

Library closes
Aug. 20 - Sept. 17

The Tribune

Sellwoods
Altona Missionary
church Aug. 18

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Rabies outbreak, skunk bites boy

By JOHN MONTGOMERY
Tribune Reporter

MUSSELMAN'S LAKE — There's been an outbreak of rabies in the Musselman's Lake area.

As a result, a small boy has been bitten by a rabid skunk, and possibly several domestic animals have been bitten by another. In the process, the Humane Society has received severe criticism for its handling of the situation.

Two weeks ago, six year old Troy Buchanan, 9th Line, was bitten by a skunk which proved to be rabid. The boy is currently undergoing rabies shots. Since

that time the lad's father Don Buchanan has seen other animals around which he suspects were rabid.

Saturday, Cliff Lock of Hillsdale Drive discovered the tail of his German Shepherd dog had been ripped open during the night. Mr. Lock phoned the Humane Society and he says he was told they would call him back. They didn't call so he phoned again and was told they, "wouldn't come."

Mr. Lock saw a skunk on the road and drove it away with stones. Later his six year old daughter Robin saw the skunk return. According to Mrs. Lock, "the skunk kept falling down

and getting up."

A neighbour's cat took off after the skunk and it ran into Norm Swartman's yard. The family's poodle went up to the skunk and according to Mrs. Swartman, the skunk "grabbed right hold of its back," and wouldn't let go.

Mrs. Swartman, "beat it off," with a board, a neighbour smacked it a few times with a rake to stun it and then someone else came over and dispatched the animal with a .22 calibre rifle.

The police, Mayor Gordon Ratcliff and the Humane Society were contacted. Said Mayor Ratcliff, "all we got (from the Humane Society) was a go-around for several hours."

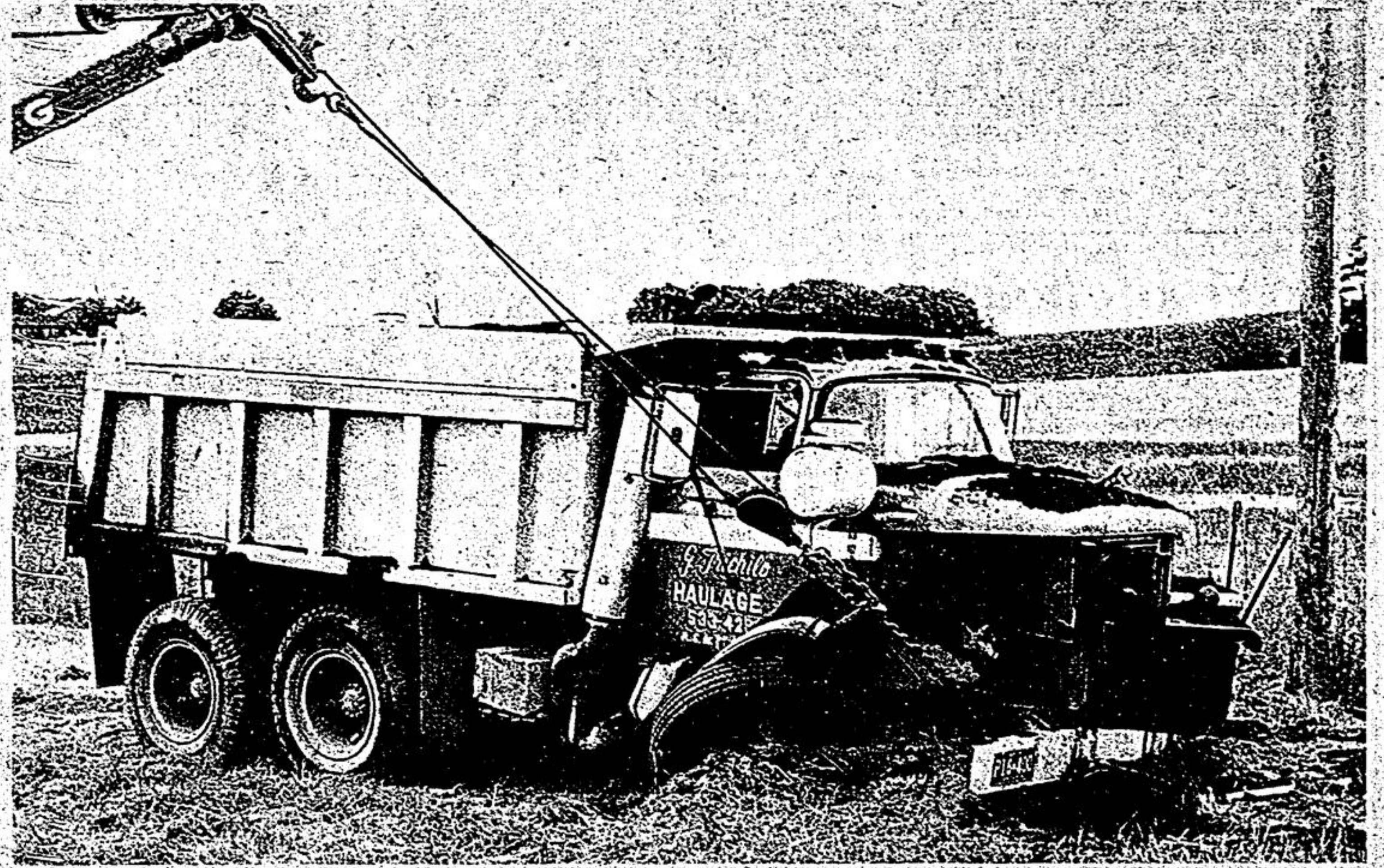
"They should have picked up the skunk right away," he said. The mayor was told they couldn't pick up the skunk without authorization from the Welfare for Animals, a provincial organization, which is closed weekends.

