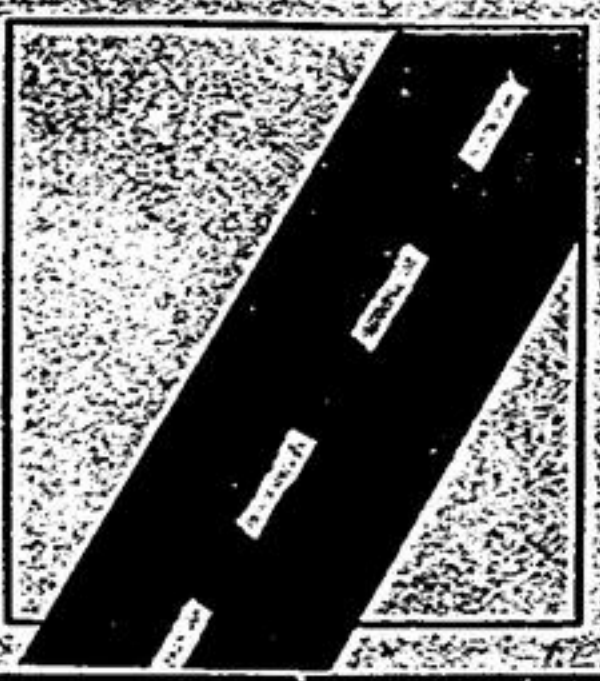


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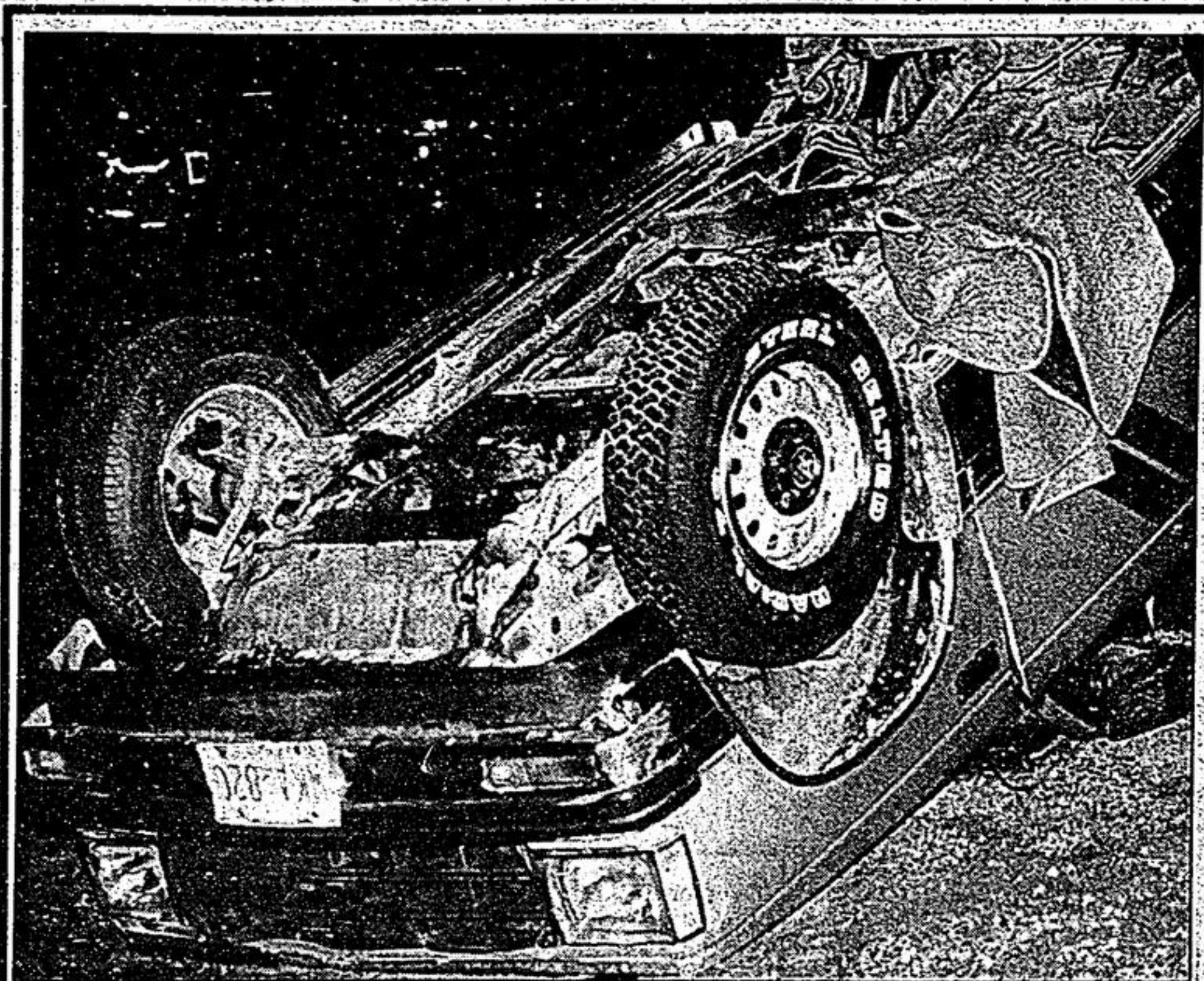


