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VOL. 98 NO. 42 A Metroland Community Newspaper Wednesday, February 19, 1986 42 pages 50 cents



A 1974 Ford van, believed to have been a mobile home for a 25-year-old Scarborough man and his 23-year-old Stouffville girlfriend, was almost a death trap for the couple. Robert Baker and Charlene Fraser-Wills were found un-

conscious Sunday afternoon in the rear of the vehicle on a parking lot east of Market Street in Stouffville. Either carbon monoxide poisoning or exposure is to blame.

Their live-in van almost death trap



Stouffville fire captain Bill Brown (left) and ambulance operator Brian Donohue administer oxygen to Charlene Fraser-Wills of Stouffville. The victim remains in critical condition in Toronto General Hospital. Her companion's condition has been upgraded to serious.

STOUFFVILLE — An observant Stouffville woman and quick response by a Burkholder Street man, may have saved the lives of a couple discovered unconscious in the back of a parked van Sunday afternoon.

Robert Ronald Baker, 25, of Scarborough (and formerly of Stouffville) is reported in serious condition in Toronto General Hospital. The condition of Charlene Fraser-Wills, 23, of Stouffville remains critical. She is a patient in the same hospital.

Fred Jordan of Burkholder Street found the victims in the rear of Baker's 1974 Ford Econoline van. Heran to the home of John Brown on Market Street and called the fire department.

"I tried to awaken them but there was no movement," Jordan said. Their faces were blue, he recalled.

Minutes before the discovery at a lady returning from church said she noticed the truck in the IGA parking lot about 9:30 a.m. Mr. Jordan decided to check it out.

Town firefighters and ambulance personnel administered resuscitation at the scene and en route to hospital. The girl was later transported by helicopter from Uxbridge to Toronto when the seriousness of her condition was diagnosed.

Initially, carbon monoxide poisoning was suspected. Police now feel exposure was the cause despite the fact both were warmly dressed.

Furniture inside the van made it appear the couple was using the vehicle as a kind of mobile home. It's possible the truck was parked there overnight, police said.

Business board requests Hydro hold up project

STOUFFVILLE — Plans by the Stouffville Hydro Commission to update its system in the area of Main Street from the Ninth Line through to the Tenth, has run into stiff opposition from the town's Business Improvement Area board.

At a B.I.A. meeting, Feb. 12, it was agreed that a letter be sent to the Commission asking the project be delayed pending discussions with representatives of Council, the Chamber of Commerce, Hydro and the B.I.A.

"Rather than a piece-meal job, I feel the Commission should wait until sufficient funds are available so the work can be done properly," he stated.

Members agreed Hydro says fewer poles will be required. The illumination will also be greatly improved, the Commission explains. Total cost is estimated at \$90,000.

Burying the wires represents an expense of from one-half to three-quarter million dollars;

Hydro claims. Cement rather than cedar poles are impractical because linemen can't climb them. Also, the Commission's aerial bucket can't reach the top.

Prior to Wednesday's Chamber of Commerce meeting, a letter from the B.I.A. over the signature of chairman Tommy Thompson, stressed the importance of a beautification program for Stouffville's downtown and requested the Commission's cooperation in this regard.

Future 'on ice'

STOUFFVILLE — What to do with the old arena? The Town needs help in reaching a decision.

The future of the 35-year-old building will be the topic of discussion at a public meeting, March 5 at 7:30 p.m., in Latcham Hall.

Council is divided. Some want to save all of it; some none of it and some part of it.

At a committee discussion, Tuesday, Ron Robb recommended the structure be left as is until such time as its future is definite. Margot Marshall suggested the building be demolished while Mayor Fran Sainsbury felt the front portion only should be saved.

What do YOU think?
 Suggestions will be welcomed March 5.

Tylenol halt no effect here

STOUFFVILLE — Johnson & Johnson Co.'s decision to stop manufacture of Tylenol in capsule form will not affect business at McNeil Pharmaceutical, a subsidiary firm, here in Stouffville.

Bob Stuart, Director of Personnel, told The Tribune, Monday's decision has no bearing on the local company, because Canada's Tylenol is manufactured and sold by the (Johnson & Johnson) company in Guelph.

Johnson and Johnson, Canada, said from his office, "the incident in New York is being treated as a homicide," adding "it's an isolated case."

He said, "because the potential exists (for this kind of tampering) we feel it's not worth the risk."

Water bed douses fire

WHITCHURCH — The contents of a punctured waterbed helped save a Whitchurch-Stouffville house from severe fire damage Feb. 11.

Volunteers from both Stations I and II responded to a late-afternoon call at the residence of Herb and Barbara Wells, Conc. 6, south of the Aurora Road.

