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Strike 'absolutely terrible:' parent

JOAN RANSBERRY
Staff Reporter

The town's on standby. If a province-wide teachers' strike becomes a reality Monday morning, Stouffville parents will

join others across Ontario in the scramble to find alternate care for their children.

If, however, the teachers' strike carries on beyond a few days, the town will step in to help with child care, said Whitchurch-Stouffville

Mayor Wayne Emmerson. "The town can help," said Emmerson. "If it's needed, we'll put something in place. We're doing everything we can."

Whitchurch-Stouffville's community halls could be opened and child-care staff could be put in place, said Emmerson.

"We've got halls. We could open Latham Hall and the (Stouffville) Recreation Centre. It could be done," said Emmerson.

While York's boards of education announced they would keep buses running and schools open, Emmer-

son urges parents to keep the children home.

"I wouldn't send the kids to school," said Emmerson.

Glen Campbell, principal of Dickson Hill Public School, is appealing to the parents of his 250 students. He wants them to try to make other arrangements for the students who attend that school.

"Our main concern is the safety of the children," stressed Campbell.

With five children in the school system, including two at Glad Park Public School, Glenda Attaway of

Ringwood is reading newspapers and listening to hourly newscasts this weekend.

"This is absolutely terrible," said Attaway. "My kids are from six to 13 years. They're all in school," said Attaway.

Results of a survey released yesterday showed 56 per cent of the public does not support strike action by their teachers.

Attaway is in the majority. "The public will not support this," said Attaway. "Why should our children suffer because of the teach-

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TONGUE IN CHEEK: The concentration is all in the tongue for Jason Devany as he makes his way across the monkey bars at the Summitview Public School playground. Photo by LORI EMMERSON

Fraud squad called to investigate case at Stouffville Co-op

Officials at the Stouffville Co-op have reported a \$30,000 fraud, York Regional Police said.

Sgt. John Sheldon confirmed investigators from the department's fraud squad hope to make an arrest soon, but added the process can't be rushed.

Det. Greg Olson, the investigator on the Edward Street case, pointed out the leg work in a fraud case is time-consuming.

"It takes quite a while," he said.

While this is the only fraud case under investigation in Stouffville at this time, incidents of fraud are on rise everywhere, said Olson.

"Yes, this is the only case in Stouffville just now, but fraud is up overall. It's a universal problem," he said.

Some crime watchers link the rise in fraud to the struggling economy.

"It could be the economy. There's a lot of downsizing going on. I don't know but we're getting (fraud). In particular, we're seeing an upsurge in welfare fraud and and in ATMs (automatic teller machines)," said Olson.

York Regional Police have 10 detectives working on the fraud squad.

"We certainly can use an increase in manpower," said Olson.

Officials of the local co-operative which serves the agricultural community told police records show that fraud took place between July '96 and December of '96.

"Fraud is up overall.."
-Det. Greg Olson

~ Joan Ransberry

@random

Aruba radio

■ Gale and Ivan Harris of Stouffville are off to Aruba in January, compliments of CHFI Radio. Gale received a telephone call early yesterday (Friday) morning informing her of the win. Gale told the radio DJ that her hubby of 37 years will join her for the seven-day trip, valued at \$2,500.

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