

Pastors aid fire fund

STOUFFVILLE — A fire fund, to assist Marie Adams and two of her tenants, following the tragic Main Street blaze, Dec. 20, is gaining support, especially from local churches, Rev. Ted Creen, past-chairman of the Stouffville Ministerial told The Tribune this week.

He said several congregations had already responded, raising the total to well over \$500.

Mr. Creen explained that persons not already contacted and wishing to assist, can forward cheques to Box 1031, Stouffville. He said a fire fund account would be opened at the Stouffville Branch of the Imperial Bank of Commerce and that an approach would be made to the local Chamber of Commerce concerning help in that area.

There's still a pressing need

for clothing, Mr. Creen said. Mrs. Adams' size is 11-12. In shoes, she takes size seven. Jane Glick of 206 Manitoba Street, is collecting items at her home. The contact number there is 640-2794.

While the loss of one man's life plus a residence and business has been keenly felt here, the tragedy has not gone unnoticed elsewhere. Last week,

one of Mrs. Adams' daughters, Evangeline, delivered a suitcase full of clothes, gathered together by a group of friends in Lafayette, Louisiana.

Mrs. Glick said that in collecting wearing apparel, the two male boarders would not be overlooked. She said she planned to get in touch with them this week to find out their needs.



Teen candlelighter prepares for pageant

Christ Church Anglican, Sunset Boulevard, Stouffville, was filled to capacity, Dec. 24, for a beautiful Christmas Eve candlelight pageant.

Shown here, setting the sanctuary all aglow is 15 year old Shelley McMurray, Elm Road.

—Jim Thomas.

The Tribune

An Inland Community Newspaper

VOL. 93, NO. 36

WHITCHURCH-STOUFFVILLE, DECEMBER 31, 1980

25 CENTS

16 PAGES

Look for No. 1

On Friday, The Tribune will be checking in with the three local hospitals, York County, Newmarket; York Central, Richmond Hill and Uxbridge Cottage, to identify the new year's first arrival.

The stork has been known to stray from the aforementioned destinations, however. Should this occur, the proud father (in addition to all the other things he'll be thinking about), is asked to call the newspaper at 640-2100 so we can spread the news (and take a picture).

The Tribune is also interested in any precious gifts that arrived, 'special delivery' Christmas Day. Give us a call.

Unanimous decision

Market value for '81 taxes

STOUFFVILLE Market assessment's been approved by Whitchurch-Stouffville Council.

In short, this means that 1981 taxes will be based on 1978 valuations. Fifty per cent of property owners in town will pay more and fifty per cent will

pay less.

The decision, passed unanimously at a special meeting, Dec. 23, concluded debate on the issue that began earlier in the year. The municipalities of Aurora, Newmarket, East Gwillimbury and Georgina are considering

similar moves. All others have made the switch.

Owners of some older residences can expect a sizeable tax hike, Mayor Eldred King told The Tribune, while those in newer homes may pay less.

A breakdown follows: RESIDENTIAL - 2,204 will decrease; 2,206 will increase. COMMERCIAL - 310 will decrease; 195 will increase. MULTIPLE RESIDENTIAL - 163 will decrease; 38 will increase. INDUSTRIAL - 15 will decrease; 28 will increase. FARMS - 258 will decrease; 327 will increase.

"The Council felt it had to start somewhere," Mayor King explained, pointing out that the longer the situation was allowed to remain the wider the spread would become. "Some are going to be happy and some are going to be concerned," he said.

Individual notices will be mailed out Jan. 20. Two public meetings will follow, one at the Ballantrae Centennial Centre, Jan. 29 and another in Latham Hall, Jan. 31. Representatives from York Region's assessment staff will attend.

Residentially, the average tax shift by ward will be: WARD ONE - (599 units), \$61 per unit; WARD TWO - (1,179 units), \$52 per unit; WARD THREE - (725 units), \$27 per unit; WARD FOUR - (573 units), \$79 per unit; WARD FIVE - (666 units), \$50 per unit; WARD SIX - (668 units), \$60 per unit.

An example of the tax shift on farm properties is best shown in Wards 2 and 3. On 102 farms in Ward 2, the average will be \$81. In Ward 3 there are 217 farms. The average shift there will be \$46.

Owners of vacant land could be exceptionally hard hit, Mayor King said.

Aid crash victims

STOUFFVILLE — Seven members of a Stouffville family were injured, Friday, when their eastbound 1979 Chevrolet stationwagon was struck by a westbound car on the Stouffville-Gormley Road, near Ringwood.

Retained in hospital was Christopher Stainton, 90 Vanzant Court. Also treated and later released was Mrs. Stainton and five children, Kathryn,

Timothy, Elizabeth, Stephen and Daniel.

Mrs. Stainton said her husband ditched their vehicle in an attempt to avoid collision but it was struck broadside and demolished. She praised the assistance rendered at the scene, particularly by two off-duty nurses and an off-duty police constable. One nurse, Joanne McAllister of the Success Steak and Seafood House, witnessed the crash and came

back to help. Mrs. Stainton described these people as "just marvellous".

Thirteen year old Elizabeth suffered severe lacerations when her head went through a side window. Mrs. McAllister, she said, placed Elizabeth in her car and the constable covered her with his coat.

The accident occurred about 11:15 p.m. The family was en route home after spending the evening with friends.



Against a background of scorched wood and blackened bricks, a gaily wrapped gift swings back and forth near the entrance to Marie Adams' Christian Supply Centre on Main Street, Stouffville.

