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Massive changes to schools, fewer trustees: Snobelen

By **MIKE ADLER**
 Staff Reporter

Ontario will completely change the way its citizens pay for education; Education Minister John Snobelen pledged this week.

The Tory minister announced he was cutting the number of school boards in the province and some trustees on boards spared the axe.

Education, starting in 1998, will be paid for by provincial grants and income tax, not from property tax as it is today, he said.

Businesses will still be taxed, but at a rate set by the province. This money will all be spent locally, Snobelen said.

He promised a new formula for funding the boards — one which will meet needs of individual students — later this season.

"We're going to focus resources in the classroom, where they should be," Snobelen said Monday in Toronto.

"Don't expect this new system means your property taxes are going to go down, public board chair Bill Crothers warned residents.

"If I was a betting person, I would bet they're going to go up."

The most important question, insisted the Markham trustee, is how much money will go to education — will it be more, he

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Say it with flowers

Bob Anderson leaves Stouffville Florist on Main Street with bouquets of flowers for delivery early Saturday morning: A welcome sight for cold eyes.

Photo/ SJOERD WITTEVEEN



Ditched

Motorists on their way to the Stouffville Country Market on Saturday landed in the ditch instead. The incident happened on Tenth Line.

Photo/ SJOERD WITTEVEEN

GM sues restaurant in Sikura death case

By **JOAN RANSBERRY**
 Staff Reporter

The finger of blame in connection with the death of a Stouffville horse breeder is now being pointed at a prominent Thornhill restaurant.

Ken Stathakis, manager and co-owner of The Octagon Restaurant, has been notified that the restaurant is being sued by General Motors (GM) for allegedly serving too much alcohol to John Sikura not long before he burned to death in his car.

Stathakis is not worried and denies that Sikura left his restaurant in a drunken state. "We did nothing

wrong," said Stathakis.

The 60-year-old multi-millionaire's charred body was found inside his new Cadillac while it was parked in the car port at his farm at Bloomington Road and Warden Ave. on Nov. 25, 1994.

Stathakis said GM's priority should be "cars and vehicle safety." He added, "General Motors should stay out of the restaurant business."

The story reads like a "rags to riches" suspense novel — Sikura arrived in Canada from Europe when he was 16. While his first job was that of a dishwasher in a restaurant, he went

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