

# Helicopter to the rescue

By BRYON HURLE  
The helicopter swept over the building and arched toward the sky before settling back to earth in a field behind a low building. The young couple and a friend, surprise on their side, raced across the narrow wooden bridge before the electronically equipped pursuers were aware of the deception.

The helicopter swooped into the air; the vigilantes raced to their cars to begin the chase.

Luck seemed to ally itself against the couple. The helicopter, not far away, was already under surveillance by the well prepared pursuers. The crafty pilot was undeterred. By previous arrangement a car unfamiliar to the posse was awaiting the arrival of the helicopters passengers: The friend took the wheel and passed out of the airport entrance, only

feet from the unsuspecting hunters.

It had been carefully planned for the early evening of May 27. The young people knew that revenge had been planned against them and also knew that escape was nearly impossible. They would be on display, the center of attention for almost the entire day. Constant surveillance was the watchword.

But earlier the young man had made careful preparation with a crafty pilot. It was a plan that would catch the vigilantes off guard. As the banquet came to an end, the couple freely mingled with the crowd knowing that their pursuers had to wait until the right moment to make their move.

The pair changed clothes for the arduous trip. They went outside the building; the car was waiting. Would the rendezvous

take place as planned?

They entered the car as the haka haka of the helicopter prop thrashing the air was heard. They leapt from the car and ran. Moments later the bride and bridegroom were safely ensconced in the helicopter of Eddie Luther, and were swept away toward Buttonville airport.

For Jim Wideman and Trudy Norton, a Stouffville couple, married May 27 at the Stouffville Missionary Church, the chase was over.

For some time it had been a tradition among the circle of friends known to Jim and Trudy to pursue, with the aid of CB radios, bridal couples on their wedding day. Jim was determined to outwit the eight drivers prepared to follow them in radio equipped cars and arrive at his honeymoon location undisturbed.

Jim knew Eddie and Edna Luther and had approached the pilot to ask his assistance with this looming setback to the newlyweds marital bliss.

Eddie agreed to help out, and at the appointed time arrived at the Emmanuel Youth Centre on the Stouffville Road and landed the helicopter in the field behind.

Jim took one of his families vehicles to the wedding and stashed a second car at the airport. The best man was allowed in on the getaway plan and after the ride with Eddie Luther took the couple to Richmond Hill and returned Jim's dad's car home.

Jim and Trudy say that the drivers of the two pursuing cars that arrived at Buttonville just as Eddie set his machine down still do not believe that the newlyweds drove right by them to make their escape complete.



Kerr-splash! Uxbridge Mayor Gord Davie goes down for refreshing dip in the dunk tank last week as part of the town's Spring Water Days festivities. The mayor delighted the huge crowd by climbing on board, and then made their day even more enjoyable by taking the plunge. In Stouffville, Mayor Gord Ratcliff also ventured up on the tank, but was lucky enough to escape a dunking. However, Councillor Eldred King wasn't as fortunate, and after a lengthy stay on the perch, he was given a soaking by a sharp shooting member of the CHUM baseball team. For story and pictures on Spring Water Days, see page two, and for the Stouffville Canada Day events and story, see page nine. Keith Bolender

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## Province 'deceptive'

AURORA — The province is deceiving the York County Board of Education to the tune of \$6 million, Vaughan trustee Donald Cameron has charged.

While the province's education ministry has promised increased aid to the board when it implements a 40-minute a day French program in September, it continues to shift more and more of the tax burden to local municipalities.

Since 1974, provincial funding of York school board's programs has dropped from 62 per cent to 54 per cent.

The shift represents an additional \$6.4 million burden on local taxpayers based on the board's 1978 budget or three to five mills on the local tax rate, Mr. Cameron said.

"It's a very, very deceptive way to shift the cost to the local taxpayer," Mr. Cameron told

The Era Monday. "I think they're deceiving the public. There's no question about it."

Mr. Cameron said the board has been forced into phasing in a 40-minute a day French program in elementary schools over the next several years rather than a 30-minute program.

"I don't object to the French program," he explained Monday. "It's good to have a second language. My concern centres around the fact we're being forced through ministry grants to put greater emphasis on French."

According to ministry guidelines cited by Mr. Cameron, the only subject receiving higher scheduling

priority is English, with students receiving 90 minutes per day instruction.

Under the guidelines accepted by trustees last week, French receives 40 minutes per day with the remaining 170 minutes per standard school day devoted to other subjects.

By Annegret Lamure  
STOUFFVILLE  
Collecting dog tag money is

## Large increase in dog tag revenues

Despite the problems that some students have experienced in collecting dog tag money, (see story), the township's recent efforts to license dogs has been a great success.

According to Ed Blackburn, town accountant, approximately 1,400 tags have been sold this year, with a total revenue of \$11,743.

This compares to the \$8,484 brought in last year from about 900 tags.

And of the \$11,743, Mr. Blackburn estimated that about \$9,000 came directly from the

door to door canvassing in the township.

As George Goff, bylaw enforcement officer, commented, "the door to door calls have been a tremendous success, my gosh the girls did a marvellous job."

