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# Fate of Buttonville still up in the air

From page 1

other body which agrees to provide funding to continue the airport use.

Derek Sifton, Toronto Airways vice-president, has maintained the yearly \$1.5 million is necessary to keep the 16th Avenue airport in operation. The Sifton family owns the land and could sell it for development.

Buttonville, surrounded by subdivisions, handles more private air traffic than Pearson International.

Last year, Ontario Premier Mike Harris granted an emergency extension

of the subsidy to avoid putting an unacceptable burden on Pearson and the Toronto Island Airport, but warned it would be the "last call".

The airport has to make itself viable, York Region chairperson Bill Fisch said this week, and it has worked with the GTAA for months to review ways of doing business and finding additional revenues.

"Our job is to keep Buttonville going as long as we can," Fisch said, adding the region will continue its own \$200,000-a-year subsidy (adjusted to \$242,652 in 1999), but doesn't expect to

pay more. This week, GTAA vice-president Steve Shaw was saying little about the negotiations.

"We've had discussions and they've been ongoing," he said.

The GTAA should consider that the airport has benefited the whole region, Markham MPP Dave Tsubouchi said Tuesday. "There are a lot of advantages that Buttonville does have."

And Cousens said Buttonville's prospects for business look good, making it all the more important to maintain as an asset for Greater Toronto.

## MERRY CHRISTMAS



PHOTO/TERRY MASON  
 Markham MPP Dave Tsubouchi (centre) donates 24 turkeys to Markham's Salvation Army, with help from Darcy Piggott of the MPP's office and Owen Budden of the Salvation Army.

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## Lockout at glass factory

BY PATRICK CASEY  
 Staff Writer

Employees at a Concord glass factory are questioning the motives of management in locking them out 12 days before Christmas.

According to local union president Victor Afuwape, AFGD Industries Ltd. locked out its 210 unionized employees last Monday, moments after the members of Local 1985 of the Teamsters union rejected management's contract offer by an 84-per-cent margin.

"We didn't have any intention of walking out, we wanted to continue to negotiate," Afuwape said earlier this week, noting the workers had given the union a 92-per-cent strike mandate.

"When we told company vice-president Frank Davey of the contract rejection, he told us to wish our membership a merry Christmas and he was locking the doors in 10 minutes."

On Tuesday a representative at AFGD Industries refused comment on the labour turmoil.

No new talks are scheduled and employees estimate about 40 replacement workers have been brought in to work at the plant.

Located near Keele Street and Hwy. 407, AFGD Industries is a glass fabrication plant with workers rotating three shifts 24 hours a day.

The union's three-year contract expired Nov. 30 and Afuwape said the union sought mediation on Dec. 8.