

Education

# Boards not happy with minister's 'tool kit'

**(From page 1)**  
 Snobelen said his measures are only a "first step" which aims to save \$400 million with hurting the quality of classroom education.  
 Part of the package will be legislation which forces boards

to share services and transportation costs, something local boards say is already being done.  
 "These tools were supposed to contain measures to help recoup lost government grants but they are a major disap-

pointment," said chair Tina Rotondi-Molinari, a Vaughan trustee.  
 Snobelen promised to change the Education Act so that boards can adapt their own administrative structures. He said he intends to save mil-

lions on school caretaking and will study cheaper "innovative approaches" to pay for new school construction.  
 The fall enrolment count will move from Sept. 30 to Oct. 31,

a change aimed at keeping "phantom students" from inflating school numbers. It will have little impact on the separate board, said Education Director Frank Bobesich.

## Up to 13,000 patients to be tested for hepatitis B

**(From page 1)**  
 Health departments in York and Durham have provided data enabling the Ministry to do cross-references in order to track down people at risk.  
 Cathy White, director of York's sexual health program, said telephone calls about the health scare are coming in to her department.

So far, a total of 30 hepatitis B cases have been reported. Schabas said he's expecting more.  
 The hepatitis B cases have been linked to EEG equipment in four area clinics. No EEGs involving reusable needles are being carried out while the investigation is under way.

A Musselman Lake woman was alarmed to find out that the clinic where she underwent a test involving brain activity is one of the clinics under scrutiny.  
 The 40-year old received a letter from Schabas as well as a letter from Dr. Ronald Wilson of the Fairview Mall clinic in Willowdale.

Dr. Wilson stressed that he has been co-operating fully with the health department.

On Thursday, the woman's doctor tested her for hepatitis B and HIV, the AIDS virus.

Others have also been tested at a Stouffville clinic.

Tests results will be known on Monday.

"This is scary, I am very angry. The waiting is difficult," the woman said.

A hotline was set up after the outbreak of the potentially deadly disease was announced earlier this week.

In two days, more than 600 people called the hotline, McDonald said. "Yes, people are concerned," he said.

Half of the people exposed to the virus have no symptoms. Some people who have this infection can pass it to sexual partners, family members and close contacts, Schabas pointed out.

A campaign is presently under way to immunize Ontario's Grade 7 students against the deadly hepatitis B, said Rebecca Metcalfe, York Region's director of nursing.

Those who received electroencephalograms (EEGs) which used re-usable needles since 1990 at clinics in Ajax, Scarbor-

ough and North York are involved.

Wilson said, however, the electrodes used in his clinic are "always properly cleaned and sterilized between usage."

EEGs are used to diagnose such problems as headaches and epilepsy.

Dr. Jim MacLean, chief of staff of Markham-Stouffville Hospital, said while the EEG department at the local hospital is safe, some local residents could have attended the clinics in question.

Also, since the Markham-based hospital has administered EEGs for four years, patients in need could easily be sent to any one of the four nearby clinics.

There's no risk to patients getting EEGs at Markham-Stouffville, MacLean stressed. The EEG equipment at the local hospital does not involve reusable needles, MacLean said.

No testing involving EEGs is carried out at Uxbridge Cottage Hospital.

Paul Nichols, administrator for the Uxbridge hospital, said he's not aware of any local residents being affected by the outbreak.

Schabas has credited the Scarborough's health department for its "diffidence in detecting" this outbreak.

"It's because of the hard work of local health departments that we've been able to move quickly in controlling this outbreak," said Schabas.

There is a "safe and effective vaccine" for people without infection that can prevent the spread of hepatitis B, Schabas has stressed.

In addressing the wide-spread problem, Colin Cunha, Scarborough's medical officer is being assisted by counterparts Dr. Linda Panaro of Durham, Dr. Helena Jacek of York and Dr. Barbara Yaffe of North York. The medical officers of health are advising doctors to test patients for bloodborne pathogens including hepatitis C and HIV.

The College of Physicians and Surgeons is now developing new guidelines for EEGs, EMGs and sleep clinics. Meanwhile, "Reusable subdermal electrodes should not be used" is the message being sent to doctors.



### Lions celebrate 15 years

The Goodwood Lions Club celebrated 15 years of community service Thursday. Here, the five past presidents of the club gathered at the celebration. From left are, John Henderson, immediate past president, Chuck Aldred, secretary, Clair Peters, president, Miguel Colas, 15 year member and Ted Peters, past president and regional chairman.

Photo: STEVE SOMERVILLE

## March Break fun in store

By KATE GIEDERDALE  
 Correspondent

You don't have to leave town to enjoy family fun during March Break.

Kids are invited to take a vacation at Fantasy Farm courtesy of the Whitchurch-Stouffville Library. The four-day program begins Tuesday at 10:30 a.m. with The Miller a play featuring the internationally acclaimed Puppetmongers Powell. In the afternoon, magician and musician Dickie Bird will entertain his young audience.

Roast Princess Surprise is first up on Wednesday's menu. Presented by puppeteers from Mr. Theatre Co., this tale is about a silly princess who meets up with a hungry dragon and needs audience help to avoid an unappetizing fate. Beauty and the Beast, a colorful play by Generic Theatre, will be performed at 2 p.m.

Musical duo Annie and Mo present Lost in Space Thursday morning, while The Really Little Theatre Company blasts

off in the afternoon in Travelin' the World, a fantastic blend of story telling, theatre, music, dance, puppetry and comedy.

Musicians Judy and David appear in concert Friday morning and magician Richard Lyn wraps up the fun Friday afternoon with his customary mix of magic, mystery and mirth. Passports to all performances are available from the library at \$10 each.

Admission to individual performances is \$2.

Enjoy the first taste of spring at Bruce's Mill Conservation Area, with wagon rides, self-guided tours of the sugar bush and a look at both traditional and modern methods of syrup production. Maple taffy and syrup samples will be offered along the way.

Pancakes and maple syrup will be served daily between 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. at the pavilion. Weekday admission is \$2.50 for adults, \$1.75 for seniors and \$1.25 for children. Children four and under will be admitted free.

Kids of all ages can enjoy

shiny and public skating at the arena during March break. Youth Centre programs include a Board Game-a-rama Monday, a ski day at Lakeridge Tuesday and a visit to the Richmond Hill Wave Pool Wednesday. Busing is available for the two latter events, at \$8 and \$6 respectively.

Teens are invited to movie nights Thursday and Friday at 6 p.m. Thursday will feature Sports Bloopers and Friday's movie will be Ace Ventura - When Nature Calls. Popcorn and pop will be available for \$2.

For further information on Recreation Centre programs, call 640-6527.

Heritage crafts and activities will be featured at the Whitchurch-Stouffville Museum Wednesday to Friday from 1 to 3 p.m. The program is open to students between 8 and 14 and completed projects can be taken home. The cost is \$20 for the three-day session and you can register by calling, toll free, 416-213-0900, then 905-727-8954 at the tone.

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