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## Town 'dropped ball' at schools

*But crossing guards not mandatory, board agrees*

BY SANDRA BOLAN  
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The town is not required to provide crossing guards at schools, according to Denis Chartrand, manager of operations for Whitchurch-Stouffville's public works department.

But as a way to assist parents in getting their children to and from school on foot, the town has eight crossing guards posted around six schools.

Last week, however, when the school year got underway, the town's two newest academic institutions — Wendat Village Public School and St. Brendan Catholic Elementary School — had none.

That's because a pedestrian traffic flow study had yet to be conducted, which, Mr. Chartrand said is necessary in order to know where to post the crossing guards.

The study takes about a month, he said.

It was a mistake, says the neighbourhood councillor.

"There's just no excuse. The town dropped the ball," said Councillor Rob Hargrave, whose Ward 6 is home to the new schools.

See **PARENTS**, page 12.

## END OF THEIR ROPE



STAFF PHOTO/NICK IWANYSHYN

Adam Fisher, Murray Rundle, Joshua Rundle, Josiah Hanna and Owen McKnight pull together during Springvale Church's picnic and corn roast Sunday. See additional photographs from the event at the Stouffville Road church on page 28.

## Teachers protest over legislation

*Unions encourage members to wear black, stop coaching*

BY TERESA LATCHFORD  
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York Region teachers paused some voluntary activities in protest to a recently passed law.

This week, the province passed a bill that forces a contract on elementary and secondary teachers across Ontario as well as 50,000 support staff, including those in York Region, bypassing the traditional bargaining process.

In response, teacher unions encouraged members to wear black and take a pause from extracurricular activities such as school clubs and sports yesterday to protest the recent passing of the bill.

The York Region District School Board hasn't cancelled any scheduled events, according to board spokesperson Licinio Miguelo. He also confirmed the board has had a range of participation from union members across the region.

"Those activities are anything that don't fall under the collective agreement," he said, mentioning the coaching of athletic teams and school clubs. "All of these activities are voluntary and teachers are not required to participate."

He explained the new bill is still being reviewed by the board but some aspects of the collective agreement still need to be negotiated and those talks continue.

"The passage of this law is undemocratic and unprecedented and was unnecessary,"

See **TEACHERS**, page 29.

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