

Police, school boards take hit at pumps

BY MIKE ADLER
Staff Writer

York Region's school boards, police department, municipalities and even private firms are feeling the pinch due to higher fuel prices.

The school boards will take a big hit from diesel prices that peaked in February — an estimated \$432,000 for the school year ending this month.

"We take advantage of the good times and we have to pay in the bad times," said David Martin, manager of student transportation services, the transportation firm for area public and separate boards.

Jointly run by both boards, STS has contracts that compensate its bus operators when fuel prices go over a certain level.

Meanwhile, fuel costs already have York Regional Police \$255,000 in the hole in the first four months of this year.

"For each additional penny per litre, it costs the police department \$20,000 on an annual basis," said Mark Holland, the force's financial officer, at last month's police services board meeting.

York Regional Police Chief Robert Middaugh said the force must find better, more efficient ways to purchase gas. Filling up at a local station is now out of the question, he said.

"We will fill up at the regional tank where we can purchase in bulk," Middaugh said.

"It's a \$200,000 issue," Middaugh said the police force will investigate propane and natural gas as alternatives.

Local municipalities combine their buying power in what is called the York Region Buyers Co-operative when shopping for wholesale fuel, said Bob Nicolson, capital assets manager of the Town of Markham.

By the end of April, the town was about 15 per cent over its fuel budget, he said.

Nicolson said Markham has

stepped up enforcement of its no-idling rule for town drivers and is taking other fuel-saving measures.

And, unlike the school bus operators, the private operators for the region's biggest transit fleets, Markham and Vaughan transit, don't have any contract protection against escalating fuel costs.

Wilf Morely, volunteer chairperson for Stouffville's Mobility Transit for the disabled, said he sympathizes with the service's drivers and is willing to see the town's contract with them re-opened.

"I have offered to talk about the additional costs they must be assuming," he said.

Fuel prices have also affected firms that supply products made with petroleum, such as roofing shingles and asphalt.

"It's certainly having an enormous impact on the whole road business," confirmed Stephen Damp, vice president of Miller Paving in Markham.

But while most of the company's increased costs can be passed on to the taxpayer, who pays for the road-building, or to new homebuyers, Miller is still losing money on service vehicles operating on gas, Damp said.

"We're getting hurt as well as all the residents in the region."

Recent petroleum industry press releases state low supplies in the U.S. are driving up wholesale prices and the price of crude oil.

Holland reminded the board that while propane costs less and is more environmentally friendly than gasoline, an experiment converting cruisers to propane was not successful.

"Our experience has been new engines don't convert well to propane," Holland said, citing backfiring and lacklustre performance.

"We chose to get out of the propane business but maybe it's time to look at it again. There may be changes to the technology that would make it feasible."

— with files from Kathleen Griffin

Improve their Grades and Confidence!

Our individualized learning program will help your child learn to think, focus, and rediscover motivation at school.

OXFORD

LEARNING CENTRES®

www.oxfordlearning.com

ASK ABOUT OUR SUMMER CAMPS

UNIONVILLE

(Highway 7 near Kennedy)

513-8186



Learning for School - Learning for Life!

READING · WRITING · SPELLING · FRENCH · MATH · STUDY SKILLS · LITTLE READERS®



FROM INFERTILITY TO FAMILY IVF CANADA CAN HELP FREE INFERTILITY SEMINARS

The professionals at IVF CANADA will be conducting FREE SEMINARS outlining the newest assisted reproductive technologies available that may help you achieve your family.

- in vitro fertilization
- blastocyst culturing
- gestational surrogacy
- ICSI (for male factor infertility)
- ovulation induction/insemination
- ova (egg) donation
- IVM (in vitro maturation)

IVF CANADA has arranged seminars in the following locations:

THU. JUNE 8 TH	SAT. JUNE 17 TH	SAT. JUNE 24 TH
7:00 p.m.	1:00 p.m.	1:00 p.m.
Sheraton Parkway Vaughan Room (Hwy. 7 & Leslie)	Holiday Inn Oshawa Harmony Hall (Bloor St. Oshawa)	Westin Prince Hotel Crown Room (900 York Mills Rd. Tor.)



SPACE IS LIMITED
CALL MARGARET AT (416) 754-8742
TO RESERVE YOUR COMPLIMENTARY SEAT

IVF CANADA - Creating Families Since 1999

the
Bay
home services

DUCT CLEANING

SALE! - ONE WEEK ONLY - SAVE \$70



\$159 WHOLE HOUSE PACKAGE*

NO HIDDEN CHARGES!

OUR REG. \$229, INCLUDES:

- UNLIMITED VENTS & DUCTS
- FREE VENT COVER CLEANING
- FREE ACCESS DOORS
- NO TRAVEL CHARGES

Benefits:

Duct cleaning helps relieve symptoms of allergies, asthma and respiratory discomfort by removing indoor airborne irritants such as dirt, dust, animal dander and pollen.

Process:

Industrial grade equipment brush vacuums the air ducts and vents. Our equipment is fitted with highly efficient HEPA filters to trap particles as small as 1/300th of a human hair and to filter out 99.97% of dust and dirt.

Electrostatic Air Filters:

* Now available

CALL MONDAY - SATURDAY 8:00 AM - 6:00 PM

416-239-1862

*For single furnace systems.
Residential orders only. Services not available in all areas. Offer expires June 10, 2000.



© Copyright 2000 Hudson's Bay Company

William Berczy Public School
presents

FUNFAIR 2000

BBQ, Games, Face Painting,
Prizes and more!

RAIN OR SHINE!

An **EXCITING** day of fun
for the whole family!

Saturday, June 10, 2000

11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

120 Carlton Road, Unionville

SEE YOU THERE!

GIANT Air Conditioner SALE CASH AND CARRY

- 1 1/2 TON - \$1,057
- 2 TON - \$1,157
- 2 1/2 TON - \$1,257
- 3 TON - \$1,357

CALL FOR

INSTALLED PRICE



SALES & SERVICE OF WINDOW UNITS

BEAM *plus* Heating & Cooling

4508 Kingston Road

(416) 281-5535

VICTORIA SQUARE COMMUNITY FAMILY DAY

Saturday June 17, 10:00 - 6:00

Woodbine Ave. & Elgin Mills Rd.

- Games
- Live Music
- Petting Zoo
- Popcorn
- Crafts
- Dunk Tank
- Bake Sale
- AND MORE!

ONE LOW PRICE...FREE!