

THE TRIBUNE

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Kate's got the scoop:
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**Assessing
 the
 situation**

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Academy pals killed by train

JOAN RANSBERRY
 Staff Reporter

A 16-year-old Stouffville boy and a schoolmate died under the wheels of a freight train Saturday in what police believe was a double suicide.

Halton Regional Police confirmed that the Stouffville teen and his school mate, a 17-year-old from Northern Ontario, committed

suicide together in Burlington Saturday night, a day and a half after leaving their Welland-area private-military school without permission.

The boys were wearing their Robert Land Academy school uniforms when they died, police said.

The teens laid themselves down on the CN Rail track side by side. One made an attempt to get up when the train was approaching

but the other never moved, the police investigation shows.

There was no evidence of foul play or misadventure, Sgt. Frank Phillips reported.

Citing Ontario's Freedom of Information legislation, the police did not identify the teens. Meanwhile, the mother of the Stouffville boy declined comment on the tragic death of her son.

Founded in 1978, Robert Land

Academy, an all-boys' school, disciplines recruits during their first week there. They must not speak and are expected to run everywhere they go.

Some of the students have had brushes with the law prior to being sent to the academy.

A typical day for the 160 students begins with barracks inspections. Closets are checked, while hospital corners on the beds are inspected and finally, fingernails are inspected. There's a flag-raising ceremony, drill and classroom studies.

Punishments at the school range from rigorous exercise, extra laps around the barracks with a pack on, and a combination of sit ups.

A mother of a former academy student is not surprised that two students committed suicide, considering the type of punishment that would be handed out for going AWL (absent without leave). The woman, who asked not to be identified, said her son attempted suicide while a student at the academy.

Most Robert Land Academy graduates attend university or college. Tuition is about \$20,000 a year.

Staff and students at the school are deeply saddened by the deaths, academy spokesperson Captain Al Coulen told *The Tribune*.

"We are dealing with the

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SAPPY SCENE: Monica McAllef-Humphries pours maple sap from a tree bucket as, from left, Jennifer McAllef, 3, Alex Humphries, 6, and Matthew Humphries, 4, look on. The group attended the Bruce's Mill annual Sugar Bush Maple Syrup Festival Saturday. For more photos please see page 7. Photo by SJOERD WITTEVEEN

York a 'rising star'

MIKE ADLER
 Staff Reporter

York Region is preparing to launch a new slogan and a new image to attract tourist dollars.

Starting next month, visitors will see signs with the region's new trillium logo and its new slogan, York Region — Ontario's Rising Star, along local highways and major roads where York Region meets its neighbours.

The same logo and slogan will soon make its way into all the region's letterhead, buildings, and

■ Please see page 3 ■

@random

Museum fun

■ The Whitchurch-Stouffville Museum will present a three-part March Break program for children ages 8 to 14 on Wednesday to Friday, March 18-20. The sessions will run from 1 to 3 p.m. Children will explore a variety of heritage activities and crafts and will complete several projects to take home. Pre-registration is necessary. The cost is \$20 per three-day session.

To register by phone or for more information, call the museum 727-8954. For toll free calling in York Region, first dial (416) 213-0900, then at the tone, dial (905) 727-8954.

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