PHOTO BY BRUCE STAPLEY

Two accidents that occurred within an hour of each other on Hwy 48 last Friday night kept police and rescue officials busy. One of the accidents involved former Stouffville Tribune Editor Jim Thomas, his wife Jean, daughter Mary Lynne and a friend. Above, this Chevrolet truck flipped over onto its roof after the driver lost control. OPP officials are investigating reports that two cars were racing and one sideswiped the truck, causing the driver to lose control.

5 injured in collisions

By BRUCE STAPLEY
Correspondent

A hit-and-run driver and a deer crossing Hwy 48 resulted in the hospitalization of five area residents Friday night as two traffic accidents occurred within an hour of each other on the busy highway.

Among those injured was former Stouffville Tribune Editor Jim Thomas, his wife, Jean, and daughter Mary Lynne, after their car swerved to miss a deer and crashed head-on into a southbound vehicle at about 9:50 p.m.

Ontario Provincial Police say in a separate accident that occurred just an hour later, a late-model blue or grey Chrysler K-car caused a vehicle driven by an Uxbridge couple to go out of control and turn over on its roof after being sideswiped.

Police said Lynne Elthier, 23 of Brock St., Uxbridge, was "badly shaken up" while her fiancée, Charles Taylor, also of Brock St., escaped injury.

Elthier, who is 10 weeks pregnant according to the OPP report, was rushed to York Central Hospital in Richmond Hill.

According to OPP Constable Jim Reinhart, the Taylor vehicle, a 1985 Chevy S10, was passed by a speeding car, thought by witnesses to be a Trans-Am, as it headed south on Hwy 48 near the Bloomington Sideroad.

Police said about a minute later a second vehicle tried to pass the Taylor vehicle on the shoulder of the highway near the Bethesda Sideroad. It struck the Taylor vehicle, resulting in \$8,000 damage when the truck rolled over after the driver lost control.



JIM THOMAS Fair condition

Police said the hit-and-run car spun around and headed north back up Hwy 48.

Constable Reinhart says he hasn't ruled out the possibility the K-car and the first vehicle to overtake the Taylor vehicle were racing each other. OPP officials are appealing to the public for information about the accident. For information, call the OPP Oak

Ridges division at 773-5281.

In the earlier collision, Stouffville resident Nadine Shultz was admitted to Scarborough Grace Hospital with internal injuries after her car was struck head-on by the Thomas vehicle. A hospital spokesman said she is listed in stable condition.

Mr. Thomas, of Rupert Ave. Stouffville, was taken to York Central Hospital suffering a broken sternum, broken ribs and a punctured lung. Mrs. Thomas suffered a dislocated jaw and throat lacerations, but has since been released from hospital.

Mary Lynne Thomas suffered minor injuries in the crash.

"I saw the deer and I swerved to miss it but I hit it and bounced into the oncoming traffic," said Mr. Thomas yesterday.

Doctors expect his injuries will take six weeks to heal and are monitoring his condition.

"They're afraid of pneumonia," he said. "Because of the punctured lung, that's why they're showing some concern."

He was released from the intensive care unit at York Central Hospital on Monday and is now listed in fair condition.

A fourth occupant of the car, John Morrison, also of Stouffville, escaped injury. No charges have been laid as a result of the crash.

Mayor livid at King's crack on planning ahead

By BRUCE STAPLEY
Correspondent

Mayor Fran Sainsbury feels Regional Chairman Eldred King's statement that Whitchurch-Stouffville should be planning its growth more studiously is the equivalent of asking a bride to start planning her wedding without a husband.

And Ward 2 Councillor Nick Tatone, while agreeing with the chairman that the town hasn't done all its homework, feels Mr. King is equally negligent for not foreseeing that the region will consist of "cement from here to Lake Simcoe in another 50 years."