The mayor insisted the skunk be picked up and finally four hours after the initial call the dead skunk, the two dogs and the cat were taken away.

"I'm not too well pleased with the Humane Society service," commented the mayor. "We get more complaints about animals than anything else in the municipality."

The impounded animals will be quarantined for 14 days and if the skunk is diagnosed as rabid they will be kept a further 60 days and will be destroyed if they prove rabid. This will cost the owners \$3.50 a day as a pound charge.

A preliminary diagnosis will be in within a few days, according to Humane Society Supervisor Cathy De Lury. She said the society plans no action to combat the rabies outbreak since "you can't go out slaughtering all the animals in the area."



The whole front end of this truck was written off Thursday when it had a blow-out on Bloomington Rd., west of Don Mills Rd. and crashed into the ditch. The driver, Gino Trichilo of Toronto received minor injuries in the crash. The tandem dump truck was

fully loaded with asphalt. Police report the complete front end and engine were demolished with damage estimated at \$6,000. Tow trucks from Newmarket had considerable difficulty removing the fully loaded vehicle. —Don Bernard

Go cart rezoning province's mistake

GOODWOOD — A mistake by the provincial government has made it possible for Goodwood Go-Cart track to expand its facilities.

That was revealed at an Uxbridge Council meeting last week. Councillor Bill Ballinger

reported that the township had asked for one thing, but the province made the mistake, in effect, granting a rezoning.

Jean Bell, owner of the park, came before council earlier this year requesting a rezoning. The property is zoned agricultural and the go-cart track is a non-conforming use. The area is also under the minister's freeze, put on the area because of the proposed Pickering airport.

Council asked the provincial government to set aside the freeze order to allow an upgrading of the washrooms. But Mrs. Bell received a minister's order stating she could build an addition to the snack bar and a small apartment as well as the washrooms.

"It was drawn up by our solicitor, just what we wanted," Councillor Ballinger told The Tribune. "We took the right stand, the minister made the mistake."

Library closes for big move

STOUFFVILLE — Whitchurch-Stouffville Public Library will be closed for a month while it moves to a new location. It will move from the present building to 45 Main St. W.

The library will be closed from Aug. 20 to Sept. 17. Patrons may stock up on an unlimited number of books, all due Sept. 17. Librarian Lynne Robbins said:



Ken Betz supervises construction of the new building to house Betz Pools Ltd. The building is expected to be completed in October. Ted Wilcox

New location for old firm

STOUFFVILLE — Local swimming pool builder Ken Betz should be moving his business in October. He is constructing a new building on Main St. West.

One reason for moving involves possible flood control measures near their present location on Market St. Another reason, Mr. Betz told The Tribune, is to centralize business.

"We've got garages and storage rented all around town," he said.

Mr. Betz, who also sells skidoos, says the

swimming pool business has been booming this year. This past year he couldn't even handle all the calls he was getting, he said.

So, he tries to build them for local people and has to "let the rest go by the board," he said.

