

Worst since '75

RICHMOND HILL — Despite Monday's snowstorm, which gave York Region a big head start for a white Christmas this year, police report that traffic conditions were relatively good.

There were numerous minor accidents, but only one really major one.

The bad one, which occurred on Highway 400 at King Sideroad about 8:30 a.m., was enough, however, to close off the highway for the rest of the day.

According to the OPP at Oak Ridges, the accident occurred when a bus slithered off the road and collided with a car at the height of the storm.

A series of minor collisions then followed.

Two of the people in the first car suffered minor injuries and were treated at York Central Hospital.

Got quieter

The highway was closed off at 9 a.m. Police said that things quietened down considerably after that, with even Yonge St. (Highway 11) being accident free.

Inspector William Smythe of 28 Division of York Regional Police, termed it the worst snowstorm in his memory in 2½ years.

However, the latter may have even been worse, he said, because it occurred in April, taking even the weatherman by surprise.

Defences double-crossed

RICHMOND HILL — Winter's first big storm double-crossed Richmond Hill's department.

Snow fences in open and rural areas were all set for prevailing westerly and northerly winds where the storms usually come from.

But Monday's big blow came from the east.

"We got some drifting we hadn't expected," said Merv Perkins, works maintenance manager.

"But it didn't cause any major problems."

Warned early

The department had plenty of warning Sunday night and supervisors were cruising the roads to check conditions at 2 a.m. Monday.

They had the crews out at 4 a.m. and easily met their six-hour cleanup schedule. Richmond Hill has 85 miles of roads to plough and 30 miles of sidewalks.

"By 10 a.m. we were into our second routes," said Perkins.

The costliest part of snow removal is caused by motorists who leave their cars parked on the street before the plough comes along, or shovel their

driveways onto the road after the plough has passed.

"That means we have to go over it all a second time," said Perkins.

"And a lot of irate citizens complain that we keep blocking their driveway every time they shovel it out."



Storm means money for some

Maybe the motorists had to stay at home. But making sure the walkers could get out into that winter wonderland, (a view not necessarily shared by everyone) was 15-year-old Dave Peters of Rumble Ave.

in Richmond Hill. He cleared a path for some of them. Dave and his shovel also cleared a bit of change in the process.

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Guadalajara is the second largest city in Mexico. If you're an art buff, be sure to visit this city.

Jose Orozco, the famous Mexican artist was born in Jalisco and Guadalajara has become a showcase of Orozco murals. You seem to see his work everywhere; the public buildings, the university, and naturally the Orozco Museum all seem to glory in showing off the start beauty of this man's artistic genius. Orozco's murals in the Colonial styled Hospicio Cabanas can only be described as overwhelming.

The contrast between the old and the new in Guadalajara is well evidenced by the architecture. Although there has been a great deal of modernization, the town has still preserved much of its Colonial past; there are still beautiful parks, gardens, and an old plaza with many fascinating buildings around it. The many-columned Degallado Theatre is there, a symbol of really grand, grand opera! We recommend you include Guadalajara on your next trip to Mexico.

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