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18 Lack of consistency in play blamed in Stouffville Spirit loss to Markham Waxers.

ARTS & CULTURE CALENDAR

EVENT: Musical High Tea concert
WHEN: Tomorrow, 1 to 3 p.m.; 640-1163
WHERE: Stouffville United Church



12 York Region roads are becoming more and more congested as our population booms.

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TO REACH US: (905) 640-2100

High school teachers reach deal with board

Took 'all-nighter' to find solution

BY JENNIFER BROWN
STAFF WRITER

York Region public high school teachers reached a tentative deal Thursday, following marathon talks with the board.

If approved by the 1,800 teachers Tuesday, the deal will avert any further talk of strike action for high school students this year.

"It was a long road, we finished up around 6:45 a.m. this morning after meeting all day," said local union leader Gerry Harrison Thursday. "With this board, it seems to take an all-nighter to get where we want to go. But I think it's something we can accept."

Details of the deal won't be disclosed until it is ratified by teachers.

Teachers were informed about the package yesterday, giving them the weekend to review details. Voting on the settlement will take place in schools Tuesday and trustees will meet that night to ratify.

Harrison wouldn't say whether teachers got everything they were looking for in the deal, or if it was a two-year contract.

"There were always two bottom lines — the 1,250 minutes (of teaching per week) for us and the dollars for them. Looking at the tentative agreement we reached, I think it's safe to say it satisfies those two things," he said.

"But there's always a problem with money in the second year."

However, under Bill 160 all new contracts must be for two years.

For board negotiation chairper-

See CREATIVE, page 5.

EMERGENCY SERVICES: Tribune article prompts York Region to take action

Fixing a 911 glitch

BY JOAN RANSBERRY
STAFF WRITER

A 911 failure involving a Whitchurch-Stouffville emergency has triggered a region-wide action plan.

York Region's 911 operating committee is moving quickly to ensure a glitch in the system — like the one experienced by Kathleen Gibson of Stouffville —

doesn't happen again, committee chairperson Gord Landon vows.

Last month, despite repeated calls to 911, Gibson failed to get a response when a field fire threatened executive-style homes in her subdivision.

When Gibson spotted the fire near her Lori Avenue home, she dialed 911. But instead of getting help, Gibson got the run around.

Her first 911 call was transferred to the Pickering Fire Department, where she was put on hold when she explained she lived in Stouffville.

Gibson was advised to call 911 again, but she elected to call the Stouffville Fire Department administration number, where she encountered an answering machine.

Gibson then re-dialed 911, but the operator again wanted to route the call to Pickering.

Finally, after about 10 more minutes, she reached the local fire department, which promptly responded.

An investigation revealed that Gibson's address was missing

See SYSTEM, page 3.



PHOTO/CHERYL JOHNSON

HAPPY HALLOWEEN

Riders enjoy the last run of the season last Saturday on the York-Durham Heritage Railway's final tour from Uxbridge to Goodwood stations. So many people dressed up for the occasion, organizers say next year they'll extend the ride over two nights.

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