

Students may get permission to cut calculus classes

ASTHMA?
We can help.
Call The Lung Association



This message brought to you as a community service of The Economist & Sun/Sun-Tribune

Eliminating math unit big mistake, Klees says

BY TERESA LATCHFORD
Staff Writer

Multiply by seven, then carry the two and memorize the formula for figuring out the area of a parabolic segment...

Calculus is probably not your favourite math unit, but soon you may not have the option to

dislike it.

The province is considering a proposal, presented last fall, that would remove the course from the high school curriculum, leaving it up to post secondary institutions to teach.

A committee of educators and ministry staff argued there is not enough time to teach calculus along with algebra, geometry and trigonometry in the already stuffed four-year high school curriculum. Calculus is seen as only necessary for careers in engineering, science, political science or physics.

It would be taught at the university level as part of these courses.

"It's a major mistake and it is only going to have negative repercussions on Ontario students," education critic Frank Klees, MPP for Oak Ridges, said.

The new economy relies heavily on development and innovation, he added. By cutting math or science courses, students will find themselves at a disadvantage with the rest of the world.

Before Grade 13 was eliminated, calculus was a fifth-year class that stood on its own. But now it is part of the standard Grade 12 math course.

Removing calculus would allow teachers to focus on algebra and trigonometry, which are also lacking in students entering post-secondary education, according to Kathryn Stewart of the York Region District School Board.

'We are trying to develop a deeper understanding from the students.'

The focus on calculus is also leading students to drop out of math, she said.

She denied it was an attempt by the province to bring math scores up, saying it was a way to encourage students to continue taking math. Students find calculus intimidating, she said.

But some students disagreed. "I don't think it is stopping people from taking the course, my class is full and there is a waiting list," said Rebecca Doyle, a Newmarket High Grade 12 student.

She took the math course because of the calculus element and is enjoying it.

Being the daughter of a construction superintendent, she understands the practical uses of calculus since her father uses it every day, she continued.

Calculus is not difficult, it is just a lot of memorization. But Ms Stewart said it is more important to teach students to think, rather than memorize.

"You can solve any differentiation by plugging in the correct formulas you memorized and it doesn't mean you understand it," she explained. "We are trying to develop a deeper understanding from the students."

Calculus is geared for gifted students and should be offered as a fifth math course for those who wish to take it, she added.

But Megan Duggan, a Grade 12 student at Newmarket High, disagreed.

"The definition of gifted is a different way of thinking, but you don't have to be gifted to understand math," she said.

Having the course in high school, rather than introducing it at a university level, allows students to learn the basics without the stress of a full university course load and all the other changes that come with entering university, she added.

Attention: Business Owners



Markham
Stouffville & Unionville

Telephone Directory
will be closing on
March 1st, 2006

**BOOK YOUR
AD SPACE NOW!**

For more information call

Canadian **1-877-726-6482**
PHONE DIRECTORIES INC.

CELEBRATING OUR 14TH YEAR



CRAFT SHOW
Distinct Designs from Premier
Crafters, Artisans & Gift Suppliers

Saturday March 4, 2006
10am - 5pm

Sunday March 5, 2006
10am - 4pm

Richmond Green Sports Centre
1300 Elgin Mills Road, East, Richmond Hill

The best selection of handmade country treasures and folk art, jewellery, florals, springtime home & garden décor and gourmet delights brought to you by some of

Canada's finest crafters, artisans and gift suppliers.

For more details, visit:
www.theheartofcountry.com



PRODUCED BY DYNAMIC PUBLISHING 905-426-4676 ext. 257

\$1 off
Receive \$1 off regular priced admission with this coupon.



Regular admission -
Adults \$4
Seniors \$3
Children free

Saturday March 4, 2006
10am - 5pm

Sunday March 5, 2006
10am - 4pm

Richmond Green Sports Centre
1300 Elgin Mills Road, East
Richmond Hill

Dynamic Publishing & Events Management • 905-426-4676 ext. 257



**MARKHAM
STOUFFVILLE
HOSPITAL**

LEGACY 5K RUN/WALK

IS COMING!
SUNDAY, APRIL 30, 2006

You still have time to learn to Run or Walk 5k with help from the Running Room. Join one of their 3 clinics & get ready for the MSH LEGACY Event!

FAMILY LEARN TO RUN in Stouffville (10 weeks)
Saturdays at 1pm, February 18-April 29

FAMILY LEARN TO RUN in Markham (10 weeks)
Saturdays at 9:30am, February 18-April 29



WALKING CLINIC in Markham (10 weeks)
Mondays at 7pm, February 13-April 24

To Register for a Clinic please contact the MARKHAM RUNNING ROOM store at 905-479-6253 or visit www.runningroom.com



Join us for the 9th Annual Markham Stouffville Hospital Legacy 5k Run/Walk. We will now start and finish in front of the Hospital with the route winding through the beautiful Cornell Community.

For more information visit www.legacy5k.ca
or call 905-472-7373 ext. 6606

When You can't
BREATHE
Nothing Else Matters

THE LUNG ASSOCIATION

We can help.
For more information about Asthma call The Lung Association

This message brought to you as a community service of The Economist & Sun