

Council attempts to increase turnout in next election

In an effort to increase voter turnout, Markham council passed a motion Tuesday to endorse lengthening voting hours during municipal elections.

In a letter from Toronto City Council, Markham and other large municipalities were asked to endorse the Toronto resolution. It asks that the provincial government be requested to pass legislation allowing municipalities to open polling stations at 9 a.m. The current opening time on election day is 11 a.m.

"Markham council would like to see an improved voter turnout," said Councillor Ron Moran. "We usually get somewhere in the high 60s (percentage of eligible

voters) provincially." Last November's municipal election had a dismal 35 per cent turnout.

Though council endorsed Toronto's motion, some councillors thought the 9 a.m. opening would do little to increase voter participation.

Thornhill Councillor Bob Sherwood said an 8 a.m. start would be more appropriate for most people who begin their work day at 9 a.m.

"If you bring the voting hours down to nine (a.m.) who is going to vote," he said. "I don't think you're going to increase (participation). I think 8 a.m. would be much better."



Storytime

Jeanne Scargall, children's librarian at the Markham Community Library, seems to make books come alive each Wednesday afternoon at

2:30 p.m. at the library. Many children come for the weekly storytime feature.

Scarborough man burned

A 34-year-old Scarborough man was recently taken to York Central Hospital with second degree burns following a small explosion at Parkway Hotel.

York Regional Police said Gilles Robitaille was installing fuses at the Hwy 7 hotel on Jan. 9 when the explosion occurred. Mr. Robitaille suffered burns to

the facial area and hands. He was taken to York Central Hospital by ambulance and later transferred to the burn unit at Scarborough General Hospital.

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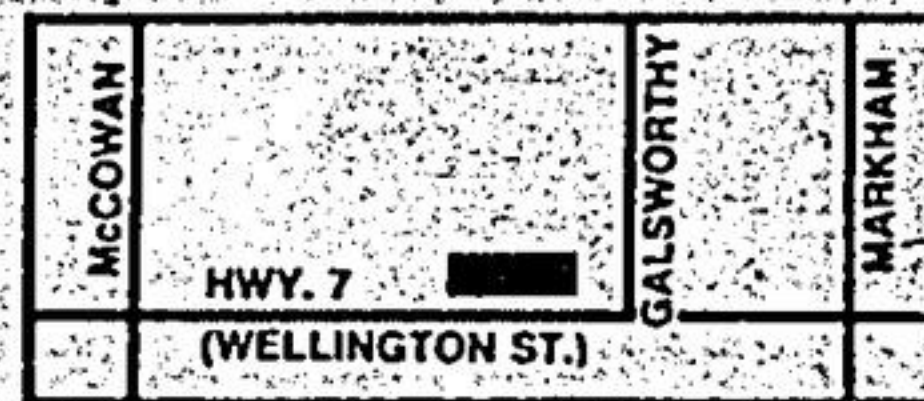
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