

Winter storm lashes Hill

If New Brunswick's ill-fated Bricklin Motors had come up with a car with a snow grader, instead of butterfly wings, it might still be in business.

For there were very few people going anywhere at any rate of speed during Monday's snowstorm, which hit York Region with sudden sound — there was thunder, as well — and fury.

Traffic wasn't even a slow trickle coming into the area up Yonge Street and other main arteries from Metro during the height of the storm, and even motorists trying to make it to the city from the region, found an extra hour or more tacked on to their usual travelling time.

Most people considered themselves fortunate, however, just to make it either way, without having to abandon their vehicles in a snowbank, or in the middle of some intersection.

An estimated 10 to 15 centimetres of snow — approximately six inches — made even more abundant by winds up to 60 kilometres — 37 miles an hour — fell in the area, starting at noon, continuing all night, and into yesterday.

In the meantime, trying to cope with it, as it blocked roads and sidewalks, cancelled meetings and contributed to a total of 38 accidents at press time were the police, snow crews from the various regional works' departments, to say nothing of private citizens, who shoveled walkways, and even directed traffic and pushed motorists up steep inclines in some places.

So far as the police were concerned, it was "a pretty good night".

"There were many stranded cars, but only eight accidents, and none of them critical," said Sgt. Tom Dube of the Oak Ridges branch of the Ontario Provincial Police.

He said police were kept busiest pulling abandoned cars off the side of the road in an effort to keep traffic moving.

Sgt. Dube said that motorists whose cars were towed away, would be charged a towing fee, but it was doubtful any other charges would be laid.

"That would be adding insult to injury," he said.

The sergeant also had a word of praise for Monday's motorists.

"They deserve lots of credit for slowing down," he said.

Deputy Chief Robert Hood of York Regional Police, also noted that it would be difficult to hand out traffic tickets, where a motorist had been forced to abandon his vehicle.

However, some may have been issued among the many cars towed away, he said.

The deputy said that, of the 30 accidents, there was nothing "too serious".

While the Town of Richmond Hill was nearly back to normal at noon yesterday, the Town of Vaughan, especially in the Woodbridge area, was still trying to make road ends meet.

Describing the situation as "terrible," a spokesman for the works' department, said that some of the work crew members hadn't even got home.

"They slept at Vaughan (town office) and then were back out today (Tuesday) at 5 a.m.

"And we still haven't touched some of the roads," he said.

When asked if the road foreman was around, he checked and then reported that he wasn't. "I think he's lost in the snow," he said.

In Richmond Hill, 11 sanders, followed later by snow plows and graders worked from 4:30 p.m. on an all-out assault to see that roads and sidewalks were passable by noon the next day.

"The first storm of the season is always bad," said a member of the department.

He said the department was anticipating bad weather, but had to wait to see what happened, because the forecast was for rain in some areas.

He said the sanders were out first until they were of no further benefit and then the snow plows and graders took over when the snow reached a certain depth.



GRACE SAYERS

Involvement is her way of life

For Grace Sayers, involvement is as natural as breathing.

From the moment she arrived in Richmond Hill from England in 1924 to the present, the busy 82-year old mother, grandmother and great-grandmother has been active in the community.

"It really started with the kids," she said last week. "I was interested in what they were doing."

Shortly after her arrival in Canada, she and her husband started the home and school association at D.M. MacKillop Public School. Then, she found herself involved in organizing Christmas baskets for the needy.

Town councillors would drive her and her co-volunteers around to the homes to deliver the gifts in the days before such service clubs as the Lions were around to help.

With Reeve Bill Neal she welcomed the men home from the war and with Reeve John Green, she organized relief to distressed areas.

Before the Royal

Canadian Legion came to town, she was involved in the Poppy Fund, run at the time by the Veterans' Association.

When the York Central Hospital Auxiliary started, she was there. Today, she still fills in when assistance is needed.

The Women's Institute was another of her loves. When the Richmond Hill branch folded, she joined the Thornhill group and still participates in it.

A past president of the senior citizens group, she has held every post in that organization except that of treasurer.

Her involvement has not gone unnoticed. Honored by the town at its awards night, she found

out she was also to be the recipient of a Queen's Silver Jubilee Commemorative Medal.

Although she tends to be modest, she admits she is pleased with both honors.

"I love everything about Richmond Hill. I'm proud of Richmond Hill. And I'm proud to receive these medals," she said.

And, concerning her years of involvement, she said she has enjoyed every minute.

"I regret nothing," she said.

Hospital suggests five for Jubilee awards

By MILLIE STEWART

York Central Hospital has five nominees for the Queen's Silver Jubilee Medal.

Grace Jackson was nominated because of her tireless work since before the hospital opened, especially in fund raising. She was one of the leaders of the massive campaign that raised close to \$1,000,000 when the hospital first opened.

Active until just recently as a member of the Board of Trustees, she now is a member of the York Central Hospital Foundation.

Doctor James McPhee was nominated for his long years with YCH.

He has been a member of the staff since the hospital opened and was Chief of Staff from 1967 to 1969.

Doctor Victor Zuck was also on the staff since the hospital opened.

He had the distinction of being Chief of Staff from 1970 to 1973.

Gloria Croftin is the present Assistant Executive Director of YCH.

She was with the hospital before it opened, helping with furnishings, equipment and nursing staff.

She has been Director of Nursing, Assistant Administrator and now holds her present post.

Elizabeth Flood is the head of Physiotherapy at the hospital.

She has always been active in the community

MARKHAM BLAZE

A fire at Middleton Advertising Limited, Denison Avenue, Markham, also caused an estimated \$20,000 damage, before being put out by Markham Fire Department and the company sprinkler system.

Cause of the fire was not given.

and also with the Canadian Arthritic and Rheumatism Society.

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Children playing with a lighter were blamed for a fire in Richmond Hill last week.

The fire broke out in a bedroom mattress at the home of William Miller,

149 North Taylor Mills Road, and spread to the walls before being extinguished by Richmond Hill Fire Department.

Damage was estimated at \$20,000.

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