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One life lost, many injured in car crashes

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free three trapped women from a Mercedes Benz -300 E.

The light green Mercedes, hit by a truck in the intersection, was T-boned on the passenger side and careened into the northwest ditch.

The first victim to be freed was the driver of the car. Wai-Ling Kwok, 62, of Aurora was taken to Markham Stouffville Hospital where she's listed in serious, but stable condition.

Her two passengers, guests from Hong Kong, are both in Sunnybrook.

With the co-operation of the Kwok family, police were contacting family members in Hong Kong yesterday. After using the jaws of life, police, Whitchurch-Stouffville firefighters and Uxbridge-Stouffville ambulance attendants lifted the back seat passenger through the windshield area.

She was taken to Markham Stouffville Hospital and later transferred to the Toronto hospital where she's listed in critical condition.

The third victim was trapped underneath the dash board and pinned by twisted metal.

Racing the clock, the emergency crew worked for about an hour before they were able to free the woman.

As the rescue mission was underway, ambulance attendants, knowing the injuries were life-threatening, administered medical treatment, including oxygen.

Because the victim needed immediate and specialized medical care, Bandage One was summoned from Toronto Island Airport.

With the traffic in all directions blocked, the air ambulance landed on Kennedy Road just north of the intersection.

Once down, Bandage One's medical team took over. The unconscious woman, now lying on a stretcher on the side of the highway, was assessed. Additional life saving aid was

administered.

Once stabilized, the woman was loaded into the helicopter to make the seven-minute trip to Sunnybrook.

The woman was listed in critical condition yesterday morning.

"We heard this morning that she might make it," a York police officer told *The Tribune*. Even though Dino Zumbo, the driver of the truck, sustained chest injuries, he refused to go to hospital until all three injured women were removed from the scene.

Police finally convinced the 51-year-old Caledon resident to seek hospital treatment. He was treated for minor injuries at Markham Stouffville and released.

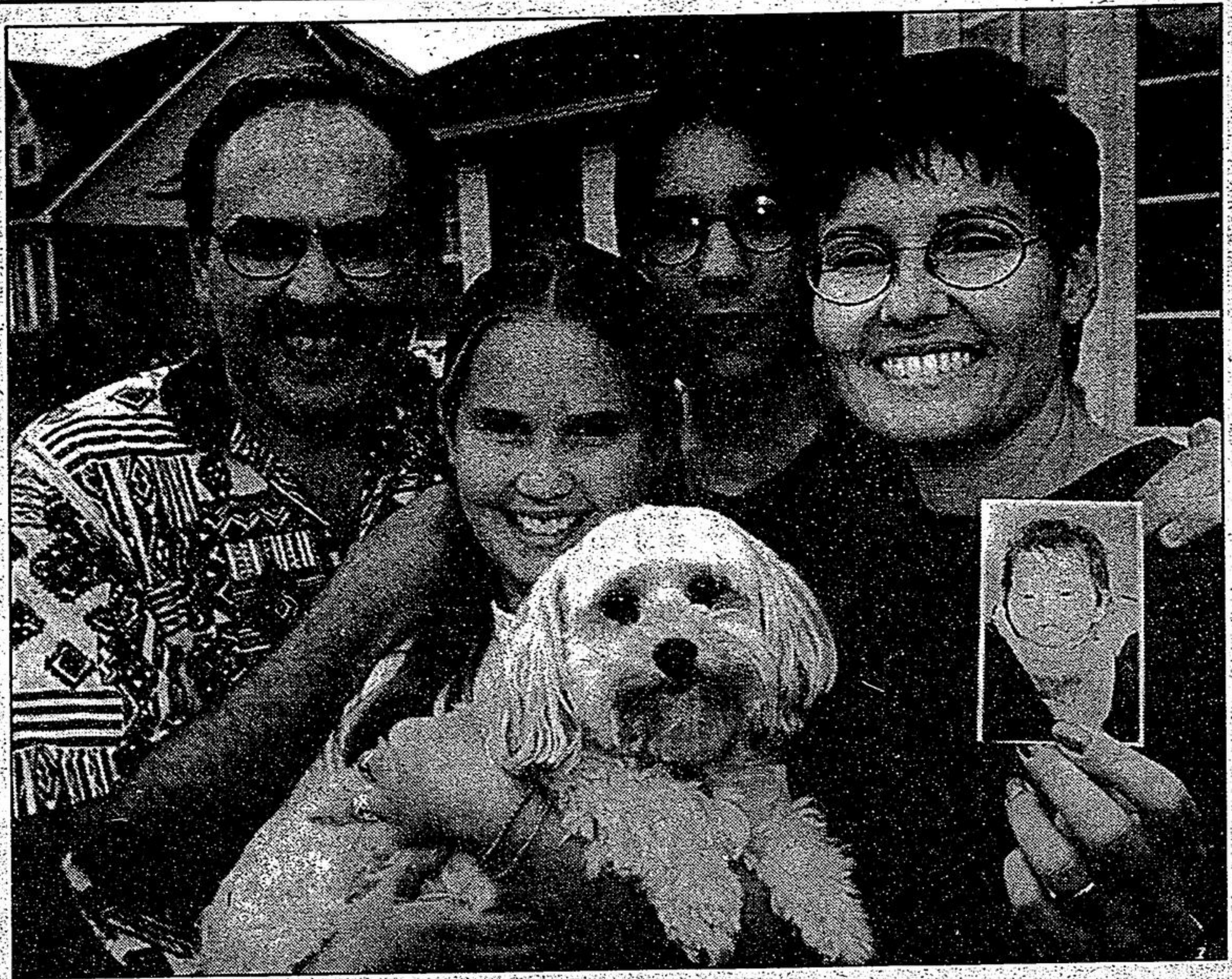
Police reported that Zumbo was driving westbound on Stouffville Road and entered the intersection on a green light. Travelling north on Kennedy, the Mercedes entered the intersection on a red light, said police.

