**INSIDE:** Courts . . . . . . 3
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**7** On the local front, 150 residents showed up to hear the latest from opponents of the pool plan.

**ARTS & CULTURE CALENDAR**
**EVENT:** Skating party (adults only)
**WHEN:** Tuesday, 7:30 p.m.
**WHERE:** Cedarena, 294-0038

**10** Half the people waiting for an organ in Ontario will not receive a transplant.

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## Shore inquest stalled again

*Crucial witness unable to testify*

BY RICK VANDERLINDE
*Staff Writer*

A coroner's inquest probing how 10-year-old Lisa Shore died at Sick Children's Hospital was suddenly adjourned Friday, shortly before a "pivotal" witness was to testify.

Reasons behind the unexpected postponement were wrapped in mystery, with only deputy chief coroner Dr. Jim Cairns, hospital lawyer Stephen Hawkins and Crown attorney Margaret Browne being privy to the details.

The Shore family's lawyer, Frank Gomberg, said he was only told the inquest had to be postponed for "legal reasons".

"I don't know the issue, but it's very disturbing that legal issues are arising now," Gomberg said. "We've already had this inquest postponed once before for legal issues."

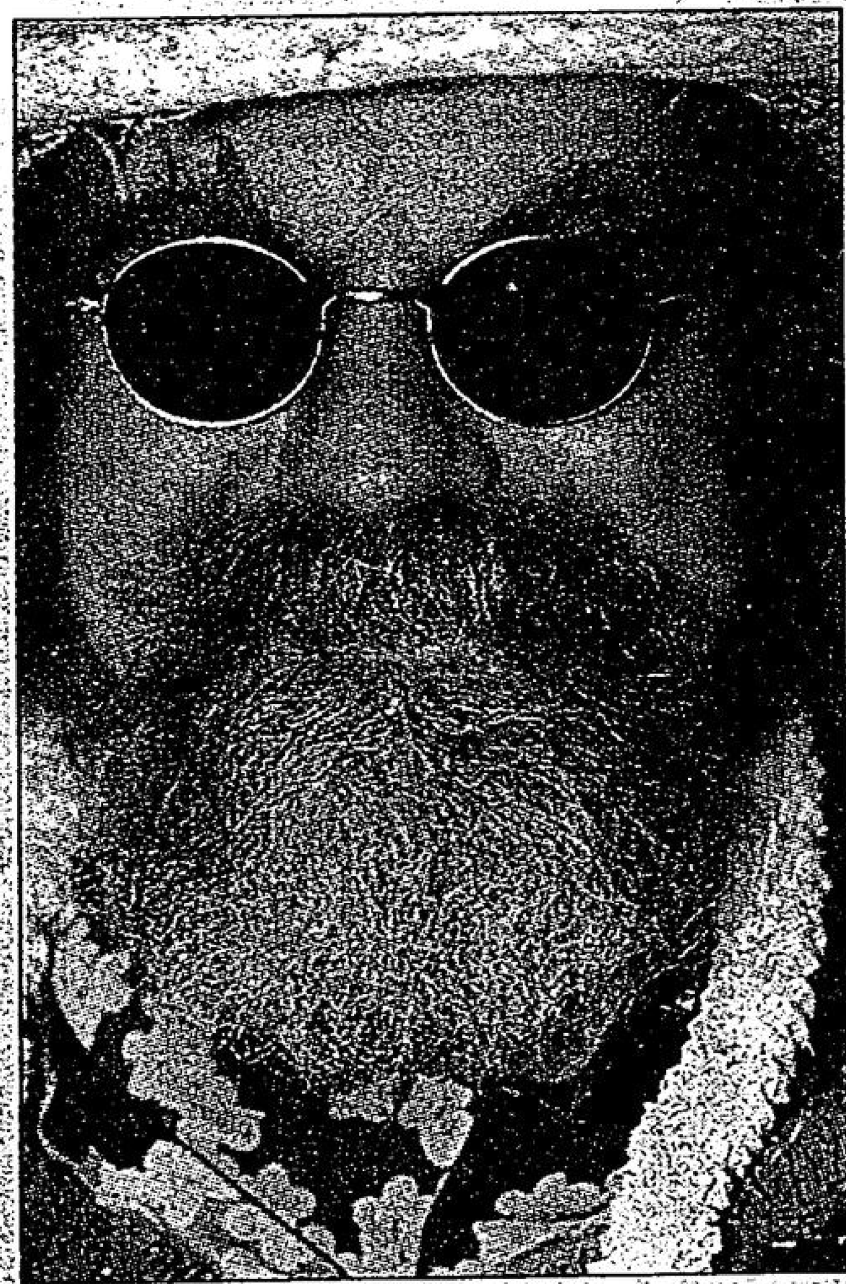
Scheduled to testify was the Thornhill girl's primary care nurse, Ruth Doerkson, someone Sharon and Bill Shore have been waiting to hear from ever since their daughter's Oct. 22, 1998 death.

Lisa died under Doerkson's watch after she was admitted to hospital to control pain from a non-life-threatening disorder.

Although she has yet to testify, Doerkson's care on the night of Lisa's death has been questioned

*See* **NURSE**, *page 8.*

## *Class acts*



STAFF PHOTOS/SJOERD WITTEVEEN

Teachers at Glad Park Public School were at the mercy of creative students during Wacky Dress-Up Day Thursday. Clockwise from top left: Melissa Willis is decked out as Mimi from *The Drew Carey Show*; Neil Bennett was turned into a Hawaiian hula girl; Michael Cohen got star treatment as a Martian; Adeline Griffin is in fine form to run off and join the circus.

## Cops get cash for copter

*Hiring of 41 officers approved in police budget*

BY PATRICK CASEY
*Staff Writer*

York Regional Police will get their helicopter, as well as 41 new officers and more than $1 million in new programs.

The York Region finance committee endorsed the force's $84.7-million budget, which represents an increase of nearly $6.2 million over last year, on Thursday.

The average household will pay $396.98 for policing this year, $16.81 more than in 1999.

The fledgling helicopter program is to cost the region only $380,000 this year. The helicopter itself has been donated by an anonymous benefactor, and the staffing will come from existing officers.

"To me, the helicopter program is one that touches everyone. It impacts everything we do, and has a direct benefit," Chief Julian Fantino said after the meeting.

The police association had argued the force would be better off spending its money on front-line officers than on a helicopter.

The region is spending $900,000 on new hirings, which include 21 front-line recruits. The province will pay a portion of their salaries until 2004 as part of the 77 officers approved for the Community Policing Grant.

The new recruits make York Region the second-largest police force in the GTA, with 909 officers.

New programs slated to begin this year include a year-round RIDE unit; a centralized major fraud unit to handle frauds in excess of $10,000; two constables for a cold case squad; an air support unit; a Repeat Offenders and Parole Enforcement (ROPE) unit — a joint project with the Toronto police department to track the movement of paroled criminals with a high risk of re-offending.

Officer salaries and benefits continue to comprise nearly 75 per cent of the budget.

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