But when firefighters arrived, they discovered the blaze in a master bedroom had already been extinguished.

Chief Walter Smith told The Tribune the only possible explanation is that heat from the flames caused a nearby waterbed to burst, unleashing a flood that put the fire out.

Cause of the blaze has been attributed to a faulty extension chord.

The 180 employees at the Stouffville firm will continue working as usual, he said, pointing out that the local operation has nothing to do with Tylenol.

The Guelph manufacturer's decision was made following a recent incident in New York that claimed the life of 23-year-old Diane Elstroth. She died after taking a Tylenol capsule laced with cyanide. In 1982, seven people in Illinois died of cyanide poisoning after taking Tylenol capsules.

After the seven deaths, Tylenol packages were made "tamper-proof" with seals on both the box and vial.

Paul Mitchell, president of

Break-in

STOUFFVILLE — A complete computer set, estimated to cost more than \$2,000, was stolen from Orchard Park Public School on the weekend.

During a regular Sunday morning check of the premises, custodian Ed McAlooney discovered the break-in. A window near the kindergarten entrance was smashed. Another window inside the building, between the hallway and main office where the Apple computer was kept, had also been broken.

Principal John Hincks told The Tribune two disk drives, a printer, a monitor and the computer keyboard were taken, "probably on Saturday night."

Legal action anticipated against former councillor

By CHRIS SHANAHAN
 UXBRIDGE — Uxbridge Township's patronage war rages on.

One combatant is taking legal action against a retired councillor. He's also calling for the resignation of Mayor Gerri Lynn O'Connor.

Gil Cragg told The Tribune he's notified his lawyers to proceed with a libel suit against former Ward 4 councillor Sandy Ewen.

Mr. Ewen claimed in a Feb. 12 letter to an Uxbridge newspaper that Mr. Cragg's 1986 appointment to the municipality's committee of adjustment involved "a little pork-barrelling."

He questioned the relationship between councillor Cal Avery and

his constituent, and suggested Mr. Cragg's committee job was a political favor from the Ward 1 representative.

But Mr. Cragg said in an interview: "Everything I've done has been above board and to the point." He claimed he followed standard procedure by applying in writing to the municipal clerk for one of five seats on the committee of adjustment.

Mr. Cragg has since turned the tables and claimed Mayor O'Connor was in the wrong for pushing Mr. Ewen onto the same committee, even though her former colleague wasn't one of five original applicants.

The Goodwood-area ratepayer is also upset by what he alleges

are procedural violations. See Letter to the Editor on page B-4.

"Because of the obvious mess she's created over this matter, and who knows what else, I believe the mayor (Gerri Lynn O'Connor) should first correct her obvious error by removing the two superfluous members from the committee of adjustment, and then resign herself," he said.

Mr. Cragg admits he was an Avery supporter in the Nov. 12 municipal election, but denies he managed the candidate's campaign. He says his only contribution was cutting 100 wooden stakes for Mr. Avery's election signs.

An earlier patronage accusation was directed at Mr. Ewen and Mayor O'Connor by councillor

Avery, who opposes any politician's acceptance of a paying municipal position.

"It was political patronage. And I think it stinks," he said of the former council member's addition to the adjustment panel. Members receive \$30 per meeting and the chairman \$40.

Mr. Avery first blocked the move, but was overruled by a 6-1 recorded vote when the mayor's recommendation came back before Council Jan. 23.

The reason for adding both Mr. Ewen and Grant Hill is to better spread the adjustment committee's representation throughout the township, according to Mayor O'Connor. This planning body previously had a maximum of five members, but amendments to the Planning Act now allow seven.

The mayor denies Mr. Ewen's appointment is patronage and says, "as far as I'm concerned it's a dead issue."

Mr. Ewen retired from municipal politics at the conclusion of the 1982-85 term. He last served as chairman of Uxbridge Township's planning and development committee.



Love bridges over a stormy sea.

Big fish for Fran

STOUFFVILLE — "I wanted to catch more than a cold," said Mayor Fran Sainsbury after she agreed to enter The Great Red Herring Fishing Derby at Jackson's Point.

And she did. She won the Two of Georgina Derby Championship, hauling a three-pound white fish from the chilly waters of Lake Simcoe.

Mayor Sainsbury contends that because she was one of only three ladies taking part, the

males in her party may have coaxed the fluky specimen onto her hook.

Regardless, she has a trophy to show for her skills. And she and husband Dennis enjoyed a fish dinner Sunday.

Mayor, Carole Bell of Markham and Mayor Lorna Jackson of Vaughan were the other fisherpersons in the group.