Charges are expected, police added. Police, firefighters and ambulance attendants had little breathing space. Yesterday (Wednesday) morning, a four-vehicle pile-up on Bloomington Sideroad, just west of the Ninth Line sent three to hospital with undisclosed injuries.

This accident is still under investigation. "Yes, it was quite a week," said Whitchurch-Stouffville Fire Chief Bill Brown. "Now we have to do all the paperwork."

A Richmond Hill family did, however, receive good news.

Yesterday doctors at the Hospital for Sick Children upgraded the condition of a 15-year-old boy injured in an accident on Hwy. 48 in Stouffville a week ago. David DeBoer was airlifted to the Toronto hospital, while three others were taken to local hospitals. Seven days ago, DeBoer was in critical condition—he's now in fair condition.



FAMILY GROWS: The Cundaris of Preston Lake are about to adopt a baby from China. Chuck, Lianne, Robert, Linda and Murphy the dog are excited about the event. Chuck and Linda will leave for China on Saturday to pick up baby Rachel.

Photo by STEVE SOMERVILLE

New family addition eagerly awaited

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name is Wen. "It means gentle."

The Cundaris land in Beijing, then take a two-hour plane trip to Nan Feng, China, where the orphanage is located.

Arrangements have been made for little Rachel to be brought to the hotel where the couple is staying.

"We'll then hop on a bus and travel for 200 kilometers back to Nan Feng," said Chuck.

Chuck and Linda and baby Rachel will arrive home on the day school starts.

"It will be quite a day. We are all so very excited. It's hard to keep focused on anything. We met her on Saturday. I love her already," said Chuck.

York Region's high school teachers poised to strike

KATHLEEN GRIFFIN
Staff Reporter

York Region's 1,827 public high school teachers will go on strike Monday.

The Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation officially notified the York Region Board of Education and the provincial Education Relations Commission yesterday that barring a last-minute agreement, teachers will strike Aug. 18.

The strike will affect 28,000 students in 22 schools.

While classes don't start until Sept. 2, department heads, guidance councillors and teachers involved in setting curriculum and making class schedules will not be in school as usual over the next two weeks.

But the two-week window is also an opportunity to reach a deal before students actually have to stay home and frantic parents scramble to make alternate arrangements.

"We are absolutely prepared to go back to the table," said

OSSTF president Lynn Johnston.

"But the board doesn't seem interested in negotiating anything."

Board negotiator and vice-chair Karen Barker said in a release it will take a "collective meeting of minds" to address the board's \$30 million in losses, a result of provincial cut-backs.

"We believe a settlement is possible," she said.

Teachers are asking for a three per cent pay hike, which would be the first raise since 1992.

They make between \$34,000 and \$67,900 a year.

But the real stumbling block seems to be about \$9 million worth of concessions the board wants to extract from teachers by increasing class size and asking department heads to spend more time in the classroom.

The board originally wanted \$13 million worth of contract concessions from the union, citing cuts from the province totalling \$30.6 million over the

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last two years.

By not hiring an additional 72 teachers last year, teachers the OSSTF say are necessary, the board saved about \$4 million.

Johnston said the province has since relented and given the board grants worth \$11 million, but its position hasn't changed.

"They received grants they weren't expecting and that were not in their budget," he said.

"But they are not being flexible."

The board has offered a two-year deal, retroactive to September 1996.

It would maintain the present instructional periods of six out of eight, increase the average class size from 26 to 27 and decrease administrative time for department heads.

If an agreement is reached by Aug. 27, students will begin regular classes on Sept. 2.

Municipal candidate defaults on filing financial statement

A candidate in a December by-election in Whitchurch-Stouffville has failed to file a financial statement and auditor's report in compliance with the law.

Ward 2 candidate Richard Farmer, who lost in his bid to Councillor Mike Watson, "has not complied with the Municipal Elections Act," reported town clerk Michelle Kennedy.

In accordance with the law, Farmer was to give the town the financial report, including a list of campaign contributions and

expenses.

Farmer told *The Tribune* he will now file the appropriate information. Farmer said he spent about \$300 during the campaign.

Farmer said he told Kennedy that he's been renovating his home.

"It's a matter of priority," said Farmer.

Farmer said is not seeking election in the November election in any ward in Stouffville.

"Not this time," he said.

—Joan Ransberry