The canvassing ended last week, but anyone who still doesn't have a licence for their dog can pick one up at the municipal offices. They cost \$10 for the first tag, \$12 for every dog after that, and \$6 for a neutered or spayed dog.

Mr. Goff told the Tribune that recalcitrant dog owners will be taken to court.

definitely not a job for the timid, if the experiences of Shawn Morton are any indication.

Recently Shawn, a 22 year old University student, spent several eventful weeks collecting money for canine licenses on behalf of the town.

The pretty redhead found that a lot of reluctant dog owners greeted her with anything but joy, and some of them were downright belligerent.

"Most people don't like having to buy a licence for their dog," remarked Shawn, "I found that out during my very first call."

"This guy had three dogs and he wasn't very happy about buying dog licences, so I told him, 'if you don't buy them from me, I'll have to send the bylaw enforcement officer.' This got him really mad and he shouted, 'if you bring anyone here, I will

bring my shotgun out!' Then he suddenly shot out his arm to point and yelled, 'see that cemetery over there?' I left and told him my boss would be back," laughed Shawn, "what I didn't know then was that I would have to come back with my boss."

However, even with reinforcements, so far the town has not been able to get the license fee, and will probably have to take the culprit to court to collect.

Of course, most dog owners do not threaten violence.

Some are content to simply offer excuses. "Well, this dog's pretty old now and will probably die soon" one resourceful person told an incredulous Shawn, and another proclaimed staunchly, "My dog never sets foot in Whitchurch-Stouffville Township." Often at the next call the neighbour of this homebody then

complains bitterly about this homebody chasing his cattle and insists he shouldn't have to pay because of all the dogs running loose.

Still others are convinced they already have a tag, but on closer inspection it turns out to be last year's. "One lady said 'yes, we have a tag,' recalled Shawn, "and when I went to look at it she said, 'it's on the dog.' When I went near it the dog went 'rrrrrooof rrrrooof no way was I going to check it. I made her get it — and it was for 1977."

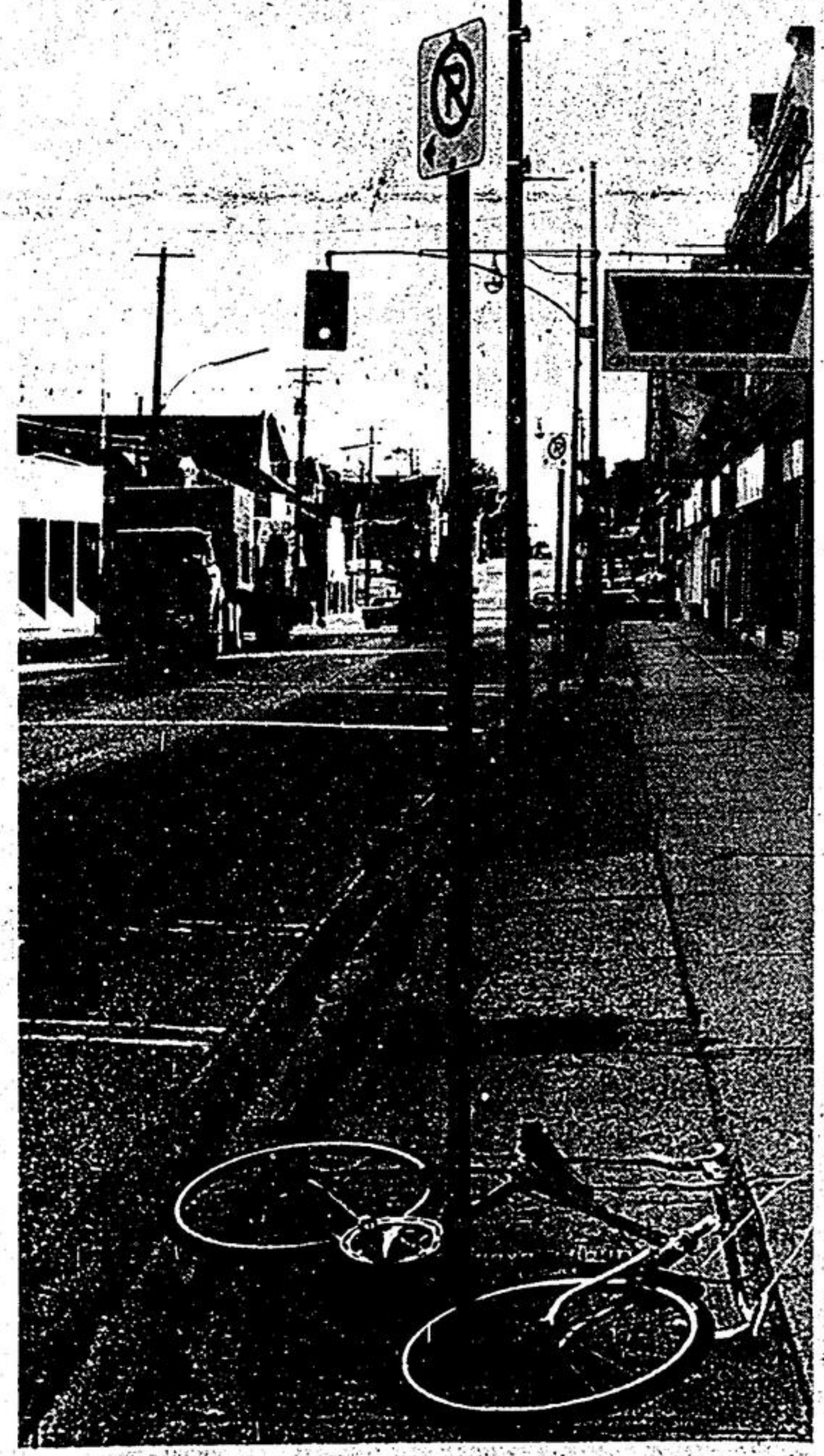
Shawn actually got bitten only once. "A little dog ran up and nipped me on the ankle," she admitted, "and the whole family came out. Then the little girl said, 'well, he's had all his shots.' I felt like saying, 'well, I haven't had mine,'" grinned Shawn. She feels that she didn't get bitten more often because people warned her about their neighbour's dogs. "There was one place," Shawn recalled, "where the people asked me if I'd been next door and when I said no the man said 'don't get out of your car, I was there yesterday and look what he did to my truck.' 'I looked at his truck,'" said Shawn dramatically "and there was paint off it."