A tragic fire, Dec. 20, destroyed much of the interior, including the store. A tenant, living in a third storey apartment, died in the blaze.

Attempted bank robbery

Comedy of errors

VANDORF — Two eighteen year olds, charged with conspiracy to rob the Royal Bank on Woodbine Avenue in Vandorf last June, have been sent to jail following trial, last week, in York Regional County Court.

Jeffrey Sheppey will serve one year in prison. His companion, Brian Miller, was given sixteen months. Both were residents of Aurora.

The youths entered pleas of guilty to the offense and chatted back and forth throughout much of the proceedings.

Judge Donald Shearer heard the case.

Testimony revealed a comedy of errors that eventually led to their arrest in an Aurora donut shop.

Although the two had planned carefully the means by which they would carry out the robbery, even to arranging for a pilot to fly them out of the country, their arrival at the bank was ill-timed.

Crown Attorney K.D. Murray told how the manager had just closed the premises and was re-setting the burglar alarm when the pair pulled up. By accident, the alarm went off, sending Sheppey and Miller fleeing in a car that had been stolen for the purpose.

Murray described how the accused had purchased nylon stocking masks and carried a 30-30 Winchester rifle. After botching up the break-in, they changed clothing to escape identification, Murray said.

William Gorewich, counsel for Sheppey, said the two could give no logical explanation as to why they embarked on their ill-fated stunt. Although each has a criminal record, they were described as "youthful offenders."

"One cannot equate age with innocence," said Crown Attorney Murray, "each knew the consequences of his act." He called the robbery attempt, "a sophisticated and planned event." He claimed that had they not arrived on location 15 minutes late and had they completed their venture, he would be recommending a sentence of between three and five years. "The potential for danger was there, even though no robbery was committed."

Said Murray: "It is my impression, both have treated this thing as a lark, something to bring them glory among their peers." He called it "a crime that could have ended in disaster."

Judge Shearer agreed with the seriousness of the intent. "It was intended to be a highly professional job, all intricately planned," he said, pointing out that any attempt to rob a bank is a very serious matter. Adding to this was the fact the accused were armed in case of resistance, Judge Shearer noted in passing sentence.

Firemen felled

MARKHAM — Three Markham firefighters suffered smoke inhalation and another required treatment for burns while battling a blaze, Dec. 23, at the home of Edward Wise, 10 Riverview Road.

Douglas Curr and John Woodcock were admitted to York Central Hospital, Richmond Hill. Bill Snowball was

treated in Scarborough Centenary. Gordon Hooper was given first aid by York Ambulance attendants.

Chief Myrl Smith said occupants of a basement apartment were making potato chips and left a container of cooking oil on the stove unattended.

Damage was estimated at \$18,000.

Safeguard apartments Town fire chief vows

STOUFFVILLE — Apartment dwellings in Whitchurch-Stouffville will come under closer scrutiny, Fire Chief Walter Smith has vowed, following the Dec. 20 blaze that claimed one life and rendered three persons homeless.

Chief Smith told The Tribune he intended to check requirements under present legislation and, if necessary, update them to better safeguard such buildings.

When asked if there were other residences in Town used for a similar purpose, the chief replied "many others". With respect to the Adams' house, however, he said he wasn't aware of tenants in the second and third storeys until some time after he reached the fire scene.

Johanna Sorenson, 72, a roomer on the third floor, died in the blaze when his escape down a rear stairway was cut off by smoke and flames.

Chief Smith said that on learning a man was trapped in that section of the house, a ladder was raised to the win-

dow. By then, he said, the heat was too intense for anyone to enter. "We all felt sick about it," he stated.

The chief stressed that all such dwellings should be equipped with smoke detectors. "I'll be taking the necessary steps," he promised, "one can't measure lives in dollars and cents".

The chief stressed too that every public residence of more than two storeys, should have two exits.

It's his feeling that anyone planning to rent a room, should first be required to obtain a permit. In this way, an inspection would be carried out before the application is approved.

The necessity of constructing fire escapes will also be considered.

Chief Smith praised the assistance provided by firefighters from Markham. A hydraulic Telesquirt, used by Markham for a first time, helped bring the blaze under control "It's a great machine," he said, "we need one here". At the height of the fire, close to 2,000 gallons of water per minute was being poured onto the structure.

While the cause hadn't been determined when The Tribune last talked to the chief, he indicated the fire had started in a rear kitchen and spread up a stairwell to the roof. An inquest, he said, would be held if recommended by the Fire Marshal's Office and the Canadian Standards' Association.

Walter Smith said the death of Mr. Sorenson was the first of its kind in Stouffville since he took over the post. There have been three others in the area, all in the former Twp. of Whitchurch.

Friends say farewell

STOUFFVILLE — Funeral service for Johanna Sorenson, the lone fire death victim in a blaze that destroyed the home and business of Marie Adams, Dec. 20, was held Friday from the Danish Lutheran Church, Finch Avenue West with Interment, King City Cemetery. Mr. Sorenson was 72.

A native of Denmark, he came to Canada about 27 years ago. For the past ten years, he was employed by Don Hargrave, first on 19th Avenue

near Dickson's Hill and more recently east of Ballantrae.

Mrs. Hargrave described him as "an amazing man" who took great pride in his work. He cared for their vegetable and flower gardens and also looked after their horses. "He had the run of the place," she said and seemed to enjoy a feeling of independence.

Mrs. Hargrave told of his love for poetry and how children would gather around him. "He had friends from every walk of life," she said.