The reason for the increase in business, he said, is that more people are staying home instead of facing the weekend traffic.

Mr. Betz believes he was probably the first pool contractor in Canada. He built his first one in the 1930's and went into business in 1947 or 1948.

For both seniors and families Low cost housing lacking

By JOHN MONTGOMERY
Tribune Reporter

STOUFFVILLE — There is a shortage of low income rental units in Whitchurch-Stouffville for both senior citizens and

families. The Tribune has learned.

Although 29 new units have just been added to the senior citizens apartment on Elm Road, bringing the total number of apartments to 51, there is still a great demand.

"We should soon be asking for more housing," said Mayor Gordon Ratcliff. "We applied before but were told to wait until the new one was finished."

According to Betty Van Nostrand, Ontario Housing Corporation Placement Officer for York Region, "it takes several years before it goes through channels," and she said there are now 19 applications in from Whitchurch-Stouffville for senior housing. Mrs. Van Nostrand said six of these applications were not for immediate housing but the rest were.

The number of applications in no way represents the number of people who need housing according to O.H.C. Supervisor Tom Surgeoner, "people see they have to wait two years and they won't even apply."

All of the apartments in the still uncompleted Parkview Home building are now rented and there is a waiting list. "It would appear from our experience there is a great need for this type of accommodation," said Parkview Home Administrator Joe Nighswander.

The senior citizens housing is inadequate but family housing is non-existent in all of York Region.

O.H.C. statistics show that 50 families in need of emergency housing had to pack up and leave the region last year. These people were forced to relocate in Toronto.

Before O.H.C. can provide this type of accommodation there must be a request from the municipality involved. Only three municipalities in the region have applied: Richmond Hill, Aurora and Georgina.

These are only in the planning stages except in Georgina where a 10 unit building is slated for construction this fall.

"I would like to know how many places would be condemned if adequate housing was available," speculated Mr. Surgeoner. "I have been in places where the septic tank was frozen and rats were running around and the Health Unit won't condemn them."

"That is basically true," agreed William Burns, Director of Environmental Health for the York Region Health Unit, in a telephone interview, "we don't throw people out on the street whether there is a health condition or a structural problem."

In Mr. Burns opinion: "There is very definitely a need," but he warned, "they should be small units mixed in with other development so they will be integrated."

No trace of bullet after shot fired

CLAREMONT — A Claremont area woman claims that a bullet was shot through the window of her son's bedroom last week.

Betty Jones of Brock Rd. north of Claremont, said that about 3:30 p.m. Aug. 7 her son Richard, 15, came to her and said somebody had shot a bullet through his window.

"It made me shiver to think that the kid was standing in the

window just a few minutes before," she told The Tribune.

Durham Regional Police report they could find no trace of a shell in the bedroom. It is under investigation and several suspects were interviewed, a DRP spokesman said.

Mrs. Jones said the bullet went through the screen, storm window and regular window and expressed amazement that no shell could be found.

TTC strike brings more passengers

STOUFFVILLE — The Toronto Transit Commission strike in the city has proven to be an unexpected boon to the Stouffville-Toronto commuter train.

Canadian National Railways reports that 100 people bought tickets in Stouffville Monday morning. The usual number is 25-30.

The people were bused by Trailways to Unionville where they caught the train to Union Station. The line was closed this week following a fire on a trestle between Markham and Unionville last Wednesday.

The train usually carries a total of 110-120 passengers, but Monday had over 260. CN, expecting the rush, had put on capacity for 250 commuters.

Officials believe the trestle fire was set by children attempting to burn out a wasp's nest at the base of the bridge. There is no estimate of damage but there was more extensive structural damage than was thought at first.

The bridge could be in operation by this Friday or Tuesday at the latest, a CN spokesman said.

"There is no point doing an investigation, it's pretty well settled that it's vandalism," Fire Chief Myrl Smith said.

