

WAXER IN SPIRITED RACE



STAFF PHOTO/MIKE BARRETT

Markham Waxer Ryan Olidis (left) and J.D. Smithson of the Stouffville Spirit race for the puck during Provincial Junior A Hockey League game Thursday at the Stouffville Arena. The Spirit, which won 6-3, hosts North York tonight. See story on page 16.

Money for schools called 'damage repair'

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increase in special education funding once the government has the final results of a review of the Intensive Support Amount funding approach, expected by the end of the month.

While both boards expressed their thanks for the immediate relief, the region's sole Liberal MPP blasted his Tory colleagues for "politicizing" education funding in the region.

"For seven years, (the Conservatives) starved the system and now they're throwing a few crumbs their way," Vaughan-King-Aurora MPP Greg Sorbara said.


"They're just trying to put a positive spin on what they've done to the system. I would be less cynical if they just came forward and acknowledged, 'We've done some serious damage and now we want to repair it.'"

Mr. Eves' funding announcements came on the heels of a Dec. 10 report by University of Guelph president Mordechai Rozanski on the state of education funding in the province.

The report listed 33 recommendations, including increased funding for special education programs and an immediate infusion of cash to stave off a possible walkout of secondary teachers who had threatened to strike in February if the government did not come through with more money for contract negotiations.

In response, Mr. Eves pledged \$20 million for student transportation, \$230 million for special education and \$340 million to help boards across the province reach contracts with their staff. Elementary and secondary teachers with York's public school board have been without a contract since August.

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