

Big bucks for textbooks

BY STEFANIA RIZZI
Staff Writer

York Region's school boards will receive close to \$5 million from the province to purchase new textbooks and technology-based resources.

Earlier this week, Premier Ernie Eves and Education Minister Elizabeth Witmer announced the government will boost funding for textbooks by \$65 million.

York Region District School Board will receive about \$3 million, while its Catholic counterpart will receive about \$1.5 million.

Since 1995, the Tory government has provided school boards with more than \$165 million for textbooks. However, with an increasing textbook shortage, school councils across the region were using fundraising dollars to purchase much-needed textbooks.

"My kids are constantly working off of photocopies," said Heidi Kreiner-Ley, chairperson of St. Mary Immaculate Catholic School council. "My kids are pretty resourceful, they use the internet, but it's not the place of parents to have to fundraise for textbooks."

While she welcomes the announcement, the Richmond Hill mother of two hopes the government will follow through on its electoral promise.

"They have to make sure (textbooks) are in the classroom come September," Mrs. Kreiner-Ley said. "They have to be delivered before the year starts. They have to be available now, not a year from now."

Although increased funding will help replace worn-out textbooks, public school board education director Bill Hogarth could not say whether each



BILL HOGARTH: "This goes an awfully long way to address the problem."

student will have their own textbooks in September.

"In some areas, we'll still need to catch up, but this goes an awfully long way to address the problem," said Mr. Hogarth, explaining each science or math textbook could cost up to \$80.

York Catholic District School Board chairperson Elizabeth Crowe said the board will use its share of the grant to purchase Grade 12 textbooks. Any remaining funds will be used to purchase other textbooks.

Although the increased funds are welcome, Mrs. Crowe said the grant does not address other challenges facing school boards, such as the lack of funding for special education, staff or busing.

The increased funding will come as a relief to teachers struggling to teach with

insufficient resources, York Region's Elementary Teachers Federation of Ontario president David Clegg said.

"Teachers are pulling their hair out, sharing one set (of textbooks) between three classes," he explained. "History, science — teachers did not have the textbooks or resources available to teach the new curriculum ... this is very welcome."

Ontario Student Trustee Association president Peter Wightman believes quality of education will improve as a result of increased funding.

"It was difficult to work with fewer textbooks. Teachers were resorting to photocopying," said the Markham teenager. "Our learning was affected. We had to completely change our learning style."

"In English, if there was one class set of Hamlet books, you had to quickly write your assignment in class and leave the book behind."

"You couldn't take it home, so how were you supposed to write a proper essay?" said the Brother Andre Catholic High School student. "Any infusion of money into the system is very welcome."

As part of last Wednesday's announcement, Mr. Eves also promised to create a \$50-million fund for school boards to pay for busing or special education programs and establish a \$25-million-a-year junior kindergarten to Grade 3 math program.

In addition, Ms. Witmer said she will review the teacher recertification program and the mandatory test graduating faculty of education students must pass in order to receive their teaching certificates.



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The LEGACY



**5 KM
RUN/WALK
at Markham Green G.C.**

Sunday, April 28, 2002

In support of



Legacy Community /
Markham Green G.C.
(9th line and 14th Avenue)
Markham, Ontario

Legacy Information Line:
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EVENT INFORMATION

DATE: Sunday, April 28, 2002, 10:00 a.m. sharp
PLACE: Legacy Community at 9th line and 14th Avenue, Markham

REGISTRATION FEES:

- Adults \$20 (waived if \$100 or more in pledges is submitted) (\$30.00 after April 19th)*
- Secondary school students \$20 (waived if \$50 or more in pledges is submitted)*
- Elementary school students \$10 (waived if \$25 or more in pledges is submitted)*
- Team entry fee \$200 (waived if \$500 or more in pledges is submitted)*

*After April 19th registration fees cannot be waived

REGISTRATION / PLEDGE PAYMENT:

