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Driver escapes out window after car topples into river

Just lucky says motorist after rescue

RINGWOOD — Just lucky. That's how 24-year-old Monika Duesing describes her escape from drowning Sunday after her 1985 Chevette went out of control on the Stouffville Road, east of Conc. 7, and overturned in an ice-covered stream.

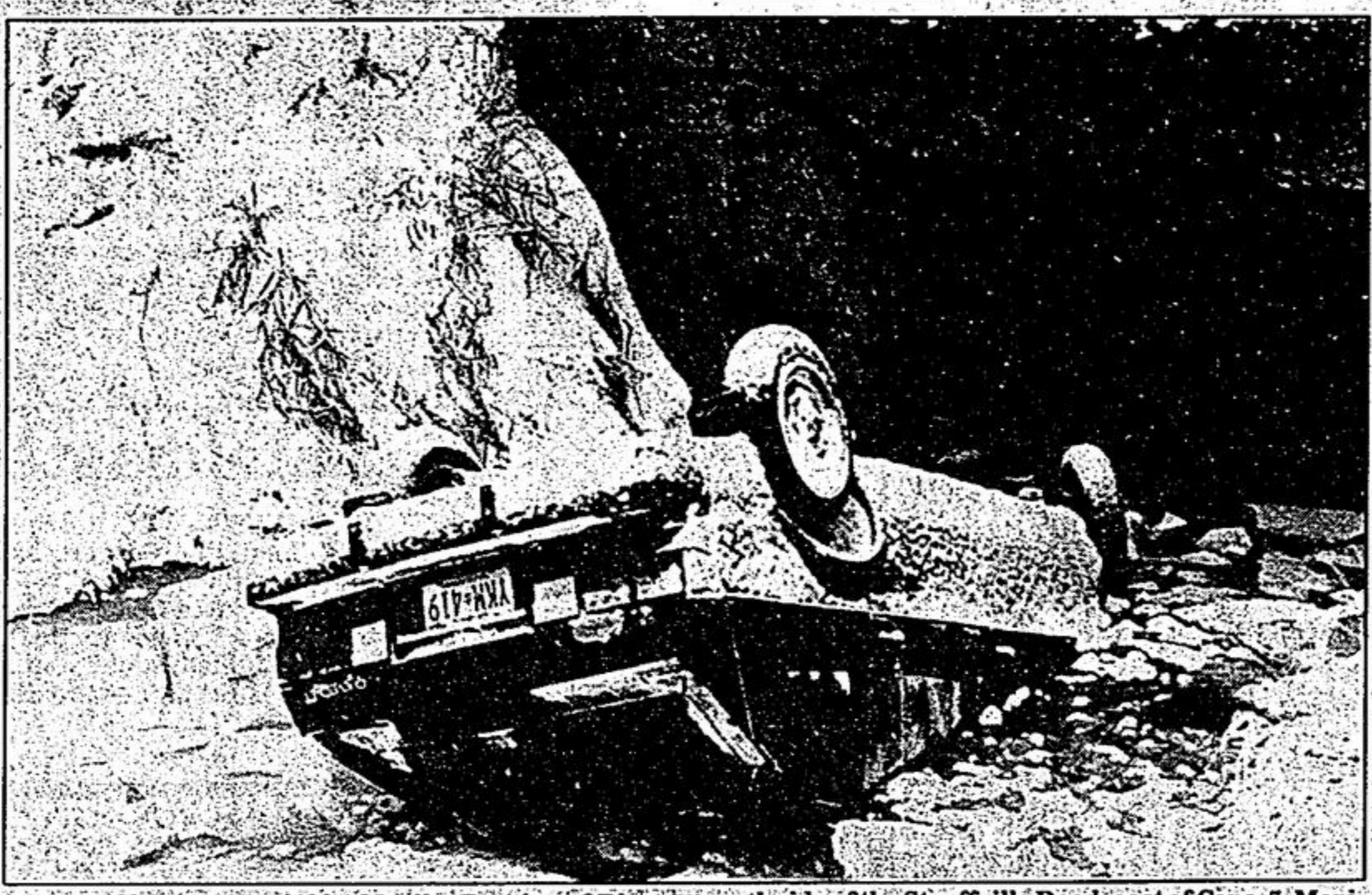
The victim, a staff employee at Rockcliffe Nursing Home, Lawrence Avenue East, Scarborough, was on her way to work when the accident happened.

