

# Province fails in bid to end teacher strike

MIKE ADLER  
Staff Reporter

The Ontario government must deal seriously with teachers' concerns, now that its injunction gambit has failed, local teachers' union leaders say.

An Ontario Court judge refused yesterday to hand the province a court injunction, a legal weapon the government could use to force teachers to work.

The court bid was meant to end the continuing province-wide walkout by teachers "by the most devious means," said Dean Bodkin, local president for the Ontario Public School Teachers' Federation. "It's another example of a government out of control," he said yesterday.

"I hope it puts them in their place," added Steve Bull, a Stouffville teacher who heads a union political action committee.

"We're hoping the government will now settle it at the table."

Mr. Justice James MacPherson's ruling appears to leave the government with two options — seeking a labour relations board ruling or passing back-to-work legislation — if a settlement over Bill 160 cannot be reached.

Another local federation leader

was more muted in her appreciation, saying her members were hoping for news on when they could return to class.

"People were anxiously awaiting the decision (on an injunction). And now we wait some more," said Pam Gillan, representing women teachers in public schools. "We still don't have answers."

But Gillan said area teachers are determined to stay out until Bill 160 is changed. "This is not something that was entered into lightly at all," she said.

Catholic teachers, meanwhile, are putting their efforts into a local legal strike.

The unions also praised the public board's decision to close schools to staff this week, calling it overdue.

They were less welcoming of an amendment to the bill, proposed by Education Minister Dave Johnson last week, which would remove principals and vice-principals from teachers' unions. "That's a bullying tactic by the government," said Bodkin, a principal himself.

The ministry also indicated it would not give teachers the compensation for child care during the strike, it had promised all parents of children under 13.



JUST CAN'T DECIDE: Patti Montgomery and daughter Krista, 10, check out the teddy bears at the sixth annual Cranberries and Popcorn Craft Sale held at Latham Hall last Saturday.

Photo by SJOERD WITTEVEEN

## Town looks at security

KATE GILDERDALE  
Correspondent

A pilot project to provide after hours security in Whitchurch-Stouffville has been well received by residents, said John Crawley, director of parks, facilities and recreation.

"The measures have been put in place by the municipality on a trial basis. We have contracted with a private security firm for a four-week trial. Services include a foot patrol and mobile patrol for the facilities and municipal buildings that are being monitored, including the Stouffville Cemetery, Latham Hall, Memorial Park, the civic offices, the library, the recreation complex and the Ministry of Transportation public works building."

The program was initiated in response to recent problems at the Recreation Complex, said Crawley.

"If this program were to continue, it would cost less than \$1,000 a month. The response from people using the complex has been supportive."

Mayor Wayne Emmerson said a decision on having a permanent program would be made once the trial period had been completed and the program's effectiveness had been assessed.

## Commission, town wrangle over land

Ownership of a parcel of land, valued at \$120,000, is in question.

Town officials insist it owns a 65-foot by 125-foot parcel of land at 5988 Main St., while Whitchurch-Stouffville Hydro Commission claims it owns the land which is now leased by Wilson Lee Motor Sales.

Peter Dobrich, member of the local Hydro Commission, told Whitchurch-Stouffville Council that since the utility pays the property taxes, it suggests ownership.

"I've never heard of anyone paying taxes on something they don't own," said Dobrich.

## Government's 'attack on education' not taken lightly at local protests

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lower forms of government, leaving none but his own. This attack on education is a further step in this government's plan to control everything regardless of public opposition.

Seeing parents and children arrive at Orchard Park was uplifting for first-year teacher Tui-Sem Won. "This is not how I thought I'd start my career. But, if I'm going to be a teacher for about 30 years, I have to take issue," she said.

Orchard Park teacher Bill McMahon said it's encouraging to see such public support. "They organized it by themselves," he said.

Parent Jeanette Emslie said she didn't back the teachers in the beginning of the illegal strike. "But, the govern-

ment has boxed the teachers in. I want the teachers to know that now we support them."

Before attending the rally on Hwy 48, Stouffville District Secondary

School (SDSS) teacher Sandra Bush enjoyed a donut and muffin on the street in front of SDSS, compliments of one of the students.

"About 100 students arrived at the

school at 7 a.m. (Friday). Some brought donuts and coffee," said Bush.

SDSS teacher Carol Stamatious is not impressed with Harris' suggestion

that the teachers are simply following a union call.

"I'm insulted that he thinks I'm not an independent thinker," said Stamatious.

As for people who think the teachers are setting a poor example for the students, Stamatious said, "This is the damned best lesson I ever taught. I am teaching that this is a democratic right," she said.

SDSS principal Rod Leonard picketed at his school and at Munro's office.

"Students and teachers should be in the classroom and not on the picket line. The ministry and the union must continue to talk until an agreement that is acceptable to both parties can be reached. There should not be a winner and a loser," said Leonard.

Munro was not in her office. Constituency director Brian Mellor said the MPP was away on an urgent family matter.

*"There should not be a winner and a loser."*

~ SDSS Principal Rod Leonard

## Johnson, Carroll state top concerns

Industry in Ward 2 will mean employment for area residents, said candidate Helene Johnson Thursday night at a debate in the ward.

During the past five years, Johnson, who pitched her election campaign to residents, said she's schooled in municipal government and pointed out that in that time, she has attended about 80 per cent of local council meetings.

Johnson is the president of the local business development association.

Meanwhile, opponent Mark Carroll, a resident of the ward, said environmental issues, pending development, the need for street lighting, lack of greenspace and youth programs and facilities in the ward top his concerns and promises to work in those areas if elected Nov. 10. Carroll also said rising hydro costs are on the top of his list of concerns.

Carroll said his campaign centers on protecting the quality of life in the ward. "I want to keep the rural integrity," said Carroll.

Editor's Note: This part of an article from the weekend was inadvertently left out. *The Tribune* apologizes for the omission.



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