

FOUR DIE IN UXBRIDGE FIRE

Victims all trapped

UXBRIDGE — A joint report from an investigation by the Durham Regional Fire Marshal and Durham Police, into a fire that claimed four lives near Uxbridge, early Sunday morning, is expected to be released this week.

The blaze occurred in a combination garage and residence, three miles east of Uxbridge on Highway 47, around 2:30 a.m. It is said to have resulted when one of the persons attending a birthday party threw a "flammable substance" into a downstairs wood stove and the whole place burst in flames.

He is thought to have tried to put out the flames himself, and failing to do so, ran to a neighboring farmhouse, 1,000 yards to the west, and called in the alarm.

Killed in the inferno were John Pollard, 43, who was giving the party for his son, James, 22; brothers Michael and John Robinson, 17 and 19, respectively; and Roy Crawford, 17, all of Uxbridge.

David Miller, 17; Brad Hockley, 21, and James Pollard, all escaped.

Miller fled through the front door, while the other two jumped out a second-storey window into the snow. Uxbridge Fire Chief Norm James told The Tribune the snow was

hard and the two men suffered cuts, bruises and other injuries.

Both were taken to Uxbridge Cottage Hospital for treatment. Hockley was reported in "stable condition," Monday afternoon. Pollard was transferred to York County Hospital in Newmarket, where he was said to be "satisfactory" after surgery to repair tendon damage.

Miller was treated at Uxbridge Hospital for head burns.

Chief James said his volunteers were helpless to rescue any of the victims when they arrived on the scene.

"The flames were already pouring through the roof when we left Uxbridge," the chief said. On their arrival, the frame building was completely engulfed.

He said the fatalities were the first in Uxbridge Township in 20 years.

Karen Cleverdon, a

resident to the east of the building, said she called the fire department too, but the alarm had already been turned in.

Chief James said John Pollard lived alone in the house. He said the property is owned by "a German man," whose name he didn't know. He said the man was away and the main farmhouse is unoccupied.

There may have been another victim too. A dog house, with the inscription "Mork and Minnie's Place," was found relatively intact inside the building.

Chief James said he didn't know if Pollard kept an animal on the premises.

A spokesman for Low and Low Funeral Directors, Uxbridge, which is handling the arrangements for the four deceased, said there had been a delay in the service, due to the fact the bodies had been taken to Toronto for pathology tests.



Pieces of scorched timber are all that remain of a frame house, east of Uxbridge, where four men died in a fire early

Sunday morning. Three escaped the inferno, two by jumping from upstairs windows.

—Jim Holt.

Unhappy with salary hike

DURHAM REGION — Despite voting in favor of a new salary contract that will give them an 11 per cent increase and cost Durham Board of Education more than \$3 million, Durham public school teachers are "pretty annoyed," according to Don Curran, chief negotiator for Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation.

"It's certainly not a victory we're going to celebrate," Curran said.

Included in the one-year agreement, are raises of 9.8 per cent in salary, retroactive to Sept. 1, 1981, and an additional 1.54 per cent, Jan. 1. At the same time, there's a \$100 cash payout with the retroactive money.

At present, the 1,000 teachers in the system, earn between \$16,150 and \$33,411 a year. With the new contract, principals will receive boosts of 9.16 per cent, along with higher cash payouts, to bring the yearly amount of money to the same level as the teachers'.

Curran said that

"reasonably good" improvements had been made to staffing, another key issue, with pupil-teacher ratio moving to 17.23 from 17.50. He said the provincial average is 16.44.

He concluded that the contract for the 1,000 elementary teachers, is not "terribly bad."

At the same time, Durham's 460 separate school teachers agreed to a new agreement giving them increases of 12.5 per cent, retroactive to Sept. 1, of last year, and 13.34 per cent, retroactive to the beginning of this month.

The agreement extends to August, 1982.

Oppose waste plant

UXBRIDGE — A petition against a proposed industrial waste centre on the Uxbridge-Whitchurch townline north of Lincolnville, is a waste in itself, a meeting of Council concluded, last week.

"I'm not going to move we receive and file it," said Councillor Sandy Ewen, "as we don't even have a file on industrial waste."

Mayor Bill Ballinger suggested Council reply to the 74-signature petition, however, "as a matter of courtesy."

The meeting agreed to a motion by Councillor Mac Meyers that the writers be informed Council isn't "considering such a proposal at this time."

The matter resulted from a recent visit to Council by former mayor, and now Durham Regional Council Chairman, Gary Herrema, in which he suggested a worked-out gravel pit in the area be considered for a future liquid waste plant.

Higher police budget

DURHAM REGION — The Police Commission of Durham Region has submitted a 1982 budget calling for expenditures of \$19.6 million, a 17 per cent increase over last year. However, the region's finance committee claims a hike of 14 per cent is the absolute maximum.