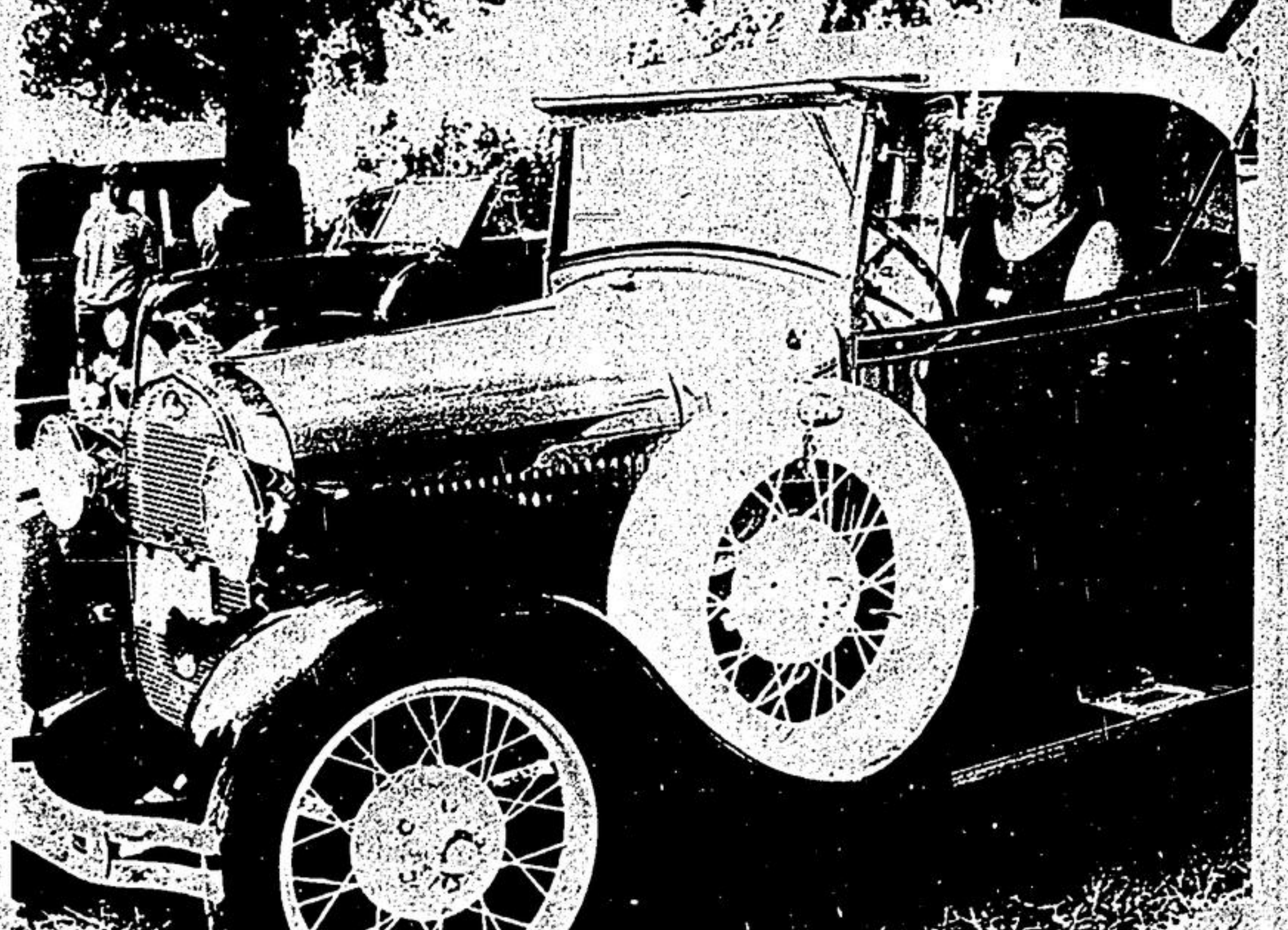
Fire destroys barn, cattle

STOUFFVILLE — Seventeen head of registered milk cows died in a fire, early Wednesday morning, that destroyed a large barn on the 7th concession of Whitchurch-Stouffville, near Lemonville.

The property, that operates under the name of Humberland Limited (Becker's Milk), is owned by Robert Lowe, R.R. 4, Stouffville.

The blaze was first observed around 1 a.m., and in less than thirty minutes, the structure was levelled. Firemen from Stouffville answered the call, but had no chance to save the building.

The cattle were very valuable. Chief Walter Smith said, with two of them priced at \$50,000 each. The total loss has been estimated at \$250,000.



Antique car show at Museum

The weather was fine for the Antique and Classic Car Show at Whitchurch-Stouffville Historical Museum Sunday. Marie Cote (Neesche), formerly of Stouffville, sits behind the

wheel of a 1929 Model A roadster. Her husband Joseph Cote is the president of the Antique and Classic Car Club of Canada (Toronto Region). —Don Bernard