Shawn also had a few out and out original responses when she knocked on doors.

"There was this man who said, 'I'm not going to buy a dog licence,' and then these two little kids said, 'he's just joking,' recounted Shawn, "and then the man said 'just a minute, I've got to get my camera and take a picture of somebody actually trying to sell me a dog licence.' He came out with this giant camera and then pointed to his dog. The dog was rolling on the grass with all four legs up in the air and the man said, 'look at my dog over there, he's in agony because of you.'"

Another funny incident occurred when Shawn approached a house where she knew there were three dogs. No one was home but there was a man talking to a lady next door. Shawn went up to him and discovered he was the owner. The man wasn't enthusiastic but excused himself to get his checkbook.

"I went to his house and knocked on the door but he wouldn't come out," said Shawn; "then waiting a while I got a little bit annoyed. I went back to the ladies house again, but he wasn't there either, so I asked if I could use her phone. He answered on the first ring," chuckled Shawn. "He knew it was me. He said 'is that you?' and then mumbled that he was



## A nice trick

The young owner of this bicycle, we imagine, was not pleased Sunday night when he discovered it spiked on a Main St. no parking sign. Although removing the bike must have been a difficult task the vehicle was gone Monday when the photographer checked back.

John Montgomery

## York police crack down on hooligans

In the past few weeks York Regional Police have made a concerted effort to halt hooliganism in public areas, particularly against liquor related offences.

Last week about 100 charges were laid throughout the region after incidents in public parks, school grounds, sideroads, plazas, etc. Offences included drinking under age, having liquor open and available in a car or vehicle, and there were some drug arrests.

Several charges for having an open package or bottle of liquor were laid at Stouffville last week and a local man was arrested for possession of LSD and marijuana.



Shawn Morton, was one of the three university students who went door to door throughout the township collecting dog license fees. Shawn, who received more than her share of abuse from the

month-and-a-half long job, was nevertheless able to enjoy herself and her new pet she picked up from her work: a Yorkshire terrier, Daisy.

Annegret Lamure

(see Lost, pg. 3)

## Wrestling bear kills woman

NEWMARKET — The Canadian Wildman as Dave McKigney calls himself will continue his wrestling career, but will not include bears in his act, he said Monday.

On Sunday, Smokey, Mr. McKigney's 460 pound black bear, attacked and killed his girlfriend, Lynn Orser, 30, in the bedroom of his home on Mulock Sideroad.

"I don't have any idea why he did it," said Mr. McKigney, "but it is the rutting season and maybe that had something to do with it."

The bear also slightly mauled Mr. McKigney when he tried to save his girlfriend. She was taken to York County Hospital early Sunday morning bleeding heavily, and was later transferred to Sunnybrook Hospital where she died at 1 p.m.

The bear generally has the run of the house and small farm property owned by Mr. McKigney, and on this occasion, the bear was turned loose while Mr. McKigney was cleaning his cage.

Smokey has been on the professional wrestling circuit for close to three years and has never hurt anybody, according to Mr. McKigney. He has owned the bear since it was a cub and now owns another black bear cub called Ben which he has had for close to a year. Before the attack on Sunday, Mr. McKigney had planned to train Ben to wrestle in the ring, but now says he will give Ben away.

Smokey has been seized by the Ontario Humane Society and was sent to the African Lion Safari and Game Farm at Rockton.

Mr. McKigney told Don Hepworth, chief inspector for the humane society, he "doesn't want it any more."

Mr. Hepworth said the bear appeared to be in fine health and did not appear to be rabid. He also said it might not have to be killed as is the usual procedure when an animal kills a human. "Killing it isn't necessarily the answer," he said.