

The Mayor reports

From the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville

Each week, Gordon Ratcliff, Mayor of Whitchurch-Stouffville, discusses issues of current interest to ratepayers in the municipality. Residents wishing replies to particular problems, may contact the Mayor personally, or write 'The Mayor' c/o The Tribune, Main St., Stouffville.

Question: The 1973 Council has authorized a Traffic and Parking Study in the former village of Stouffville. What is involved in a project of this kind?

Answer: Such a Study is a program of the Provincial Government utilizing a private consulting firm. Twenty-five per cent of the cost is borne by the municipality, which I do not consider as too costly, providing something practical is accomplished. The Study in its entirety could take a year, but the traffic survey and recommendations should be completed first. Perhaps, one change could be the replacing of the present 'crosswalk' with a traffic light. It's up to us to prove the need for such a change.

Question: There were many complaints concerning road conditions following the ice storm, Jan. 4. Were sanding operations behind schedule?

Answer: Sanding crews were on the job at 4:30 a.m., Thursday using four trucks. The problem is, all roads should be done at the same time. It takes time to load up the trucks, spread the sand, and then re-load. It was an extraordinary morning, and at least one truck, and perhaps others, ended up in the ditch. I received several complaints, and I understand some people weren't able to get to work. In rural areas, sanding priority is given to school bus routes.


Question: Who is responsible for maintaining open-air natural ice rinks in Town?

Answer: The maintaining of open-air rinks is the responsibility of the Town Works Department. In Stouffville, flooding operations have been started (Friday), at Westlawn Crescent and Rupert Avenue, but the success of such projects is dependent on the weather.

