

New handi-van by late April

A transportation service for physically handicapped residents of Uxbridge and Scugog townships should be in service by late April.

A van has been purchased at a cost of \$40,000, following more than five years of studies, written reports, consultation with government bodies and public fund-raising drives. The vehicles is now waiting to be fitted with a wheelchair lift, on order from a California supplier, and a radio unit.

Through the tremendous support of service clubs, church and school groups and private individuals in Uxbridge and Scugog, the townships' share (50 per cent) of the cost of a van has been raised.

The other half is paid for by the Ministry of Transport.

Fund-raising and groundwork to determine need for the vehicle were organized by Community Care, an organization providing home support services for seniors citizens in both communities.

Uxbridge Community Care administrator Kathy Anderson said she's glad to see the van close to actually being on the streets.

"There are handicapped persons in our community who are not seen very much because they cannot get out," she said. "They'll make good use out of the van for such trips as medical and business appointments, shopping and rehabilitation programs."

Though owned jointly by two townships, the van will be managed under contract with Handi Transit Incorporated, which runs similar services in Oshawa, Whitby and Newcastle.

Doug Manuel, general manager of Handi Transit Inc., will visit the Scugog and Uxbridge area when

the new van is ready to allow public inspection, and to answer questions regarding its use.

The van has the capacity to hold five wheelchairs. If companions travel with handicapped passengers, this capacity will be reduced by one chair space for every two attendants.

Those eligible to use the handi-van are all temporarily or permanently disabled residents of Scugog or Uxbridge whose mobility problems prevent or severely restrict use of a passenger car.

When fully operational, the handi-van will be in service from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. five days per week.

A full-time driver will be hired from the area and will receive special driver and first-aid training.

Inquiries about the handi-van can be directed to Mr. Manuel by calling him collect at 571-1222. Eventually the service will be accessible through a toll-free line.

Goods stolen from job site

Police said \$930 worth of merchandise was stolen from a work site on Coldale Rd. in Unionville Tuesday night.

The property belonged to Sunview Homes Ltd. of Toronto.

Windows broken at Summitview

Thirteen windows were smashed Tuesday night at Summitview Public School on 176 Main St. East in Stouffville, police said.

Vandals caused \$500 damage to the school.

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