

## Man dies after fall down stairs

STOUFFVILLE — A fall down the basement stairs earlier last month, has resulted in the death of a 52 year old Stouffville man.

Police said Harold Thorn returned to his residence at 585 Rupert Avenue around 2:15 a.m., Sept. 20. A short time later, he fell down the steps, striking his head on the floor below.

The victim was admitted to

Scarborough Centenary Hospital, then transferred to St. Michael's Toronto, where brain surgery was performed.

He died Oct. 1. Surviving besides his wife, the former Dorothy Swain, are two sons, Brian and Harold, and a daughter, Deborah.

Service was held from the O'Neill Funeral Home, Stouffville, Thursday afternoon with interment, Stouffville Cemetery.

## Fewer students

STOUFFVILLE — Declining student enrolment is an issue that must be faced by York County Board of Education, trustee Harry Bowes agrees, although the problem isn't as serious here as in some areas.

Mr. Bowes believes 1978 and 1979 will be "low years" in York with attendance figures picking up again in 1980.

"We've been lucky," he said. Enrolment in the region

is down about 900 from 1977, Harry Bowes explained.

With respect to an 'overload' of teachers, he makes the following recommendations: (1). Leave of absence. (2). A re-training program. (3). Staff transfers to other schools.

In addition, the Standing Committee on Planning and Building has put forward the following recommendation: "Every secondary school with an enrolment under 500 students; every elementary

school with an enrolment under 250 students and every larger secondary and elementary school with an enrolment less than 66 2/3 per cent of the capacity calculated at the Ministry loading factors (35 students per classroom), shall be identified for possible closing.

This position, a staff employee pointed out, is to be taken only as a guide for the Board and does not authorize the automatic closing of schools that do not meet the above requirements.

## Builders' group to regulate trades

YORK REGION — Douglas Sheldrake, president of York Builders' Association, has issued a warning that some contractors who have lost their licences for undisclosed reasons, are moving into this area, seeking jobs.

"There is presently no licencing of any of the trades here," he noted, explaining there's nothing to protect local residents from bad business practices.

The Builders' Association, established in January and encompassing 300 members, will benefit the home-owner in that it can provide residents with names of "good reputable trades people", fully screened, Mr. Sheldrake said.

Members of the Association pay a registration fee and have access to bookkeeping and credit agency services.

# The Tribune

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 12, 1978

## The Second Section

Sports — District News

## Save lady overcome by smoke

By Ed Schroeter  
MARKHAM — "If it hadn't been for Les and Lorne Thaw, and Joe Brooker, Lord knows how many might have been killed," said a grateful Ruth Kobe. Mrs. Kobe was treated for smoke inhalation after she was found in a smoke-filled hallway of the Wellington Arms Apartment, Hwy. 7 West.

As soon as the blaze was discovered by the superintendent's husband, Les Thaw, he and son Lorne, and Joe Brooker, his son-in-law, combed the entire apartment complex to make sure all residents had left the building.

They found Mrs. Kobe in the hall, "I couldn't even see the red exit sign," she exclaimed.

The fire, assumed to have been caused by faulty wiring, began in apartment 505, the home of John Beaudreau. The smoke penetrated the sixth floor just above.

The blaze was quite easily contained, according to Chief

Myrl Smith, but the smoke was so bad, firemen were forced to use portable air packs.

Mr. Thaw, without this equipment, spent two hours in the structure's smoke-filled halls, searching the rooms.

He was planning to turn off the alarm, assuming it was just another prank by mischievous children, when he heard the call, "Fire!" He knew what to do.

"I wasn't afraid. What I did was an instinctive reaction," he explained. "The first thing that came to mind was there could be kids in the apartment."

He went to 505 to check, but found it empty. There was a sudden explosion, throwing him against the door. In spite of the smoke and the injury, he continued to look for tenants.

Mr. Thaw, Lorne, and Joe, are all suffering from exposure to fumes. However, Mr. Thaw said, "In an emergency, I'd do it again."



Car demolished in crash on Hwy. 48 near Ballantrae

This car, a late-model Chrysler Cordoba, was one of two vehicles involved in a crash, early Saturday morning on Hwy. 48, north of the Vandorf Road in Whitchurch-Stouffville. The driver,

Charles Watson, 21, of Uxbridge, will recover. Ian Cuthbertson of Markham, driver of the other auto, died Sunday in hospital. —Jim Thomas.

## Dies at 106

Caroline "Carrie" Peirce, believed to be Canada's oldest resident, is dead at age 106.

Mrs. Peirce, formerly of Main Street, Markham, passed away in her sleep, Sunday, at Hyland Crest Sr. Citizens Home, Minden.

This amazing lady enjoyed her first plane ride-out of Buttonville Airport at age 101 and visited the Canadian National Exhibition at 105.

Service was held from the funeral home of John Welsh and Son, Minden, Monday evening with interment, Eyre Cemetery, Sudbury on Tuesday.

## Prowler strikes

BALLANTRAE — If husbands and wives, living in the Felray Subdivision at Ballantrae are sleeping in shifts these nights, it's for good reason. Recent break-ins have them concerned.