- In person at the Richmond Hill RUNNING ROOM (8900 Yonge St., Unit 1, Richmond Hill)
- On line at www.sportstats.on.ca prior to April 24th (\$2.00 surcharge)
- In person at the Markham Stouffville Hospital Foundation office (Prior to Apr. 23rd, Monday-Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.)
- By mail post marked by April 16th to: Markham Stouffville Hospital Foundation (381 Church Street, P.O. Box 1800, Markham, Ontario, L3P 7P3)
- By fax with credit card # to: Markham Stouffville Hospital Foundation Fax: (905) 472-7018
- Event Day 8:00 to 9:30 a.m. at the Registration Tent

PAYMENT: Cash, Cheque, Visa, Mastercard or Amex
Please make cheques payable to the MSH Foundation.

*Please note pledges cannot be submitted via on-line registration

FOR MORE INFORMATION: Call (905) 472-7373 Ext: 3777 or contact the Richmond Hill RUNNING ROOM Store at 8900 Yonge St., Unit #1, Richmond Hill (905) 764-7255

RACE KIT & T-SHIRT PICK-UP

- Race Kit & T-Shirt (long sleeved) Pick-Up at RUNNING ROOM Store (Richmond Hill location only) April 24th to 26th 10:00 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. and Sat. April 27 10:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
 - Race Day at the Registration Tent
 - Race Kits and T-shirts for first 1,500 registered participants
- The Champion Chip timing system by Sportstats will be used for timing the event. All participants will have to pick up a timing chip at the start line on race morning.

ENTRY FORM

Please complete one Entry Form per individual

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Prov: _____

Postal Code: _____ Phone#: _____

Male Female Age _____ (Age required to be eligible for race prizes)

TEAM OR SCHOOL CATEGORY:

Check here if you are a member of a team / school

Team / School Name: _____

REGISTRATION FEES: (no refunds will be issued)

- Adults \$20 (waived if \$100 or more in pledges is submitted)
- Adults \$30 if received after April 19th
- Secondary school students \$20 (waived if \$50 or more in pledges is submitted)
- Elementary school students \$10 (waived if \$25 or more in pledges is submitted)
- Team entry fee \$200 (waived if \$500 or more in pledges is submitted)

After April 19th registration fees will not be waived.

PAYMENT METHOD:

- AMEX VISA MC Cash
- Cheque (payable to Markham Stouffville Hospital Foundation)

Card #: _____

Name on Card: _____

Expiry Date: M _____ Y _____

Signature: _____

2002 LEGACY RUN/WALK RELEASE & INDEMNITY
I, the undersigned, in consideration of the acceptance of my application and the permission to participate as an entrant or competitor in the Legacy 5KM Run/Walk 1, for myself, my heirs, executors, administrators, successors and assigns HEREBY RELEASE, WAIVE, AND FOREVER DISCHARGE the sponsoring bodies and sponsoring companies, from any and all claims, demands, damages, costs, expenses, action, and causes of action whether in law or equity, in respect of death, injury, loss or damage to my person or property HOWSOEVER CAUSED, arising or to arise by reason of my participation in the said event, whether as a spectator, participant, competitor, or otherwise, whether prior to, during, or subsequent to the event AND NOTWITHSTANDING that the same may have been contributed to or occasioned by the negligence of any of the aforesaid, I HEREBY UNDERTAKE TO HOLD AND SAVE HARMLESS AND AGREE TO INDEMNIFY all of the aforesaid from and against any or all liability incurred by any or all of them arising as a result of or in any way connected with my participation in this event, BY SUBMITTING THIS ENTRY, I ACKNOWLEDGE HAVING READ, UNDERSTOOD, AND AGREED TO THE ABOVE WAIVER, RELEASE, and INDEMNITY. I WARRANT that I am physically fit to participate in this event.

Signature: _____

Parent/Guardian: (if under 18 yrs.) _____

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We would like to thank all the participants, families, the Legacy community, volunteers and sponsors for their on-going support of the Legacy Event for the Markham Stouffville Hospital Cardiac Equipment Fund.



Prepared for the Legacy 5KM Run / Walk by The Gibson Group