



Within minutes after a twister hit the yard of Frank Bolton the mess was being cleared up. At left is Brian Adolph Bianchi (with chain saw) and Mr. Bolton.

Also helping to clean up was Karl Winterstein. Another slightly smaller tree, was uprooted.

—John Montgomery

## Toronto calling needs majority vote

STOUFFVILLE — A sizeable majority of people in the local telephone exchange would have to approve making Toronto part of the exchange before Bell Canada would likely attempt to institute it, council was told last week.

Don Crossley, Bell manager for this area, said that "we'd be hesitant to go with anything less than 60 per cent" of all customers before making Toronto calls toll free.

Bell Canada will soon be sending out a customer survey to gauge reaction

to the proposal. Included in it will be a map showing the areas that would become toll free and their telephone number prefixes.

The proposed changeover, which would result in a substantial monthly fare increase for

local callers, would enable them to phone Metropolitan Toronto, Unionville and Thornhill toll free.

Mr. Crossley told council, however, that fringe areas such as Mississauga and West Hill would not be included in the exchange. The western boundary would be Etobicoke, he said.

If response to the survey was positive, it probably would then take until late 1978 before the changeover could be instituted, according to Mr. Crossley.

Fares for the improved service would increase from \$5.20, the current monthly rate, up to \$9.30 for individual phones and from \$11.35 up to \$27.55 for businesses.

Bell Canada public relations officer Ken Gilmour commented that failure to answer the

survey might be interpreted as a positive response. "If people are that indifferent, then they might at least be willing to accept the change," he said.

Mr. Gilmour added that in making the proposal, Bell is responding to questions that have been raised by customers. "Even if we get 60 per cent or 61 per cent, we're going to give council a chance to comment.... We're not anxious to spend \$945,000. We would have to borrow it on the capital markets.... We're certainly not going to ride this thing through."

The change also would be subject to approval by the Canadian Radio, Television and Telecommunications Commission before taking effect, council was told.

## Future estate areas considered

STOUFFVILLE — Planning committee, in discussing revisions to the town's official plan draft Monday, reviewed the areas available in Whitchurch-Stouffville for estate residential development.

Town planner Max Sherman showed the committee a map he had prepared with various parcels in Whitchurch-Stouffville designated as being possible areas for

estate residential subdivisions.

The discussion was held in camera, without the press present, apparently so as not to encourage speculation on the lands being considered.

Partly at issue is whether or how to slow down growth in the area between Vivian and Faulkner Avenue on the north fringe of Ballantrae. Mr. Sherman told

planning committee recently that the area has the potential of becoming a "sprawling hamlet" because of population already located there, and the potential there for future estate residential growth.

The tack the committee may take is to try to discourage further new development on the 1000 acres in question by a special section in the official plan.

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## Hail storm hits area

BUTTONVILLE — A hail and wind storm here Saturday caused damage to cars, homes and crops in the area.

Windows in homes were broken, trees blown down and corn was cut to ribbons by the storm.

At the Markham town offices, cars parked there were pocked and dented

by the ice and Markham Economist and Sun Editor Jim Thomas reports the pain job on his car was ruined.

Other cars had windshields broken, holes torn in the roofs of convertibles, and plastic grills broken.

The hail also broke windshields on training planes at Toronto Airways.

Flower and vegetable gardens were reported

damaged by the onslaught, and Knob Hill Farms food store was closed for two and a half hours due to flooding.

The force of the wind damaged the roofs of most homes in the area, and was even powerful enough to blow the manhole covers from their places at Steeles and Leslie Streets. Barn walls had strips blown from them as well.

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