

Threat over PA triggered school lockdown

October 03, 2007

RACHEL DE LAZZER

STAFF REPORTER

Relieved students were welcomed into the arms of their parents this afternoon after a lockdown ended at their north Toronto school.

The lockdown – which attracted police, ambulances and even a helicopter – was ordered after a shooting threat was received.

“It’s all cleared. The school is open and the kids are going home with their parents or by bus,” said Const. Isabelle Cotton.

Calls about the threat at Our Lady of Victory Roman Catholic elementary school came in to police around 1:30 p.m. Police arrived and quickly ordered the school to go into a lockdown, which lasted about an hour and a half.

Staff Sgt. Clarence Cook said that someone used a walkie-talkie to patch into the school’s PA system. Sgt. Cook said that the threats came from a male, though they would not disclose whether he was a student at the school.

Police set up a perimeter around the area including the school grounds near Weston Rd. and Eglinton Ave. W.

Emergency Task Force, K9 officers and ambulances were all on scene while a helicopter searched for a suspect overhead.

Dennis Ave. Community School and the Hollis Child Care Centre were also locked down.

No one was injured.

The school principal could not be reached for comment and the school’s receptionist said she had no information other than that they were locked down.

Police have no suspects.

Joe Goulart lives on the same street as the school and has two children who attend it. Shortly before the lockdown was lifted, he told the Star that his wife had gone to pick up their son at the school after they saw numerous police cars in the area and a helicopter overhead (their daughter had come home at 11 in the morning).

“Even the police, when he saw me on the veranda, he said everyone go inside,” Goulart said.