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THE TRIBUNE

Vol. 109, No. 49

Tuesday, August 19, 1997

16 Pages .50¢ (GST incl.)

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SPORTS P. 10

High school teachers on strike

JULIE CASPERSEN
Tribune Staff

York Region's 1,827 public high school teachers are officially on strike, two weeks before the start of school.

Last minute negotiations between the board and the teachers' union broke down Sunday, and teachers have their strike plan in place.

"Today I'm meeting with the strike captains," Ontario Secondary School Teacher's Federation president Lynn Johnson said yesterday.

After the teachers served notice to strike last Thursday, the board called the Sunday meeting to offer them a last-ditch concession, said board vice-chair and chief negotiator Karen Barker. The concession was to "reinstate the clause that guaran-

teed teachers will only teach six of eight classes a day instead of seven.

But "nothing's changed" in the board's position, said Johnson. "We wasted a day."

The two sides must come to an agreement by Aug. 27 in order for school to start Sept. 2. If the strike continues, the teachers are planning a Sept. 2 rally at the Markham Centennial Arena followed by a picket

line at the board's Aurora headquarters.

News of the strike prompted reaction from the local chapter of the Ontario Secondary School Students' Association, which is also planning a rally.

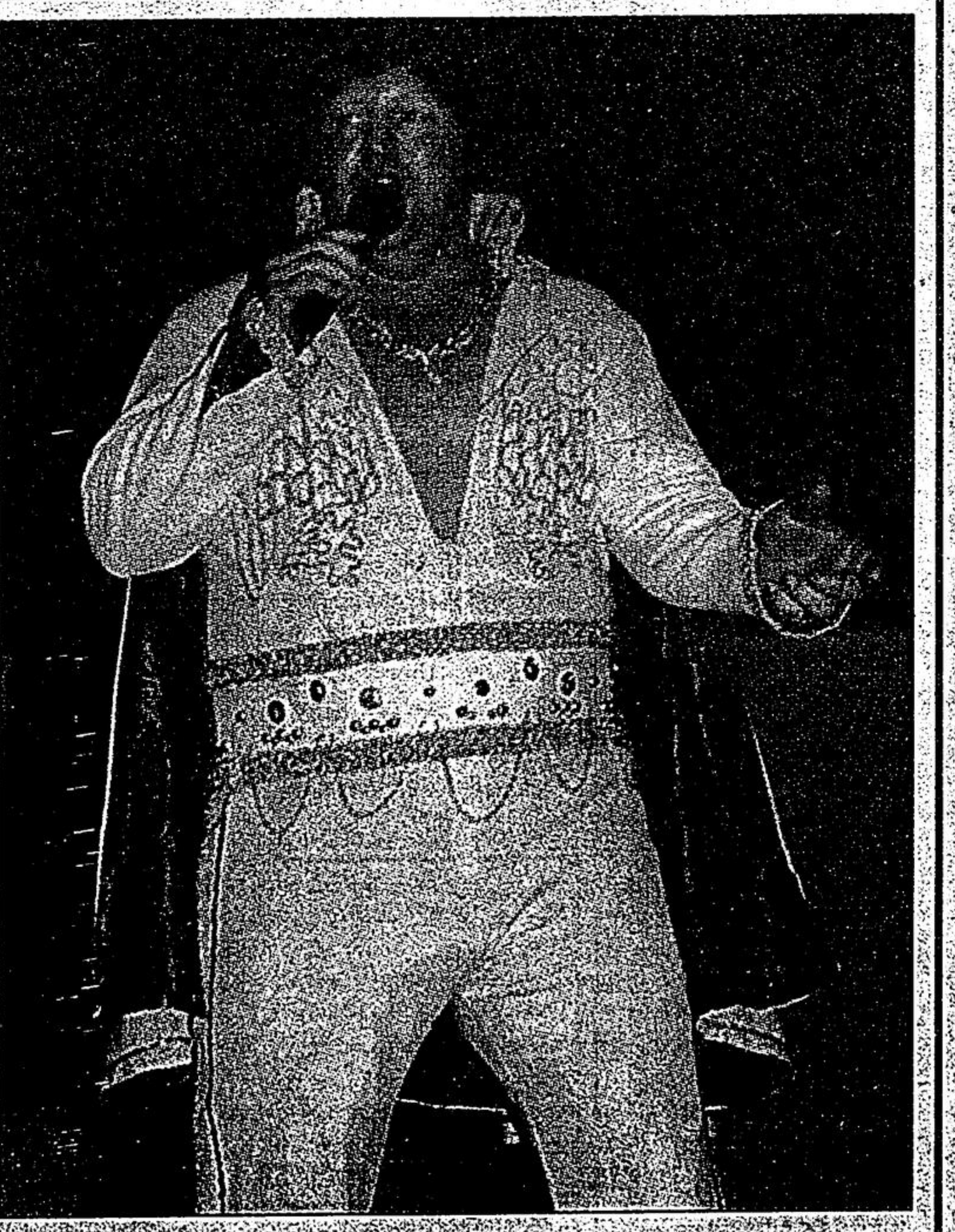
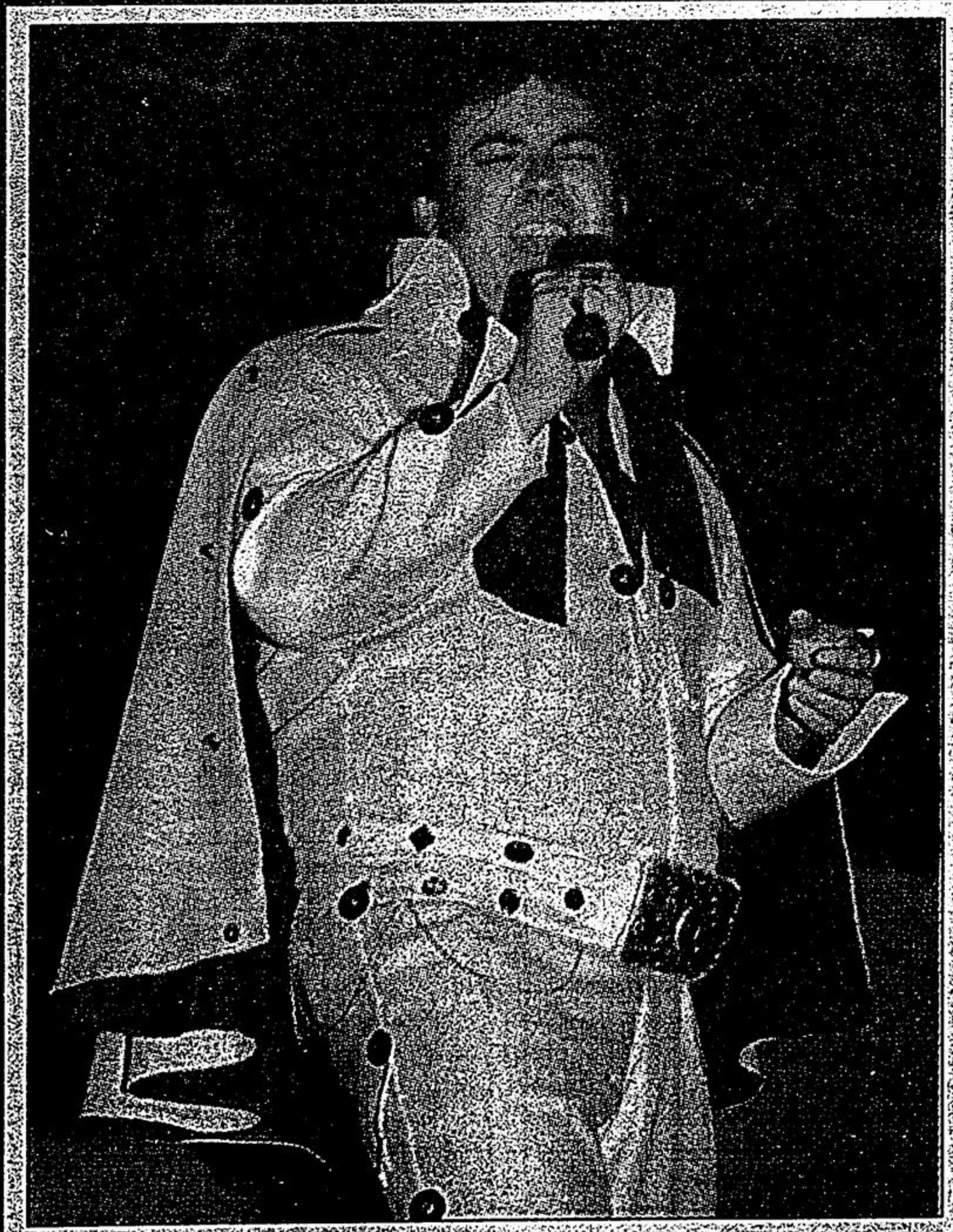
Local OSSSA president Javeed Sukhera said the 28,000 York Region students are urged to march at the board offices during the first

