

Stouffville Says

By Hannelore Volpe

Will you be spending more or less for gifts this Christmas?

— Asked in Stouffville

Sil MASSA



More. I find that prices are really good this year because of competition. Stores are offering better deals — and better service.

Vic SANDERS



I will probably be spending a lot less because last year I gave a very elaborate gift to several people, which I won't be doing this year.

Vera DAMTSIS



I have spent more this year. I finished shopping early, so now I am picking up extras, which I really should not be doing.

Chris TINKER



Less. Instead of buying things for people, I will give most of them money. I never know what to get the teenagers.



STAFF PHOTO/BILL ROBERTS

Early Christmas

Gladys Bolton (left) and Ann Prentice check out gifts from Santa during the annual seniors Christmas luncheon and party at Christ Church Anglican in Stouffville last week.

Fights plague school hockey

BY MIKE HAYAKAWA
Staff Writer

Don't fight. Don't abuse officials.

President Steve Shantz wants the warnings to his colleagues in the York Region Athletic Association boys' hockey circuit to be crystal clear.

Under the YRAA rules, fighting or abuse require a hearing before the association's board of reference. Often, those found guilty are suspended for the season.

What disturbs Mr. Shantz is the alarmingly high number of hearings through the first two weeks of the regular season — 17 in the senior and junior ranks.

Ten stemmed from fighting, including seven from one game Nov. 27 between Unionville and Keswick high schools. As well, a coach must appear before an executive review of conduct for alleged abuse of an official.

Hockey hearings last year accounted for close to 55 per cent of all of the YRAA hearings.

In an e-mail last week to 150 York Region hockey coaches, principals and other officials, Mr. Shantz warned these hearings must be immediately curbed.

While the Toronto Star hinted Sunday the warning could lead to the end of a season if the numbers continue to increase, Mr. Shantz insisted it won't.

Cancelling hockey is not

our intention. The e-mail memo that was sent was an awareness thing.

"I just want the coaches to take the time to go over with the student athletes the code of conduct that's in the YRAA constitution and talk to them of their personal philosophy towards sport," said Mr. Shantz, who teaches physical education at Stouffville District Secondary School.

Mr. Shantz isn't the only one concerned with what has transpired in the YRAA hockey circuit. Some coaches think the game has evolved into a good extracurricular activity and shouldn't be shut down.

If someone on our team fights, our rules are that the player is kicked off the school team and is suspended from school for three days.

It would be a horrible thing to do (to cancel the high school hockey season), said Dave Turner, in his 17th year of coaching senior boys' hockey at Brother Andre Catholic High School in Markham.

"Schools like Markham District High and Stouffville District have done a good job

with their kids. And our club has been known province-wide as being a classy team.

Mr. Shantz said rules, as drawn up in the YRAA coaches' handbook, were designed to educate student athletes on and off the playing field.

"What we do in the YRAA is to treat ejections from a sport as real-life situations. How can you learn from them so it won't be ongoing in life? Not just hockey, but other sports, too," he said.

"We're educators first here," said Mr. Turner, who has had one player go to a hearing. "Whatever rules they have for basketball, football or rugby are consistent for what our association does for all sports."

Some school teams have added their own touch of discipline if anyone incurs a major infraction.

"If someone on our team fights, our rules are that the player is kicked off the school team and is suspended from school for three days," said Jamie Hewitt, Stouffville District Secondary School senior boys' head coach.

What Mr. Shantz and other coaches see as the root of the problem is players or coaches who come from community programs and do not adapt to high school rules.

"There's supposed to be no fighting in the high school game," Mr. Hewitt said.

Briefly

Father hurt, son charged

Police arrested a Stouffville man early Monday morning after his father said his life was threatened.

The victim said he was grabbed by the neck. Several household items were reportedly thrown at the victim and some minimal damage was done to door frames and kitchen doors inside the home before police were called.

When the victim asked that the suspect be removed from the home, police say the suspect came toward officers in "an aggressive manner" was "physically resisting" and was handcuffed before being taken out into a police car.

A 39-year-old man is charged with assault with a weapon, uttering death threats, resisting arrest and destruction of property under \$5,000.

Man claims harassment

Police have charged a Scarborough woman whose estranged Whitchurch-Stouffville husband says he was harassed.

Police say the couple, who has a one-year-old daughter, have been legally separated for more than two years, but only moved apart six months ago.

Since that time the husband says he has been constantly followed. His landlord said he was phoned 70 times in one day by someone looking for the victim.

Police say the man's life may have been threatened.

A 33-year-old Scarborough woman is charged with criminal harassment, threatening death and interference.

Lights contest deadline

Saturday is the deadline for entries in the 14th annual Stouffville Christmas lights competition. E-mail entries to jmason@yrng.com. Phone 905-640-2612 for more information.

Quoteworthy

A person who is retired or elderly seems to be taken in by frauds more easily.

Const. Carline Young on holiday scams. See story on page 5.

Contacting Us

Have a news tip? Please phone us at (905) 640-2612. e-mail us at jmason@yrng.com. visit us at 34 Civic Ave., Stouffville.

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