

VILLAGE ANIMAL CLINIC

is pleased to announce the
GRAND OPENING of
"HOG 'N DOGZ"
Doggie Daycare



Located within its premises at
6060 Hwy. #7
Mon. - Fri. 7 am to 7 pm



For a tour or an appointment please call
905-294-7956

York school suspensions up

BY MITCHELL BROWN
Staff Writer

Teachers in York Region's public system handed out 1,453 more suspensions last year, a dramatic 28 per cent increase that can only be partly explained by the province's new Safe Schools Act, a school superintendent said.

Last year, 6,633 students were suspended in the public system, compared to 5,180 the year before.

"There are certainly more words in it like 'must' and 'shall' and 'mandatory,'" John Havercroft said. "It's a more rigorous app-

roach in terms of consequences for behaviour and I suggest it reflects across North America our reaction to violence and bullying."

Introduced last September, the act gives teachers the authority to hand out one-day suspensions for such infractions as vandalism, bullying, uttering threats or possessing illegal drugs.

The rules also make expulsion mandatory for anyone selling drugs, committing a robbery or sexual assault, or bringing a firearm on school grounds.

As a result, York Region secondary tea-

chers handed out 3,356 suspensions during the 2001-02 school year, compared to 2,630 the year before. The number of elementary student suspensions rose 23 per cent during the same time, from 2,550 to 3,277.

These numbers reflect what's happening in other districts. Students in the Toronto District School Board, for example, saw a 40 per cent increase in suspensions last year, while the Durham board reported a 35 per cent increase.

Numbers for York Region's Catholic school board weren't available, but a spokesperson said the board already had many of the act's requirements in place.

While the introduction of the Safe Schools Act is a factor in the rise, Mr. Havercroft said it wasn't the only reason.

"The (suspension)

rate has increased over the past four years," he said. "So to say it was just the Safe Schools Act, you just can't point to that."

Another possible reason for the increase, he said, is the lack of resources to deal with students' problems before they reach the stage of suspension.

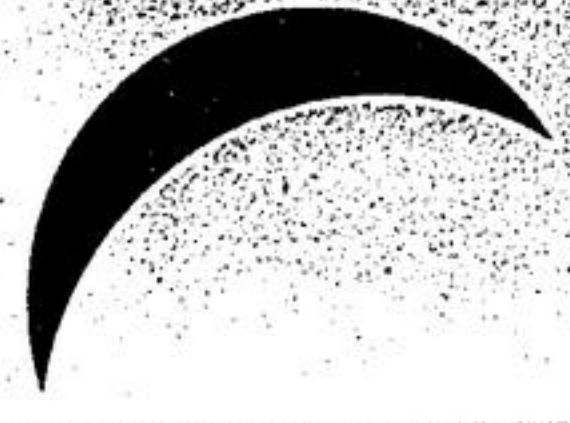
"If you look at the changes in the funding formula since 1997, we have virtually no guidance teachers in our elementary schools anymore," he said.

"So when you look at the resources available in schools to work with kids at risk, the ones who may be in need of some emotional stability in their lives, these resources have dwindled."

Society may also be partly to blame, he suggested, adding children are "reflecting a change of attitude," when it comes to respect for authority.

Bag it for us.
It's a great way to give.

Global



680News
ALL NEWS RADIO

98.1CHFI
Toronto's Soft Rock

Distributed Compliments Of
WELCOME WAGON
SINCE 1930

Coming soon to your neighbourhood, the Salvation Army Blue Bag! Here's how you can help...fill our bag with clean, useable clothing, linens and shoes. Drop the bag off to the mall listed below. Help us help so many in real need.

MARKHAM
ECONOMIST & SUN

MARKVILLE
www.shopmarkville.com
Drop off located at Lower Level Bay Court

Trails
OUTDOOR GEAR AND BICYCLES

MID SUMMER BIKE CLEARANCE up to **50% off**

Adult Mountain Bikes From \$166	Norco "Trash Metal" Freestyle BMX Reg. \$329 \$233
Haro "Revo" Freestyle BMX Reg. \$449 \$344	Adult Hybrid Bikes From \$299

Kids Bikes From **\$99**

ALL HELMETS 20-50% off
26x1.9 MTB Tires **\$4.99**

www.trails-outdoors.ca
905-508-7077 10133 YONGE ST.

Stop Dreaming. Start Flying.

Looking for something different?
Go where no one can catch you!
Experience the thrill and freedom of flight.
Call now and book your first flight for \$65.00 + GST.

And register for our
FREE Ground School Offer
Free information seminar every Saturday at 10:00am throughout July & August.
Call to Register.

Call us at (905) 477-8110
or e-mail us at john.davis@torontoairways.com

Toronto Airways Ltd.
www.torontoairways.com

Cessna
A Textron Company