

# THE TRIBUNE

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No. 1 citizen be?  
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No pain,  
no gain  
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**SKIPPING SCHOOL** St Mark Catholic School teachers Carol Hainschwang and Mary-Colleen Costello (in black shirts) lead a group of Grade 4 and 5 students around their school for the Jump Rope for Heart earlier this month.  
*Photo by STEVE SOMERVILLE*

## Showdown looms over Bill 160

JENNIFER BROWN  
Staff Reporter

Thousands of teachers from across Ontario, including many from York Region, appear headed toward another showdown with the province over Bill 160.

At last count, 35 teachers unions and school boards had applied to the province for conciliation to kick-start stalled contract negotiations.

The threat of a widespread strike by September is a distinct possibility.

Secondary school teachers from York's public school board will hold a strike vote on Friday. Teachers from the region's separate board will stage their own strike vote on June 22.

But given the number of unions and school boards at an impasse, some educators are wondering if there is more to the unrest than coincidence.

"He who has the gold makes the rules and becomes the target," one York Region official said yesterday.

In this case, the target is the provincial government and the new funding formula created under Bill 160, which dictates how many minutes of instruction a student receives and how many students will be in a classroom.

issues that determine how many teachers each board will employ.

"Bill 160" deals with working conditions, learning conditions and quality of education," said Jim McQueen, chairperson of the Ontario Secondary School Teachers Federation.

"There's no question at some stage - mainly as students go back to school September 7 - the fat will be in the fire big time."

For many school boards, the problem they now face is a lack of money available under the funding formula.

At York's public school board, for instance, officials now face a \$14-million budget shortfall because its teachers make \$3,000 more on average than the province is willing to pay.

"I don't think it is a coincidence," McQueen said. "Through the funding model, all the board and teacher negotiators are discovering there is not sufficient money in the model to maintain the system the way it was."

"Consequently the boards are making all kinds of demands on working conditions."

Already handling negotiations for York Region high school teachers, McQueen says the possibility exists of seeing multiple

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## Watering bans in effect

JOAN RANSBERRY  
Staff Reporter

Watering your lawn at the wrong time of the day could cost you up to \$5,000 in fines, states a public notice on this year's water restrictions.

Households with odd house numbers in the community of Stouffville are reminded they can only water their lawns during odd numbered days. For example, house number 137 can water on June 27, June 29, July 3 between 6 to 10 a.m. and again from 8:30 to 10 p.m.

Residents with even house numbers can only water their lawns during even days of the month. For example, house number 136 can water on June 26, 30 and July 4, from 6 to 10 a.m. and from 8:30 to 10 p.m. only.

Local public works director Paul Whitehouse stressed, however, that the entire town has not been hit with water restrictions.

People living in Musselman's Lake and Ballantrae are not affected. "It's only the community of Stouffville," said Whitehouse.

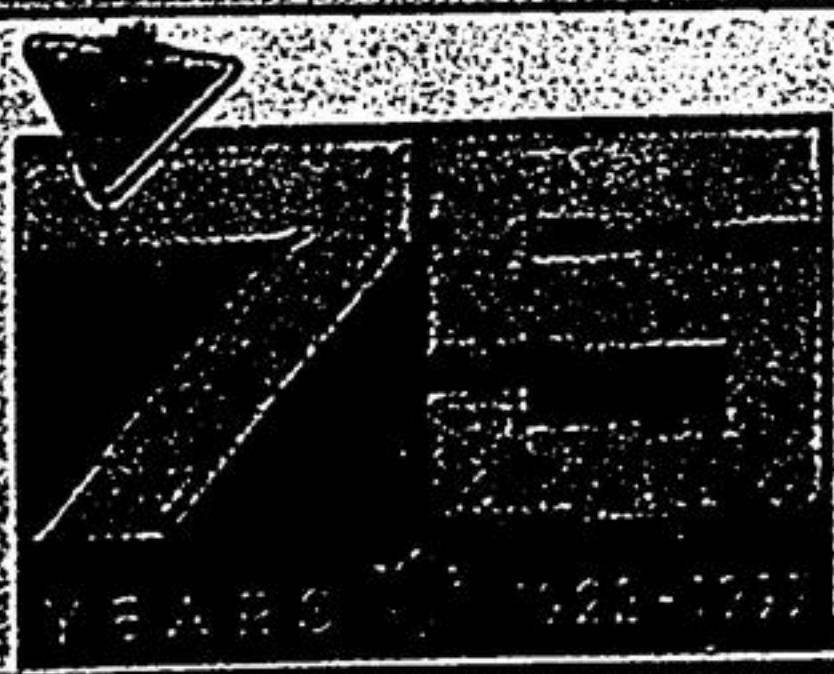
There's nothing new about water restrictions. It's a measure adopted by many municipalities during the summer months, he added, as an emergency reserve measure.

The new well, which is being built in Whitechurch-Stouffville, will likely be up and running in the fall. In the meantime, Whitehouse is appealing to residents to abide by the water restriction rulings. Local residents are reminded that in some municipalities all-out lawn watering bans are being put in place.

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