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Teachers hit the bricks

JOAN RANSBERRY
Staff Reporter

When it comes to the biggest work stoppage in the history of the country, count Stouffville in. At 7 a.m. yesterday in the midst of an ice storm, Stouffville teachers, decked out in their best winter gear, hit the bricks. Parents, meanwhile, scrambled to put emergency child care plans in place and just about everyone has an option. Teachers and principals from Summitview Public School, Dickson Hill Public, Claremont Public School, St. Mark's Catholic School and Glad Park Public School were eager to talk to *The Tribune*. However, picketing teachers approached at Stouffville District Secondary School refused comment. At about 11 a.m., Stouffville's elementary and high school

teachers left the local picket lines to join colleagues in a mass rally at Queen's Park. Talks between the teachers' federation and the provincial government broke down Sunday night resulting in 126,000 teachers staging the walkout. For Stouffville resident Carol Ann Moul, life is a juggling act. Yesterday morning, Moul bundled up five children, ranging from five to nine years, and took them for a long walk. Two of the kids are hers and the others are relatives. Since family is family, Moul's lending a hand. In the afternoon, Moul will report to her job at a downtown store. At the same time, a Gr. 8 student will arrive at the Moul home to babysit the kids. "I support some of the things the teachers are after and I don't support some of the things they're asking for. Please see page 3.



NO SCHOOL CROSSING HERE: Teachers picket just outside Glad Park Public School Monday morning braving the cold temperatures and the season's first snowfall to protest the provincial government's education reform legislation. Here, the snow seems to cooperate, covering the School Crossing sign. Photo by STEVE SOMERVILLE

@random
The Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville Parks and Recreation Department is offering a public skate every day this week Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 1-3 p.m. and on Wednesday from 2-5 p.m. at a nominal fee of \$1.25 each person to help

parents cope with the teachers' strike.
Shinney hockey open for school age children from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Call 640-6527 for more information.

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newslines
640-2100

Employee, 44, arrested in Stouffville Co-op fraud case

JOAN RANSBERRY
Staff Reporter

An arrest has been made in connection with the \$30,000-fraud at the Stouffville Co-op. Charges have been laid against former Co-op employee Shandra Shekar Bhalla, 44,

Regional Police detective Greg Olson reported yesterday. Bhalla, a Stouffville resident, was charged with one count of fraud over \$5,000 and one count of theft over \$5,000, said Olson. Officials of the Stouffville

Co-op, which serves the agricultural community, told police records show that fraud took place between July 1996 and December of 1996. Bhalla was released on his own recognizance. He will appear in a Newmarket court on Nov. 21.



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