"Although the driver's door was jammed, Monika was able to crawl through a side window as water poured in.

"Fortunately, I didn't panic," the Ringwood woman said. "I took a deep breath of air and scrambled out." She lay on the creek bank until help arrived.

First on the scene were Dominic Galati and his two sons, John, 25, and Mark, 18, of King City.

"She was soaked from head to foot and in shock," John said. Mark wrapped his coat around the victim and together helped her into their truck.



A 1985 Chevette, owned by Monika Duesing of Ringwood, lies partially submerged in a stream on the south side of the Stouffville Road, east of Conc. 7. Monika escaped drowning by crawling out a side window.



The badly damaged auto is hauled out of the water by Fred and Rob Beard of Ted's Towing, Ballantrae. First aid was provided the driver by a father and two sons, en route to Stouffville from King City. — Jim Thomas

Trucker charged

BLOOMINGTON — A charge of careless driving has been laid against a 55-year-old dump truck operator following a collision Jan. 13 on the Bloomington Road near the 9th Concession.

Killed in the crash was John Plumbtree, 71, of Bobcaygeon. Marjorie Plumbtree, his wife, is listed in serious condition in the surgical intensive care ward of Sunnybrook Hospital.

York Regional Police confirmed this week that Peter Konosoros of Toronto had been charged. He escaped injury.

Mr. Plumbtree, driver of a westbound 1976 Chevrolet, was pronounced dead at the scene. Mrs. Plumbtree was freed from the wreckage and transported by air ambulance to Sunnybrook. Her condition, initially listed as critical, has since been upgraded to serious.

Property Standards Town clean-up

Unightly site-owners beware. The Town's on a clean-up campaign.

"It's time to bite the bullet," a determined Mayor Fran Sainsbury told The Tribune following passage of the Whitchurch-Stouffville Property Standards Bylaw. "Other people have rights, too."

Although the mayor declined to target specific properties, she said ten to twelve owners/tenants need to "clean up their acts."

The fine for contravening an order is \$500 a day or \$10,000 a month.

"It's unfortunate we must go to these extremes," Mayor Sainsbury stated, "but we needed a bylaw with clout."

It's been four years in the making, she said.

Bruce Arrowsmith, the Town's Chief Building Official, has added responsibility of handling complaints under the designation of Property Standards Officer. A three-man board comprising Jim Richards, Richard Preston and Denis O'Connor will sit as an independent jury.

"If an individual refuses to pay, the fine will be added to the owners' taxes," the mayor explained. The Town also has the power to move onto a property and complete the clean-up job itself.

Former Stouffville resident Snowmobile mishap kills father of three

STOUFFVILLE — A snowmobile accident, Saturday afternoon, has taken the life of a well-known former Stouffville man.

Jim Harper, 40, of Cannington, died in Ross Memorial Hospital, Lindsay, five hours after his snow vehicle overturned on a trail two miles from the family farm in Brock Township. Cause of death was attributed to a ruptured aorta.

"The doctors were magnificent," daughter Lisa told The Tribune. "they did everything they could."

Jim, accompanied by three others, a brother Ken and friends Douglas Bailey and Jerry Sweeney were heading home when the victim's machine suddenly flipped out of control and rolled over. Since Jim was trailing the other three, no one saw it happen.

Despite the severity of his injuries, Jim remained conscious in the ambulance and in the hospital. Physicians praised his strength and courage.

Prior to moving to Cannington two years ago, Jim and wife Penny resided on Manitoba Street, Stouffville. Jim was a seven-year employee on the staff of the Stouffville IGA before joining his brother Harold at Country Building Supplies in Sunderland.

He was an enthusiastic supporter of the Timmy Snowrama for Crippled Children project and purchased a snowmobile so he could take part.