Included in the '82 allocation are sufficient funds to hire 12 more civilian employees, although most regional departments had been advised earlier that no new equipment or personnel should be added.

The police budget, as recommended, represents half the total net expenditure (\$37.8 million) for the region.

Mailboxes not the same

Farmer seeks more for less

UXBRIDGE — "They just don't make them like they used to."

With that comment, an Uxbridge resident, asked Council to reimburse him for his \$33 mail box, which he claimed had been damaged by a township snowplow.

However, as with everything else, the price of mail boxes has gone up, so Frank Leppard, of R.R. 2, Uxbridge, suggested he be paid \$50, instead of the original \$33. "They just don't make

them like they used to," he wrote.

The township's policy is to repair damaged boxes, Mayor Bill Ballinger said. "But, if he wants to pursue it, fine."

"After it's been used, too, that's the best part," said Councillor Gerri Lynn O'Connor.

"It's an antique, and antiques increase in value," quipped Councillor Ron Johnson.

The matter was referred to the works committee.

The Tribune

Second Section

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 1982

Feelings are "spice of life"

Goodwood speaker lauded by judges

GOODWOOD — While "variety is the spice of life," the same can be applied to "feelings," Donna Yeats told fellow competitors in the Grade 4 to 6 public speaking contest at Goodwood School last week.

That, and a few other pertinent observations as to how feelings touch us all, helped judges decide in favor of the Grade six student for the No. 1 spot.

Right behind her, were Susan Gribble, Grade 5, who spoke on "Salt," and Daphne

Paszerko, Grade 6, whose subject was "The Mystery of Oak Island."

In selecting Donna, judges Jim Hunter, Elinor Paisley and Allan McGillivray, cited her "good audience rapport, voice quality, humor, body language, syntax and ability to speak without cue cards."

Mrs. Paisley is a teacher at the Stouffville Christian School; Mr. Hunter is a teacher with the program resource department Durham Board of Education; and Mr. McGillivray is a former

teacher and a two-time high school public speaking champion.

Donna now goes on to the Uxbridge Legion public speaking contest, Feb. 28.

Other speakers and their topics, were: Patricia Henderson, Grade 4, "Summer Vacation"; Matthew Taylor,

Grade 4, "Computers"; Clint Harrison, Grade 5, "Hair"; Nicole Koogje, Grade 6, "Fears"; Chris Winn, Grade 5, "Witchcraft"; and Braley Miller, Grade 4, "Cryptography."

In charge of the program was principal, Richard Hannah.

Piano teacher doubly proud

PICKERING — Cecilia Hwang, Rougemount Drive, Pickering, is doubly proud this week. Her seven year old daughter Christina received marks of 87 and 85 per cent in a piano solo and a piano duet at the 39th annual Kiwanis Music Festival. Mrs. Hwang is her teacher.

Christina placed third in a class for eight year olds and under. She then teamed up with Mia Kim, also of Pickering, in a

piano duet, placing third again.

Christina is a Grade 2 pupil at Sir John A. McDonald Public School. Other activities include ballet and figure skating. Soon, she'll study violin.

In the piano solo class, 11 years and under, Sandra Lee of Pickering placed second with a mark of 87. On Feb. 9, Sandra joined with Marlene Hageman of Pickering in a piano duet and came third with a mark of 84.

Kristin Graham

Claremont student matches big sister

CLAREMONT — "All in the family". So it is with the Graham sisters, Courtney and Kristin, students attending Claremont Public School.

Two weeks ago, Courtney, age 12 and in Grade 7, won the intermediate public speaking competition. The title of her subject was "Sandwiches".

Last week, ten year old Kristin, a student in Grade 5, topped the junior class. Her topic was "Problems With Parents".

Courtney now advances to the district finals, Feb. 18 at Lincoln Avenue Public School, Pickering. Kristin's next round is March 9 at Rosebank Public School.

There were nine speakers at the junior level, Grades 4 to 6. The runner-up was Pam Barber. Her subject was "Money".

Other contestants were Christine Cece who spoke on "Italy"; Jennifer Greer, "The Royal Wedding"; Julie Win-

Recovering

YORK REGION: Bruce Crawford, York Region's Chief of Police, was admitted to York County Hospital, Newmarket, Thursday, after suffering chest pains.

Since then, he's responded well to treatment and on Monday was released from intensive care.



Sisters Courtney (left) and Kristin Graham, students attending Claremont Public School, Courtney, 12, is in Grade 7; Kristin, 10, is in Grade 5.

—Jim Thomas.



Goodwood Guides receive All-Round Cord awards

Four Goodwood Guides, now graduated to Pathfinders, received their All-Round Cords at a ceremony, Feb. 9 in the Community Centre. Honored were (left to right) Cathy Brophy,

Melissa Elson, Diana Buchanan and Jeanette St. John. The special occasion was attended by Commissioners Elvira Southgate and Tess Dempster.

—Jim Holt.