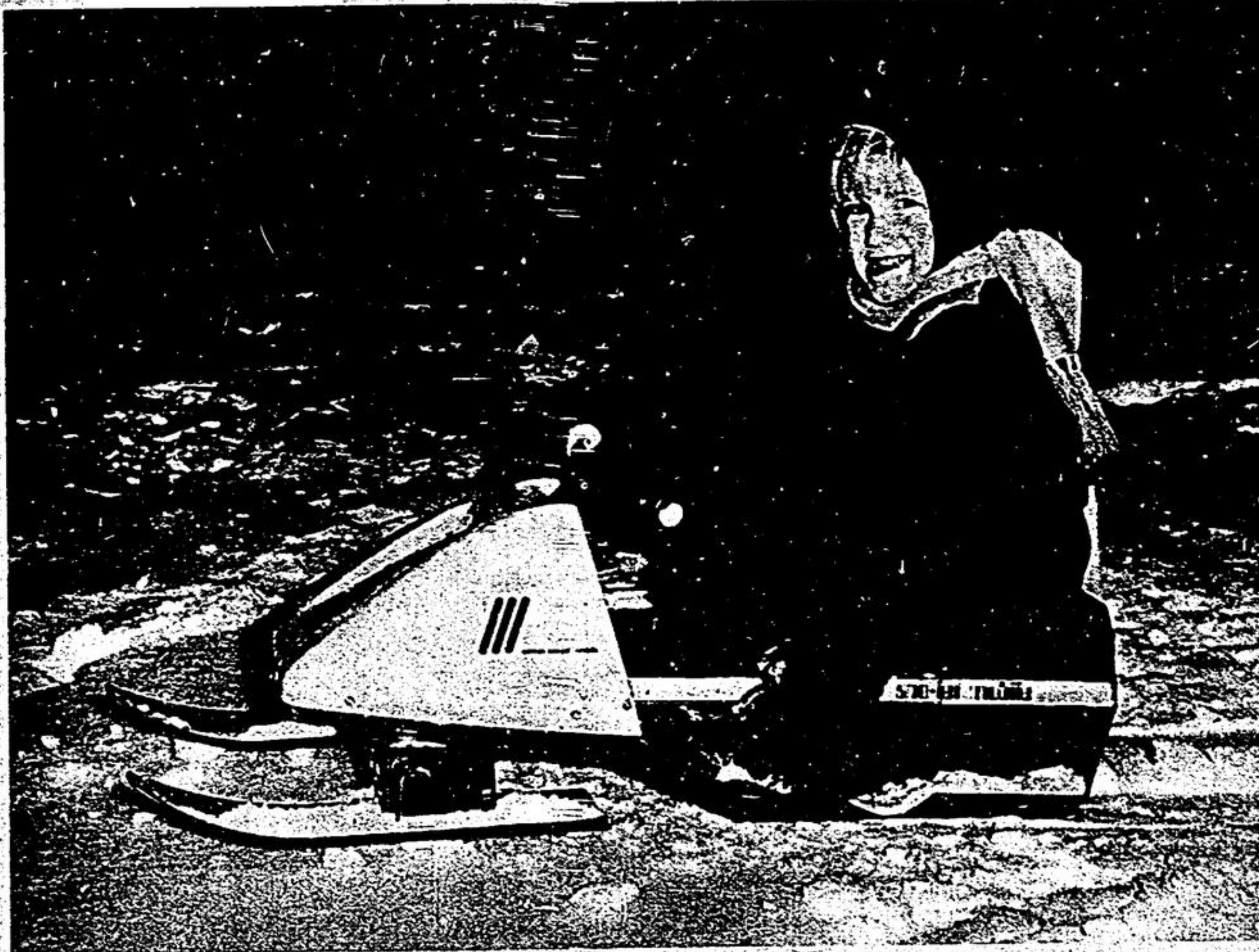
Wind flips truck

STOUFFVILLE — A Brooklin area driver suffered only minor injuries, Jan. 4, when a truck he was operating, on the site of Consolidated Sand and Gravel Co. Ltd., Hwy. 48, was caught in a gust of wind and flipped over on its side. The operator was releasing a load of sand and the box was raised, when the mishap occurred.

Wind gusts were reported as high as 40 miles an hour at the time.

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Snowmobiling - everybody's doing it

Whether it be racing, trail-blazing, or merely sliding down a backyard slope, the sport of snowmobiling has caught on with almost everyone—including 4-year-old

Gregory Tarr, son of Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Tarr, O'Brien Avenue, Stouffville.

—Jim Thomas.

No problem policing expanded Region

YORK REGION — If provincial plans, announced recently, proceed, 172 sq. miles and 18,500 people will be added to York Region, through annexation of Scott, Brock and Thorah Townships, at the east and north boundaries.

Despite additional population and land area, Chief Bruce Crawford is reportedly confident that expansion will cause no problems in Regional policing.

York's 200-man force, has one policeman for every 750 residents at the moment. If the government's prediction in population increase is correct, 25 more men

would be needed to maintain the ratio. Until concrete statistics are available, Chief Crawford cannot predict the number of officers required to augment the force.

He anticipates no communications problem however. One more telephone line into Newmarket, he expects, will give citizens in the new

areas instant contact with headquarters; there would be no major change in the proposed \$300,000 radio communications system which the force hopes to install.

York police would be responsible for a greater part of Lake Simcoe shoreline and the increased summer population, if the provincial plan goes through. In this regard, Chief Crawford

said that Keswick divisional headquarters stretches. He did not think it would be necessary to create another more central location in police division.

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Area farmers have stake in York plan

YORK REGION — Farm meetings get off to a quick start in 1973, with an important one, Jan. 11. It's the annual for the York Crop Improvement Association, at East Gwillimbury Community Centre.

Starting time is 10:30 and there is quite a different program this year. One of the main speakers for example, will be the Planning Commissioner for York Region, Murray Pound will talk about the Official Plan now being prepared, and what it will mean to farmers.

With competition for land here so intense, the farm industry often gets just what is left over. Farmers have a big stake in the plans being made now, by both the region and the province, and the meeting will be a good place to catch up on what is going on.

The guest speaker will be Gordon Hill, President of the Ontario Federation of Agriculture. Farm organizations have a big role to play in our industry, but for some reason we are not as active here in York as we should be. Gordon Hill is a strong leader and we are looking forward to hearing from him on many issues affecting marketing, prices, land use, taxes and others.

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