



STAFF PHOTO/STEVE SOMERVILLE

Restoration specialist Dan Bernardo works on the damaged gym floor at Stouffville District Secondary School Monday.

Burst pipe closes high school gym

Physical education classes and varsity teams scheduled to use the gymnasium floor at Stouffville District Secondary School Monday were denied the opportunity of doing so.

And it could be a while before they will return to it.

A water pipe in the school burst and flooded the gymnasium floor last weekend. With water laying on the gymnasium surface, sections of the wood floor had buckled.

In an effort to repair the floor, large fans were brought in Monday and Tuesday to try and dry out the surface, said Arlene Smith, Stouffville District Secondary School principal.

"We're hoping the fans will have an impact in trying to settle what parts of the floor were raised," she said.

An insurance adjuster was to assess the damage yesterday and see if the floor can be

salvaged, Ms Smith said.

The best case scenario would be if the fans can effectively dry out the floor to the point where it will revert to its original form, she said. The second-best option, she said, is to make repairs to the floor.

"Once we know the timeline for the repair, that will help," she said.

In the meantime, Ms Smith said the school is searching for alternative locations, including elementary schools and fitness centres, in the community to run classes and host inter-school games.

"We will have to be creative as to what to do with our gym program and extra-curricular activities," she said.

A boys' basketball game against Dr. G.W. Williams Secondary School of Aurora was cancelled Monday.

—Mike Hayakawa

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