

**POLICE: Pedestrian in critical condition after being struck by van**

# Alcohol factor in accident

BY JOAN RANSBERRY  
STAFF WRITER

A 21-year-old pedestrian is in critical condition today after being struck by a van in Stouffville Saturday night.

Dahon Perks of Etobicoke was rushed to Markham Stouffville Hospital suffering critical injuries after being hit on Highway 48 just north of Bloomington Road near the John Deere dealership at 10:15 p.m., Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) reported.

After being examined at the local hospital, Perks was transferred to the trauma unit at

Sunnybrook Health Science Centre.

Whitchurch-Stouffville fire department assisted ambulance attendants at the scene.

Fire Chief Bill Brown said Perks was in a semi-conscious condition lying on the side of the road.

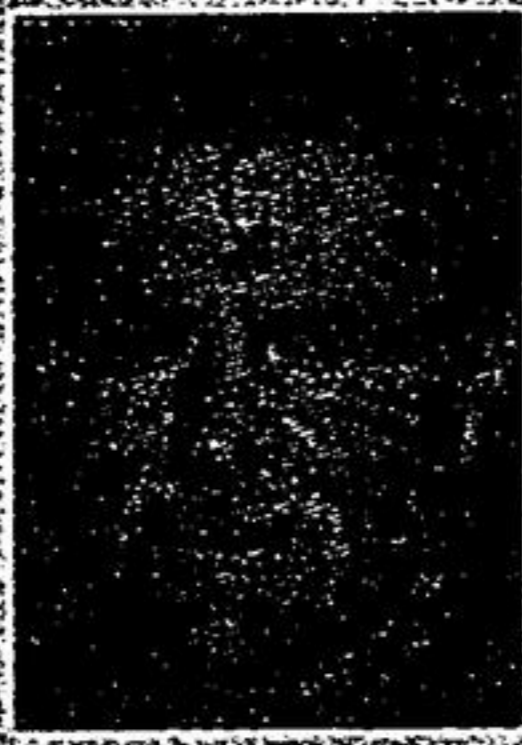
It was apparent that her

injuries were bad," said Brown.

The OPP reported the accident occurred when the young woman and her boyfriend left a nearby party only to realize that she had left her purse behind.

The boyfriend turned the car around and, for some unknown reason, the young woman got out on the west side of the road and attempted to cross to the east when she was struck by the north-bound vehicle.

Alcohol was a factor in the accident, police said. However, no charges were laid against the driver of the van that hit Perks.



BILL BROWN

Apparent victim's injuries were bad

## SQUEAKY CLEAN



PHOTO/LORI EMMERSON

Stouffville Clippers hockey team members held a car wash, lawn sale and M & M Meats barbeque at Neil Patrick's Main Street parking lot to help raise funds for the upcoming season.

# Talks continue to avert strikes

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The board has always argued that Bill 160 automatically assumes teachers must instruct seven of eight teaching periods, and 1,250 minutes," explained Gerry Harrison, president of York's unit of the Ontario Secondary School Teachers Federation. "The settlement in the Near North is helpful in the sense that you can reach the 1,250 minutes and still maintain the six of eight teaching periods. Our board has to look at that."

But Barker warned even if the Parry Sound teachers ratify the agreement in a vote later this week, the settlement must still be approved by the Ministry of Education.

"I would like to see what their teachers gave up and how does their

school day, salaries and benefits compare to our board," said Barker. "Everything comes with a price tag, and anything is possible, if you have an unlimited pot of money. That's not the case."

The region's 1,800 public high school teachers return to mediated negotiations Thursday night in Richmond Hill, and Harrison expects talks to continue throughout the Labour Day weekend.

The teachers have already voted 89 per cent in favor of a strike if a deal can't be reached. That would leave 30,000 public high school students on an extended summer vacation.

Meanwhile, negotiations continued this morning in Markham between the region's separate school board and its 2,700 members of the Ontario English Teachers