week of September if school does not resume on schedule.

"We are deeply concerned, especially for OAC students," said Sukhera. "It is the students of York Region who will be most affected by a teachers' strike."

The board is seeking \$9 million in concessions from its high school teachers, and Barker said its proposals - such as raising the average class size by one to 27 - would save the board the necessary money while not costing teachers "a dime

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DUELING KINGS: Dan Jackman, left, and Randy Skelcher of Musselman's Lake are all shook up in an Elvis tribute at the Stouffville Country Market. A good crowd of hound dogs took in the jailhouse rockin', Heartbreak Hotel boppin' event Saturday afternoon.

Photos by STEVE SOMERVILLE

Pair of car crashes claim lives of two men

JOAN RANSBERRY
Staff Reporter

Alcohol is suspected as a contributing factor in a weekend accident that claimed the life of a Stouffville man and injured another.

York Regional Police are seeking witnesses to the single-vehicle crash that took place at about 4 a.m. Saturday on 19th Ave., east of Hwy 48.

Eric Smith, 33, of Stouffville was pronounced dead at the scene, while Randy Furlong, 27, of Aurora was treated for minor injuries at Markham Stouffville Hospital.

Smith was driving the white pickup truck when it crossed the eastbound lane, struck a bridge and rolled over. Beer bottles were found in the truck, police said.

Anyone with any information on

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