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VOL. 100 NO. 5

A Metroland Community Newspaper

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A direct hit

Lightning strikes firehall antenna disrupts service

STOUFFVILLE — Effects of Saturday's severe electrical storm and cloudburst, that turned farm fields into lakes, particularly in the Gormley-Unionville area, are still being felt in Stouffville.

At the height of the deluge, a lightning bolt struck the communications antenna on the Unionville Fire Hall, knocking out all contact with volunteers serving Station I (Stouffville), and Station II (Ballantrae).

While the alarm could still be sounded by the Unionville dispatcher, Chief Brown was required to contact his men through a paging device at the hall. This meant he had to remain either at the station or in his home (across the street), until the system was repaired.

Plans are reported in the works for a second transmitting tower for the region's fire departments, but there's nothing official on this, explained Markham District Fire Chief Geo. Morrison. The back-up tower will likely be located in Newmarket, he said.

The lightning hit the Unionville aerial jamming dispatch equipment. However, within an hour the situation was under control.

The Unionville station dispatches firefighters throughout the region. Up until Tuesday, it was necessary to use a shorter-range system until the \$24,000 equipment could be repaired.

Unionville dispatcher Cathy Johnston, at the controls when the lightning bolt hit, described the impact as "the biggest bang I've ever heard." After the shock, "I had to climb down from the ceiling," she added.

She told how the interior of the building turned a "strange blue" probably caused by the fluorescent lights.

Chief Ken Beckett has been unable to estimate the amount of damage because there's both labor and replacement parts involved.

After the dispatch equipment went down, the fire hall had to rely on portable radios and telephones until the back-up unit was in place, he said.

No one was injured, the machine smoked but there was no fire, said Morrison.

On Tuesday, firefighters were still relying on an old siren system to alert district stations.

People parade

STOUFFVILLE — A 'People Parade' is planned for Stouffville, Sat. June 27 as part of the Town's Strawberry Festival — Canada Day weekend.

The procession will begin at 10 a.m. from Cable Tech and conclude at the old Arena, Park Drive South. A box social will follow.

The committee chairman is Tom Winters (640-1867). Prizes will be awarded in the following categories — Best in Parade, Best Theme, Most Humorous, Best Band, Best Marching Unit, Best Group Period Dress, Best Turn-Out of a Team or Club, Best Church Group, Best Merchant, Best Banker, Best Chronicler, Best Tradesman, Best Light Horses (English and Western), Best Heavy Horse Hitch.

Registrations are now being accepted.

Bus signals were ignored

DICKSON'S HILL — A motorist's impatience has cost him \$100 and seven points.

On May 25, Roderick Gibson, R.R. 2, Markham, was found guilty of failing to yield to flashing school bus signals and fined \$100 in Newmarket Court.

According to Constable Staples of the Oak Ridges Detachment, Ontario Provincial Police, Gibson passed six parked school buses that were loading children in front of Dickson's Hill School. Five school bus operators witnessed the offense. Several gave testimony.

"The main problem," explained officer Staples, "this area is not a recognized school bus loading zone. The bus drivers park their vehicles with lights flashing for 20 minutes. Regardless, all traffic must still stop during this time."

The bus drivers maintain that

traffic entering the hamlet on Old Hwy. 48 can do so from the north rather than the south during delivery and pick-up periods.

Reception

The end of the school year marks the end of a 33-year career for Malcolm (Mac) McRoberts, principal of Whitchurch-Highlands School.

On Wed. June 17, the Parents' Group are holding a reception in Mr. McRoberts' honor from 5 to 6:30 p.m.

Students, past and present, along with their parents, are invited.

Mr. McRoberts came to Whitchurch-Highlands nine years ago; the same year the 1987 graduates were enrolled in kindergarten.



A public auction Saturday, part of the Stouffville Christian School's annual Spring Fair, included many valuable donated items. One of these was a limited edition print, entitled 'The Eagle', completed by Markham artist Glen Coates and donated by his brother, Bernie Coates of Claremont. The top bid of \$1700 was placed by Mrs. Sue Simmonds of R.R. 4, Uxbridge. It will hang in her husband's office. For more Spring Fair photos, see Page A-5.

Jim Thomas

Fair auction print

Gift for hubby

STOUFFVILLE — While crowds attending Stouffville Christian School's annual Spring Fair Saturday were in the middle of the auction sale, both silent and public, attracted much interest.

