



Honorary Lion

After a 15-year association with the Lions Club, Dr. P.K. Basu was awarded an honorary membership in the Unionville Club last week. Dr. Basu, director of ophthalmic research at the University of Toronto and director and one of the founders of the university's eye bank, was also told more money from the Lion's Club for eye research is on the way. Funding Dr. Basu, who now lives in Unionville, and working with the blind is "very much a part of our district," says Dave Gascoigne, chairman of the Lion's Club A16 ophthalmology foundation. The 49 Lion's Clubs and 16 Lionesse Clubs in district A16 pitched in \$6,000 last year to help Dr. Basu's work. From the left are Bill Houston, Past District Governor, district A-16, Dr. Basu and Dave Gascoigne, Sight Convenor Chairman.



The Waiting Game

It takes patience to wait for your big sister's next Nicole Higgins' as she and her Midget volleyball volleyball game. David Higgins (Grade 1 at Wm. (Unionville Wolves) team-mates wait for their Berczy Public School) leans against his sister game. — Bill Lanning

Ma Bell's jokes too costly says one irate parent

A Stouffville parent claims dial-a-joke and other specialty telephone services are no laughing matter.

David Barthau is concerned that the taped messages are especially appealing to children who don't realize charges for each call are added to a household's Bell Canada phone bill.

And some Whitchurch-Stouffville Council members shared similar concerns about the service, called Teletalk, during an in-committee meeting Feb. 10.

"I think Bell Canada has misled the people," Mayor Fran Sainsbury said of the pay service, before supporting Mr. Barthau's request, and recommending that Bell be asked to rectify the situation.

In a letter to the Canadian Radio, Television and Telecommunication Commission (CRTC), Mr. Barthau said his annoyance is not with Teletalk itself but with "the ease of the service or entertainment being just a phone call away and no mention at the beginning or the end of the message (about) the charges for the service."

In a written complaint that was also forwarded to Mayor Sainsbury, the Dorman Dr. resident claimed the ease of being able to dial a story or joke has turned the phone into "a slot machine you don't put money into."

"Mom and Dad just get a bill next month for it. I found this out upon receiving my last phone bill. Peer pressure at school may also force kids into dialing for this service."

When he called Bell about the situation, the company's reply was: "well, you should know and so should your children that anything with a 1 in front of it, you are charged a long-distance fee."

However, Mr. Barthau replied that his children are all under 10 years of age, and that all a phone number is to kids is a bunch of numbers in a particular order that makes it possible to reach someone you want to talk to.

Added the Stouffville man: "We do not put a 1 in front of long distance phone numbers in our personal phone book, and I have not seen it listed in the public phone

book that way either so the children could not make a long distance call without knowing that a 1 precedes the number. To date they have never made a long distance phone call until 1-976."

Mr. Barthau feels two things should be done immediately to correct what he describes as "an oversight" on the part of the CRTC in permitting these lines:

1. Advertising and operation of this service should be stopped until some safeguards can be instituted.

2. Reimbursement to those with minors who have fallen prey to this novelty.

He suggested several possible solutions:

1. Have the service available to those who would like to subscribe to it with the use of a decoder much like those used for Pay TV.

2. Have it charged to your credit card.

3. Have it charged to your Bell account with the use of a Bell card.

4. Upon inception of the plan, advertise it as a 976 number within the 416 area code, and to treat it the same as a long-distance call.

"But to advertise it as a 1-976 number is wrong and children naturally call the number and run up unexpected phone bills," Mr. Barthau added.

Hearing set for Sept. 15

By ED ROGERS

The Brougham man charged in the Feb. 2 traffic death of Paul Maybury, 44, will return to Ajax Court Sept. 15 for a preliminary hearing, court heard on Thursday.

John McGrath, 30, is accused of criminal negligence causing death and four counts of criminal negligence causing bodily harm. He elected to be tried by a District Court judge without a jury.

Paul Maybury was driving south on Brock Rd. in Pickering with three passengers on his way to a minor bantam hockey game when an oncoming pick-up truck apparently crossed the centre line and crashed head-on in Mr. Maybury's van.

His son David, Todd Gerard and Kevin Green were injured in the crash.

Mr. McGrath is also charged in the injury of Basil McDougal, a passenger in the pick-up.

Stouffville seeks regional recycling

Whitchurch-Stouffville will request York Region Council to undertake a major feasibility study to determine the best approach to recycling within the region.

A resolution supported by Council in-committee Tuesday, contained the following points:

— Whereas several area municipalities in York Region are studying their waste management needs.

— York Region is also studying waste management from a regional point of view.

— Recycling is a major part of waste management.

— Established recycling programs in the area municipalities are currently being reviewed which could result in a series of independent and unrelated action plans.

— The provincial government is funding recycling feasibility studies and programs with grants of \$4 million, and the soft drink industry is providing an additional \$5 million in grants for recycling feasibility studies and programs.

Armed robber makes getaway

By BRUCE ETHERIDGE

A gun-toting man held up the Bridle Trail branch of the Toronto Dominion Bank on Wembley Ave. yesterday morning.

Dave Eng, an employee of the Canada Post Office located beside the bank, said that just after 11 a.m. a female bank employee entered the post office and called police to report a robbery in progress.

Inspector George Kydd of 28 Division in Newmarket said the woman was helping a customer at the green machine in the lobby of the bank. Upon realizing a robbery was taking place, she discreetly left the separate enclosure with the customer. Almost simultaneously the alarm was sounded. Police arrived a few minutes later.

Inspector Kydd confirmed that at approximately 11:05 a.m. a white male in his mid-forties entered the bank, approached a female teller and demanded cash after "making threatening ges-

tures with a firearm".

An undisclosed amount of cash was taken. At the time of the hold-up the man was wearing dark clothing, a toque and sunglasses.

Early reports said the suspect was armed with a long rifle or shotgun but Inspector Kydd said it might have been a handgun.

Mr. Eng said another post office employee may have been parked behind the getaway vehicle at the rear of the building but the man was unavailable for questioning and police refused to comment.

Police are looking for a light brown full-size car, possibly a Chevrolet.

Identification officer, Detective Nick Broadhead photographed footprints and tire tracks behind the bank.

This was the second time the bank was robbed in the last six months. Police haven't made arrests in the previous incident although both appear at this time unrelated.



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