



STAFF PHOTOS/NICK IWANYSHYN

Paige Stokes (left) and Jack Stokes pose for a photo with the Easter bunny in downtown Stouffville Saturday. Zabrina Saville, Arianna Saville and Eleanore Saville pose for a photo while collecting Easter candy during the annual Main Street hunt.

## 'Anorexic Bunny' polarizing figure

BY JEREMY GRIMALDI  
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Opinion has been left sharply divided on Stouffville's 'Anorexic Bunny' – a story that has caused an uproar online.

Comments came in thick and fast after the Sun-Tribune published a story on its website – yorkregion.com – detailing a day in the life of Wayne Rose, the Anorexic Bunny himself.

In it, Rose explains how his – some say misguided – effort to make children smile ended in disaster and hurt feelings.

Rose said he dressed up in a rabbit suit last Thursday and did a dance in front of Summitview Public School on Stouffville's Main Street before speaking with the principal and handing her candy for the children.

He said she was happy with his antics that included dancing in front of a school window to make children smile.

However, his second encounter on Main Street, he said, led to a woman throwing out his candy and yelling at him to stop his activities.

On his back he had a sign saying "Anorexic Bunny" on it, which he said related to his friends calling him "Anorexic Santa" when he dressed up as St. Nick at Christmas.

He said it was a joke, considering the fact that he's lost plenty of weight while undergoing cancer treatments.

When Rose finally returned home, he was met by two police officers who he says laughed at his gimmick.

But many have not taken this as a joke at all.

Lisa Williams-Rozario said parents at the school were left very wor-

ried, saying about 14 friends from the school contacted her about the story, wondering if "everything was OK" after it went up online.

She further noted that the principal at the school, Melanie Duckett-Wilson, personally told her there were inaccuracies in Rose's story.

(Despite repeated attempts to reach Duckett-Wilson, The Sun-Tribune has been unable to contact her.)

"I feel horrible he is suffering from such a terrible disease," she said. "But I am not sure at what point he thought it would be a good idea to go hang around a school and want to hand out candy without contacting the school or making arrangements in advance."

She added that many parents had voiced concern over social media.

The police meanwhile want to assure residents there were no arrests or charges laid, but urged caution from anyone wanting to do this sort of thing the next time.

"We did identify him and ended up speaking with him," Const. Andy Pattenden told The Sun-Tribune. "He said that he was just trying to spread some Easter cheer. We advised while his intentions may have been good, that his actions can result in concerns from the school and the community."

However Rose had his supporters, too, with some suggesting over social media that people overreacted.

"Shame on the awful heartless people out there; I would give this guy a great big hug that he deserves. Not only is he putting a smile on some people's faces he is making himself feel better naturally which no drug could provide him," said an account registered to Pat Moody.

"People are so cruel," wrote the account of Timothy Jackson. "This man just wanted to spread some joy."

## WORKER 'BADLY BURNED' IN ROCKET-FUEL FIRE

Two of the three employees injured during a rocket-fuel explosion last week have left the hospital and are convalescing, while a third remains.

And that man's prognosis is improving, the owner of Whitchurch-Stouffville's Cesaroni Technologies said.

Anthony Cesaroni told the Stouffville Sun-Tribune that emergency safety protocols worked as expected during a rocket-fuel explosion at the business in the community of Gormley last Thursday.

"Everything was contained and everything functioned as it was supposed to," he said.

However, he further added that the incident is under investigation and he cannot expand on matters.

Police said that both the fire marshal and insurance are investigating.

After the 10:30 a.m. explosion, one man was airlifted to a Toronto hospital and Stouffville Road was closed, east of Woodbine, where the company sits.

A friend identified one of the injured men as Jeroen Louwers and said he is "badly burned".

– Jeremy Grimaldi



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