One of the items on hand was a limited edition print, 'The Eagle', completed by Markham artist Glen Coates and donated by his brother, Bernie Coates of Claremont, a brother of his

creator, Mrs. Sue Simmonds of R.R. 4, Uxbridge, purchased the painting for her husband's office. Her price was \$1700.

The print, a limited edition of 100, was donated by the Ladies of Wideman Memorial Church, in Ontario. It is one of a series of prints, each depicting a different scene from the life of Stouffville, Ontario, in 1862. The print in question is a reproduction of a painting by Glen Coates.

Three people offered a combined bid of \$1700, the highest bid for the print.

Mrs. Simmonds said she was very pleased with the purchase. She said she had been looking for a gift for her husband's office for some time. She said she had been looking for a gift for her husband's office for some time. She said she had been looking for a gift for her husband's office for some time.

Garden crop escapes worst of hail storm

STOUFFVILLE — Ted Barry of Barry's Gardens, R.R. 2, Stouffville, was afraid to look at his seed bed of cabbages and cauliflower, Friday morning.

wind, rain and hail storm lashed the Stouffville area Thursday afternoon. It was with great relief, however, that he viewed only limited damage. "Ninety-five percent

will come back," he says. Mr. Barry wasn't at home when the storm struck. But, driving back, he could see its impact, fields turned into lakes and leaves shredded from trees.

He feared the worst after a

operated. Now, it's worse than ever, and Mayor Fran Sainsbury for one, is disgusted.

There are 75 acres under cultivation on the Barry farm; 45 acres of cabbages and 30 acres of cauliflower. Despite the fact all fields are tile-drained, the water was standing two feet deep in one section, he said.

Mayor reads garbage act

STOUFFVILLE — Two months ago the Business Improvement Area board asked downtown merchants and tenants to refrain from putting out garbage on weekends.

She says if the downtown doesn't clean up its act, she'll request enforcement of a bylaw and implementation of fines.

Mr. Barry attributes the drainage problem to improper ditching on the Ninth Line. The Region, he says, has promised to rectify the situation this summer.

With no Main Street pick-up from Friday morning through Monday morning, the area extending from Albert Street to Park Drive was looking 'trashy' at best.

Mrs. Sainsbury claims it makes no sense to spend thousands of dollars of streetscape improvements only to have the area inundated with garbage.

The local market gardener doesn't carry crop insurance. It's too expensive, he says. His greatest worry is hail, but a policy can't be restricted to this threat only.

For several weeks, people co-

Mr. Barry believes the storm will set him back about one week. "It's time you never recover, but I'm thankful. It could have been a lot worse," he concluded.

Ring out the old

GOODWOOD — Another page was added to the history book of Goodwood Saturday when a century-old bell, saved from a fire in 1908, was resurrected from under the steps of Goodwood United Church and installed on the porch roof.