On Saturday, between midnight and 7 a.m., someone entered the home of Douglas Wilson, 43 Iroquois Drive; went to the bedroom where the owners were sleeping and removed a purse from the dresser. It contained six dollars, personal papers and credit cards.

On Sunday, Jill Swanton of 44 Iroquois Drive was awakened around 11:45 p.m., by a man who demanded money. He took about twenty dollars and left by a rear door.

## Brochures 'dolloed up'

STOUFFVILLE — Stouffville residents shouldn't be surprised to find paper dolls in their mailboxes, beginning Oct. 16. They're not toys, but unique brochures, related to the York Region United Way campaign.

Over 60,000 of these information packages as well as pledge cards are being distributed to homes across the region by local volunteers of all ages. These people will pick up the pledge cards several days later.

Contributions to the United Way help to support 14 human care agencies, including the Red Cross; the Canadian National Institute for the Blind, and other organizations for the handicapped.

## Ignored fire to stay with pets

By Ed Schroeter  
MARKHAM — Karl and Terry Henkel, Valleycrest Avenue, were on their way to have dinner with Karl's mother at her sixth floor apartment in the Wellington Arms, Wellington Way West. Arriving at the building, they were shocked to see thick, black smoke pouring from the structure, and Lydia Henkel still standing on her balcony.

"I couldn't leave my animals," Mrs. Henkel explained, "they're my family now." Over the years she has grown extremely fond of her three cats and her dog, "Tiger". They have become her "children".

Not a thought for her own safety entered her mind. "Oh, I cried, but I was more worried about my animals," she said, adding, "I'm an old woman. What could I lose?"

Describing the scene, Mrs. Henkel's son, Karl, noted everyone had been cleared from the building except his mother. "There she was, standing on the balcony. She had these darn cats in a pillow case, and the dog under one arm."

Mrs. Henkel had also gathered a few important papers, and several keepsakes from her husband she held very dear; they were hurriedly packed into a small suitcase. Several men, including Les

Thaw and his son, had tried earlier to coax Mrs. Henkel from her room, and carry her downstairs. "I got to the corner of the hall and I had to turn back," she said.

The hallway was filled with smoke so black she couldn't see. "And it burned, it burned like fire in my lungs," she exclaimed. Escape was complicated further by panicked occupants, "running like the devil" every which way.

Mrs. Henkel, realized she couldn't make it safely downstairs — not with all her animals.

She was in no immediate danger from the fire, but her son was so concerned, he entered the building to get her down. He made his way through the smoke, the smell of which still lingers today, according to Mrs. Henkel.

"I got to her door and pounded on it, but there was no reply," noted her son. Karl returned to the ground floor and motioned to her to go to her door.

Returning to the sixth floor again, Karl found the smoke so severe he had to stay low to the ground to breathe. He knew he couldn't make it back to her door. Then he heard what he thought was the sound of breathing.

He called out, thinking it was his mother. It was a fireman with a Scott fresh-air pack. On Karl's request, the firefighter went to Mrs. Henkel's apartment, gave her oxygen, and advised her she would be safe if she remained on the balcony.

Lydia Henkel never did make it downstairs. "It's over and we're still kicking," she concluded.

## Hearings expensive

STOUFFVILLE — Ontario Municipal Board hearings are increasing each year and so are costs to the Town, so much so, Mayor Gordon Ratcliff feels a policy should be enacted to relieve the municipality of this expense.

Mayor Ratcliff estimates the Town's share at \$1,000 a day, excluding advance preparation by lawyers and professional planners.

"It's a lot different than it was a few years ago," he said, "now, almost every subdivision application results in protest".

The mayor stressed the fact, he has no complaint with people voicing opposition. "That's their right," he said. He suggested, however, that the expense should be born by the developer who, in the end, is the main beneficiary.

## Harry Bowes

## Approves P.A. Days during March 'break'

STOUFFVILLE — Harry Bowes, Board of Education member of Whitchurch-Stouffville, supports Professional Activity Days for elementary teachers, but not at the expense of student instruction.

The local trustee made this point clear during an interview with The Tribune this week. He suggested the March "break" as a good time.

The original request by the teachers, Mr. Bowes said, was for twelve P.A. Days, but this had been reduced to eight by the Board. The arrangement

adopted at the secondary school level presents no problem, he explained, because time out of the classroom is postponed to the latter part of June when the year's work is over.

The Town trustee said he had never attended a P.A. Day program. "The only time I had an opportunity to go, I discovered it had been cancelled when I arrived," he said.

While loss of instructional time is of prime importance, Harry Bowes feels such days off can also create problems in households where both parents work.



No one was seriously injured but damage was extensive in a blaze at the Wellington Arms Apartment, Hwy. 7 West in Markham. One tenant, discovered in a hallway, was treated for smoke inhalation. —Ed Schroeter.



Unionville Jr. Farmers' President Marchia Otter, R. R. 2, Markham, presents Participation House Administrator Anne Pahl with a cheque for \$440. The money, raised at an exhibition softball game in Stouffville, will be used to purchase a wheel-chair for one of the residents. —Ed Schroeter.