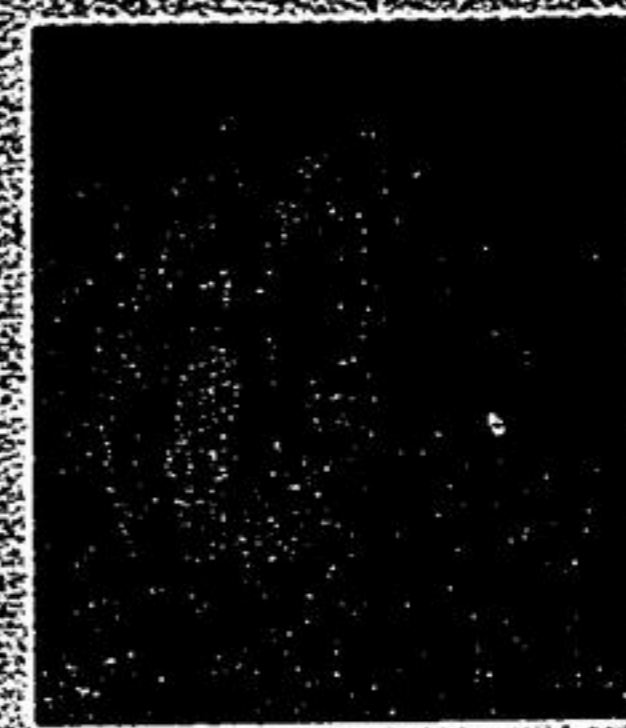
Association.

The union is pressing for a deal by Thursday or else it will call a strike over the staffing changes the board intends to impose.

York Catholic board vice-chairperson Elizabeth Crowe also warned against pinning too much hope on the Near North deal, especially since isolated boards get additional grants from the government.

The Parry Sound teachers also earn less money than Catholic teachers in York, who are the highest-paid separate school teachers in the Greater Toronto Area.

On Friday, a ray of hope emerged for the region's 45,000 Catholic elementary and secondary students, after the separate board committed to maintain current salary and benefit levels for the new school year.



Joan Ransberry

# Vandals are goofs, cowards - afraid to walk alone

If you want to know how to deal with local vandals, ask a member of the local Legion.

"Kick their asses from here to North Bay," would be a start, suggests John McGracken, president of Stouffville's Canadian Legion, Branch 459.

Reports show vandalism is on the rise in Ontario, and Stouffville has not escaped its wrath. Recently, vandals targeted the Stouffville train station, the Legion hall and Summitview Public School.

Flower pots were toppled, poles were ripped from the ground, graffiti was spray-painted on walls and a school portable was ransacked. And, the corner of Sunset Boulevard and the Ninth Line could be considered dangerous because someone covered a stop sign with white paint. (Aren't some kids in the U.S. facing jail because of a similar prank which killed a teenager?)

The problem doesn't stop at vandalism. Last week, a 13-year-old Stouffville girl was robbed and assaulted by three teens while walking in a local school playground.

This is not a one-time rash of trouble. Less than two years ago, the community was shocked when about 40 tombstones at the Stouffville Cemetery were damaged. Few would disagree: only a low-life would topple a tombstone.

In the wake of the recent crimes involving kids, Mayor Wayne Emmerson is considering inviting the public to an assembly to deal specially with the problem. The mayor said he'll ask council to support this move.

Newly appointed York Regional Police Chief Julian Fantino is encouraging town officials to take direction from the police when dealing with these situations.

Vandalism, kids hanging out into the wee hours in the downtown core, and teen violence is so serious it warrants a personal visit from the new police chief, claims Ward 4 Councillor Cliff Dunkeld. Sticking our heads in the sand or minimizing the seriousness is not

the way to go.

"Deal with it," said Dunkeld. "I'd like Chief Fantino to come to the meeting. It would be a good place for us to meet our new chief."

While I'm an old anti-war, anti-military hippy, I have the utmost respect for the Canadian Legion. Defacing any building is senseless. But damaging a legion is sick.

Vandals either don't know, or don't care if the legion is a shrine dedicated to those who laid down their lives on the altar of freedom.

If 10 vandals were given a general knowledge test, including details about world wars, the failure rate would be 90 per cent. Most vandals are goofs. As well, vandals are cowards. They have to travel in packs. They're gutless wonders - too scared to walk alone.

Let's take Chief Fantino's advice and launch a Take Back The Turf campaign. I applaud the chief.

A public assembly is in order. Of course, we need to take direction from the police.

We need cops who'll understand why vandalism cuts to the core of a small community. Don't send us cops who undermine the severity of vandalism and teen violence.

Meanwhile, we need to brainstorm. Let's talk about curfews, about anti-vandalism on the school curriculum, about more police patrols, or better police patrols, about neighborhood watch, about the adopt-a-park program, or an adopt-a-public-building program, about making parents accountable for their kids' actions, and making the vandals and the parents pay for damages.

Yes, some parents don't give a flying hoot where their kids are or what they're up to. But not all parents of troubled kids are of this ilk. Some know the kids are over the edge, but they do not know what to do or where to turn for help. A compassionate community will reach out to help such parents.

And, if all this fails, let's kick their asses from here to North Bay.

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