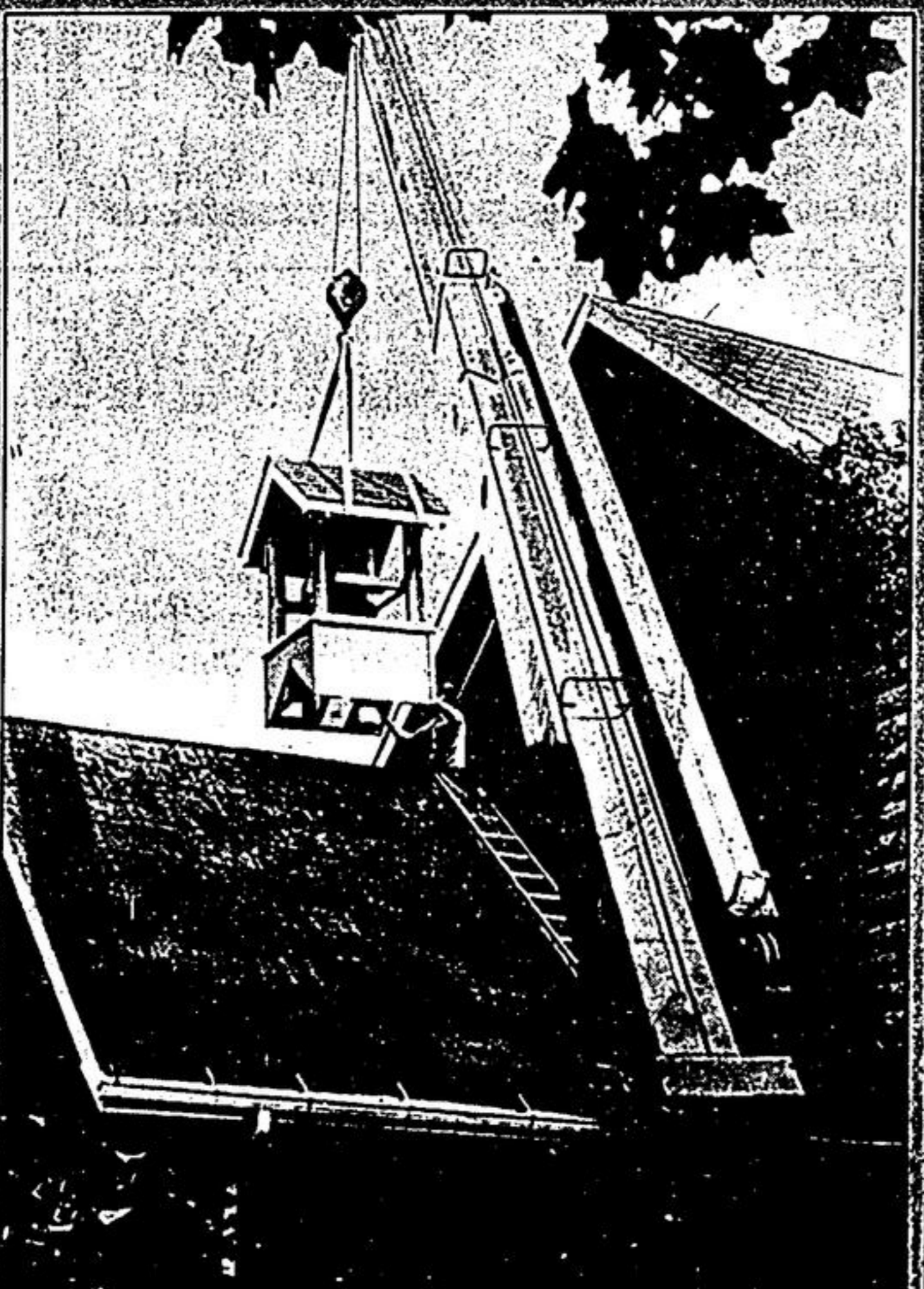
While cameras recorded the historic event, a truck-mounted derrick lifted the 500-pound Sunday morning alarm clock and set it in place.

The transition from ground to roof took about ten minutes. The decision to re-mount the bell was the subject of much discussion, board chairperson Pat Redwood told The Tribune. Members weren't sure if the roof would support the weight, she said.

It will be rung prior to worship at weddings and on other special occasions. Mrs. Redwood stated, Kees Koster and Mrs. Usobel Beach will serve as official bell-ringers this Sunday (June 7), as part of the 11 a.m. dedication.

It was Mr. Koster who volunteered his time to build the bell house. He and his son also assisted with the installation. Mrs. Beach is a long-standing member of the congregation.

Special music Sunday will be provided by the Epworth Choir. The guest speaker is Dr. Heinz Gunther of Emmaus Bible College, Toronto. Hisory records that only one bell and the organ were saved for the Goodwood United Church, which was destroyed by fire in 1908. The bell was saved by the Ontario Christian Association in December 1908.



A century-old bell, rescued from a fire in 1908, is being re-mounted on the roof of Goodwood United Church Sunday. The bell was saved by the Ontario Christian Association in December 1908.

Jim Thomas

Pageant

STOUFFVILLE — Eleven firms and organizations are sponsoring entrants in the 1987 Miss Whitchurch-Stouffville Pageant. The gala event, part of the Town's Strawberry Festival and Canada Day weekend, will be held June 25 at Stouffville Dist. Secondary School.

At the same time, the community will also honor its 'Citizen of the Year' and its 'Sports Celebrity of the Year.'

Pageant entries to date are — Lindsey Baston, Christine Dube, Robyn Duke, Carrie Ellis, Lisa Fockler, Chris Hoover, Debbie Stem, Tammy Stonehouse, Kris Sommers, Debra Surman and Shelley Whittaker.

This year's winner will be crowned the Queen of '86, Jackie Chong, Stuart Street, Stouffville.

INSIDE LOOK



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