering committees. One will look into the feasibility of building a second ice pad, while the second will investigate other options, including building a pool.

When *The Tribune* published its poll, readers were asked to indicate their preference. The choices on the ballot were an ice pad, an indoor pool, both or neither. Of the 210 ballots cast at *The Tribune* office, 136 were for a swimming pool, 36 were for neither, 22 were marked for a second ice pad, while 16 ballots were marked both.

Residents did more than mark the ballot. Most added comments. One thing is absolute: Recreation facilities is a big deal in Whitchurch-Stouffville.

The following is a sampling of comments included on the ballots.

□ We need an indoor pool before an ice pad.

□ It's outrageous that the town would even consider capital expenditures on recreation when items of necessity such as the Bal-

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Arena poll finds pad support

The results of a poll, carried out at the arena in Stouffville over the weekend, indicated a strong desire for a second ice pad.

Copies of the poll published by *The Tribune* were handed out at the arena. The ballots were collected in a box and delivered to the newspaper office on Main Street on Monday morning.

Of the 488 ballots, 360 were for a second ice pad, while 83 ballots were marked for both an ice pad and a swimming pool.

Of the ballots cast at the arena, 35 showed a preference for just a pool, while 10 ballots were marked neither an ice pad nor a pool.



Helping hands

Jean Smith, working diligently washing dishes, gets some moral support from friends (from left) Gladys Clarkson, Mary Hamerston and Liljan Johnson at the St. Patrick's Day bazaar and tea at the Silver Jubilee Club Saturday.

Photo/STEVE SOMERVILLE

Bill 163

O'Connor supports municipalities

Durham York MPP Larry O'Connor is breaking party ranks and does not support the new conflict of interest rules affecting municipal politicians.

A segment of Bill 163 dealing with what a politician has to disclose to the public is being challenged at Queen's Park even though the bill is expected to receive final reading in the legislature next month.

Most municipal councils, including Whitchurch-Stouffville council, are adamantly opposed to the new rules applying to conflict of interest.

Whitchurch-Stouffville Mayor Wayne Emmerson pointed out that there has been a serious backlash from the municipal sector regarding what a politician has to disclose about him or herself.

"They're watching the wrong politicians," said Emmerson. "I phoned O'Connor and told him they're laying the heavies on us."

Emmerson is also taking issue with how the Bill was drafted.

"There was no municipal input," he said. The Association of Municipalities of Ontario is asking its members to lobby the local MPPs and the cabinet asking that the conflict of interest segment of the bill be deferred. O'Connor has accepted the challenge from Whitchurch-Stouffville.

In a letter to Ministry of Municipal Affairs Minister Ed Philip, he has suggested that the conflict of interest rules in Bill 163 not be proclaimed in April.

"While I certainly agree that the public have the right to good government, free of conflict of interest, my concern is one of fairness," said O'Connor.

Meanwhile, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) is asking member municipalities to lobby their MPPs asking that the conflict of interest segment be deferred.

In siding with the local governments, O'Connor said, "It has been pointed out to me that the changes made to conflict of interest rules that govern provincial politicians are now not the same as those governing our municipal politicians. Our municipal elected representatives should not be treated any differently than those at the provincial level."

Joan Ransberry

Florist James White killed in car accident

A Stouffville man is dead and another is in police custody after a car struck a Hydro pole on Bethesda

Sideroad Sunday night, York Regional Police reported.

Police reported that James White, 66, of Stouffville

Road died two hours after being admitted to Markham Stouffville Hospital. James White owned James White

Florist, on Stouffville Rd.

Louis Trudel, 31, has been charged with failing to remain at the scene of an accident and failing to render assistance, police reported. Police said Trudel was apprehended at a residence near the scene later in the evening. The accident was reported to police at 10:30 p.m. While the 1985 Pontiac is registered to Trudel, police do not know who was driving at the time of the accident.

The accident resulted in a power blackout for residents of the immediate area.

Ontario Hydro officials reported that they had to cut off power in the Bethesda Sideroad area just east of McCowan Road.

Hydro officials reported that power was to be restored late Monday. The accident remains under police investigation.

Joan Ransberry



Hydro crews worked well into Monday afternoon to free this car so a new power line pole could be put in place after an accident that claimed the life of local florist James White on Sunday.

Photo/ANDREW MAIR

Stouffville Fitness closes

By KATE GILDERDALE
Correspondent

After four years in business, Stouffville Health and Fitness Spa, formerly Stouffville Fitness Resort, is closing its doors.

The facility, located in the

town square, will shut down effective March 25, owner Frieder Schuemer stated in a press release Monday. "In looking at our financial position after four years of operation, I realize that the business is not able to sustain

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