Besides his wife and daughter Lisa, he is survived by a son, Edward, a second daughter, Rebecca, his mother, Mrs. Flossie Wagg of Stouffville, four brothers, Donald of Goodwood, Harold of Sunderland, Jack and Ken of Stouffville, and six sisters, Barbara, Malcolm, Donna, McGuckin and Linda Fretz of

Stouffville; Doris Maynard of Ottawa; Evelyn Machesney of Pefferlaw and Betty Ferguson of Uxbridge.

Rev. Jim Byrne of Virginia Beach and formerly of Stouffville, will conduct the funeral service Wednesday (today) at 2 p.m. from the Stouffville Missionary Church with spring interment Stouffville Cemetery.

Gold star

Ward 4 Councillor Wayne Emmerson gets the gold star.

Councillor Emmerson had a perfect attendance record at the 34 Council meetings in 1986.

This figure does not include the various committees served on by members such as planning, museum, library, community centres and so on.

Mayor Fran Sainsbury missed only one; Councillor Jim Sanders two; Councillors Margo Marshall and Wilf Morley three; Councillors Ron Robb and Jim Rae four.

"As the new kid on the block, I had a lot to learn," Councillor Emmerson said. He said his employers (Schell Lumber) had been very co-operative with respect to allowing him time off. He endeavours to make it up on other days.

"It involves a lot more work than I thought," the Ward 4 councillor admitted, saying that, when all is totalled up, it amounts to about 25 cents an hour.

Weather dampens Fair's finances

MARKHAM — "Our position would have been very profitable if we hadn't had a Fair."

While the statement by Markham Fair finance chairman Harvey Brown was considered humorous by many, the speaker

was obviously serious. And figures contained in the auditor's report made this plain.

The balance sheet, circulated at the annual meeting Jan. 14, showed a net loss in 1986 of \$27,601.00. However, off-season



Fun weekend

rentals of buildings and property showed an income of \$84,999 or \$39,244 more than in 1985.

Weather was the problem. "Mother Nature didn't exactly smile on us," auditor Ed Bobot said. This was indicated in several areas including admissions, down by \$54,000.

Total earnings were \$396,236 in 1986, compared to \$407,137 in '85. Total expenses were \$395,081 in '86, compared to \$373,478 in 1985.

Despite the "red ink" report, Brown described the end result as "reasonably successful—much better than I thought it would be."

Mr. Bobot agreed, saying "it's not as bad a picture as initially it might have appeared."

The theme of the 1986 Fair was "Celebrating the Good Things in Life." "This we did," commented President Mary (Cosburn) Beare, "including the rain and the mud!"

Mrs. Beare said that while gate attendance was down, "the Fair was a very successful and innovative endeavor."

In spite of the weather, most exhibits were up including: Domestic Science; Needlecraft; Photography; Eighteen & Under; Poultry; Sheep; Goats; Light Horses and Ruffs & Vegetables.

Several major improvements were made to the property during 1986 including paving the main roadway; purchase of a larger grass mower and installation of new lights in the parking area.

The president for 1987 is Rick Wannop, Markham, R.R. 2; The 1st vice-president is Dave Morrison, R.R. 1, Unionville. The 2nd vice-president is Diane Ward, R.R. 4, Stouffville.

Alert housewife aids in arrest

CLAREMONT — Debbie Wilson of Claremont is the type of witness police appreciate.

On her return to the family's 6 Sideline farm home recently, she observed a stranger leaving the property. She made a mental note of the car's license number.

A short time later, a vehicle was stopped in the area of Hwy. 401 and the Brock Road and the driver arrested.

The bizarre episode occurred when Mrs. Wilson pulled into the laneway entrance on her way back from the barn. As she walked towards the house, one suspect ran past her and jumped behind the wheel.

Meanwhile, two others were seen running across a nearby field.

The man quickly gave up on stealing the Wilson auto and escaped in his own vehicle parked close by.

Debbie and husband Jim were later joined by officers on snowmobiles. They followed a foot trail through the fields for some distance but failed to catch the thieves. However, police positioned in the area of Brock Road and Hwy. 401 had more success.

Debbie told The Tribune she's not sure if others in the party had since been arrested.

Most of the items stolen, including a micro-wave, have been recovered, Mrs. Wilson said. Two rings, the most treasured of all the articles taken, have not been found.

Jim and Debbie Wilson reside on the 9th Concession of Pickering, two miles east of Claremont.

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