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5 A Brother Andre graduate has made a pilgrimage to Rome to join in a special event.

ARTS & CULTURE CALENDAR

EVENT: VW Car Show
WHEN: Sunday, all day
WHERE: Stouffville Country Market

18 Science-fiction writer Robert Sawyer has acquired more awards.

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LOCAL PUBLIC BOARD CHAIRPERSON FEELS CONFIDENT YORK TEACHERS WILL BE IN SCHOOL

Teachers on verge of strike

BY GIANNI COLAVECCHIA
Staff Writer

The head of the York Region public school board says he is confident local teachers will be in class next September despite the fact they're on the verge of a strike.

The York Region branch of the Ontario Secondary School Teachers Federation is among dozens of locals to sign a "no-board" report —

a written declaration that says negotiators don't feel they can reach collective agreements.

Teacher contracts across the province are set to expire Aug. 31. As with many of its counterparts in Ontario, York Region's public school board has held only a few meetings with its teachers union.

The signing of the reports is a major step toward putting teachers

in a strike position during contract negotiations.

Chairperson Bill Crothers maintained he's confident the signing of the report won't alter an earlier prediction the school year will resume in September with teachers in classrooms and off picket lines.

"This doesn't change anything as far as we're concerned," he said Friday. "It's quite obvious this is part

of a provincial union strategy. It's not a local issue. It's a provincial issue."

Provincial union officials have had locals across Ontario sign reports in an attempt to gain leverage in their dispute with the province, he explained.

Teachers are angry with legisla-

See TEACHERS, page 12.

Agency appeals for more blood donations

Summer accidents deplete blood supply

BY DAWN LIERSCH
Staff Writer

Canadian Blood Services has launched an appeal for blood donors after a surge of car and boating accidents this summer has caused supplies to dwindle.

Although no surgery has been cancelled to date, there is a concern elective surgery may end up being delayed if stores of O-positive-type blood — the most common type — aren't replenished soon, said Doug Brenner, communications manager for Canadian Blood Services Toronto Centre.

"There is an urgent need. We've had a number of transplant surgeries and some serious car and boat accidents and, combined with the fact that many people are away during the summer at cottages, our inventory has been depleted," he said.

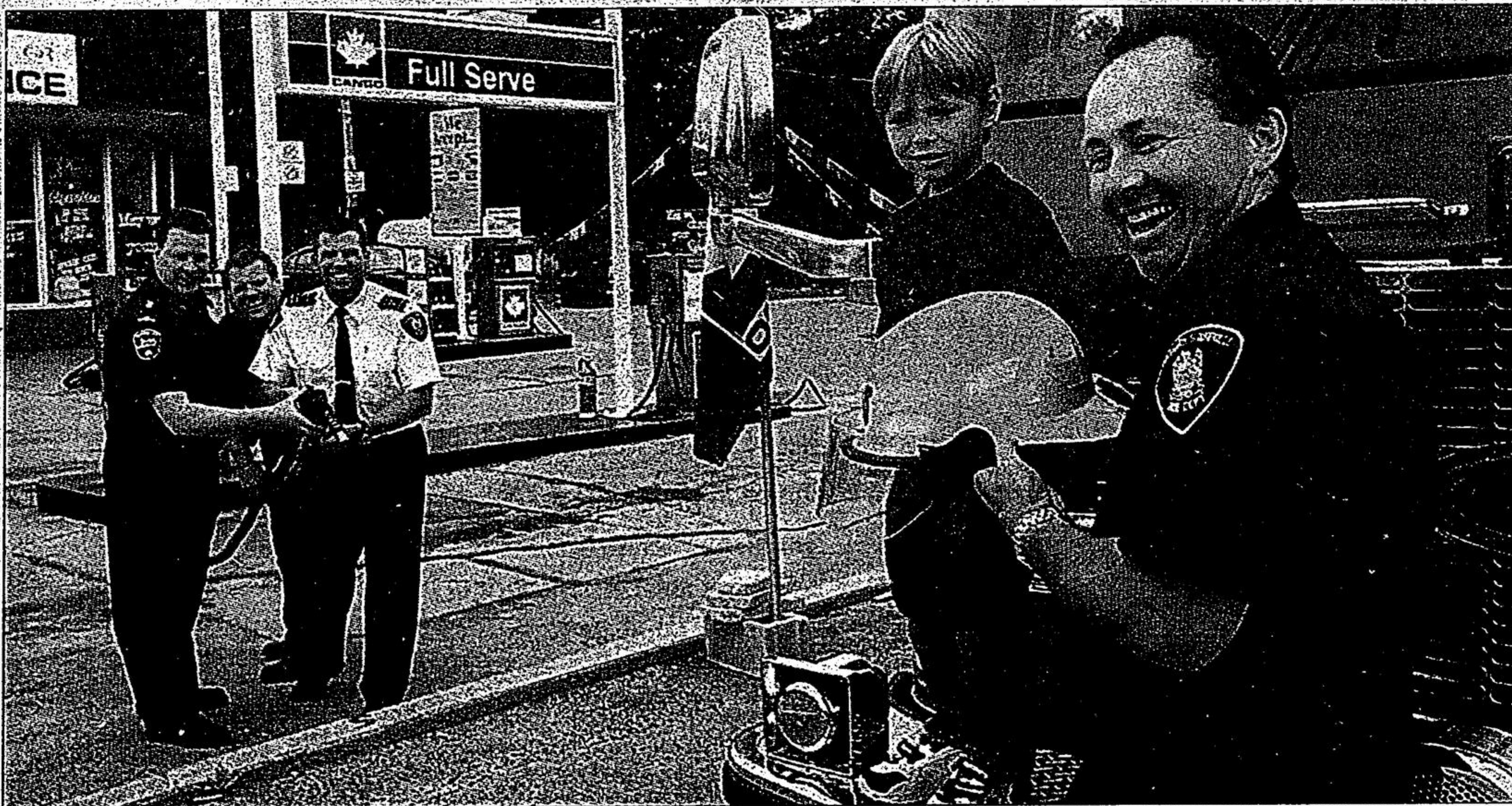
Canadian Blood Services Toronto Centre, a non-profit organization, supplies blood to 53 hospitals, including those in York Region.

While local hospitals haven't been seriously affected by the shortage, some hospital staff are keeping a close watch on supplies.

"It is an issue. It's something we're reviewing on a daily basis," said Melina Cormier, York Central Hospital's public affairs director.

Although blood shortages

See ONLY, page 4.



STAFF PHOTO/SJOERD WITTEVEN

COMMITTED TO KEEPING CHILDREN SAFE

Stouffville and Richmond Hill firefighters were on hand yesterday at the Cango station on Woodbine Avenue in Vondorf to help raise funds and awareness for the Risk Watch Program, dedicated to teaching youngsters in York Region elementary schools about safety. Cango donated a penny from each litre of gas sold. (From left) Richmond Hill firefighter Randy Pyle, Stouffville Capt. Paul Stover and Stouffville Deputy Chief Tim Beckett strain with the diesel hose as Devon McCormick, 4, and Stouffville firefighter Jeff Harman tell them to fill 'er up. To support Risk Watch, call Beckett or Harman at 640-9595.

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