The two agreed that if there were problems evident in the town's approach to future growth King, as a former mayor of the town, should be willing to shoulder much of the blame.

"I was livid," said Mayor Sainsbury of her reaction to the chairman's claims. "Who does he think he is, saying we don't have a plan?"

The mayor, responding to Mr. King's recent statement that the town hadn't done studies to back up its projected 30,000 population total for the year 2011, voiced her frustration at what she sees as

slim odds of the town's being given access to the Big Pipe.

But Chairman King disputed the responses of the Mayor and Councillor Tatone and argued that as the Mayor of Whitchurch-Stouffville, he planned the town's growth based on existing growth forecasts of 20,000.

"Maybe I stated it inaccurately, or was misquoted," he said. "It's not that I am against Whitchurch-Stouffville growing, I just want to know what it is they really want. If they just want new growth, we will help them. But all they are doing now is constantly amending their official plan, rather than changing it."

Mayor Sainsbury told The Tribune that asking the town to plan for future population growth without knowing its status with regard to the pipe was unrealistic.

"You don't plan a wedding, go out and buy a gown and make the arrangements until you have a husband," she said. "The frustration is definitely there."

Councillor Tatone feels Mr. King's own forecast as mayor was vague. His forecast was way off. He didn't foresee Stouffville growing like it has. He also wondered about the

chairman's plans for York Region with regard to population growth. "Does he foresee the region being cement from here to Lake Simcoe in 50 years? And if we (Whitchurch-Stouffville) grow to 30,000, what about the other towns in the region? Is he planning for a water supply from Lake Simcoe, instead of Lake Ontario?"

"Does he plan on being an environmentalist? If he does, he'd better have some plans for sewage and water."

Councillor Tatone said the province's shifting of an ever-increasing load to the municipalities should result in a team approach at the regional level, rather than the adversarial positions being taken.

"When the province is pushing everything down to the region, it is essential for the region to work harmoniously with the municipalities. They (Sainsbury and King) should be working together on the pipe for Stouffville and the mayor should be more optimistic."

But Mayor Sainsbury said inclusion on the pipe was simply a matter of numbers. "We're outvoted at Regional Council," she concluded.

Market still up: realtors

By MATT NICHOLLS
Correspondent

The rapidly cooling housing market in Metro Toronto that could see prices cut by 25 per cent in the next 12 months, has not seriously affected the housing market in the Stouffville area, some local realtors say.

"We don't have any indication

of that (a cooling of the market) happening here at all," says Re/Max Imperial realtor Ron Good. "It's still a steady market at this time," he says.

Investment dealer Wood Gundy said the high cost of borrowing money and the effects of a slowing economy are causing housing prices to plummet across

Canada. Sales of existing homes in Metro dropped 54 per cent in April 1989 to 2,769 from 6,015 in April 1988, and the average price of homes sold in Toronto last month increased to \$280,122 from \$224,021, the Toronto Real Estate Board says.

"High interest rates have weakened the economy," says Harvey Bradley, an economist who contributed to the report.

But most area realtors dispute the findings in the report and say its predictions are too severe.

"The market is definitely lower than it was three months ago," says Century 21 realtor Gerry Meharg. "But I believe it's a correction going on in the market because the prices were simply climbing too high too fast."

Meharg says that the Wood Gundy prediction of a 25 per cent reduction in housing prices is inaccurate.

"I don't agree with that at all," he says. "The market has slowed down because there's a correction going on. A 10 to 12 per cent deduction is a fair deduction."

The Wood Gundy report "is simply not true," Meharg says. "It just simply did not happen and it's not going to happen."

Ron Wood agrees.

"I just can't agree with that report at all," Wood says. "Just from the activity that we are having in our office means we are doing all right."

Markham youth charged in thefts

A 17-year-old youth from the Markham area faces charges after being arrested Sunday night in connection with a recent rash of robberies in Ballantrae, Markham and Stouffville.

York Regional Police said the youth was arrested at his home in the rural area in Markham early Sunday morning after being tipped off by a motorist.

The arrest came shortly after the Honeycomb Donut Shop on Main St. West in Stouffville was held up at gunpoint at approximately 2:30 a.m., said York Regional Police Sergeant Norm Miles.

The Sunday arrest capped an investigation of three other recent robberies, including one Ballantrae store that was robbed twice, said Sgt. Miles.

He said police were treating two robberies that occurred last Tuesday night — one in Ballantrae and one in Markham separately but subsequently. They charged the youth in both incidents.

Sgt. Miles said robbery reports and descriptions of the weapon used in those robberies conflicted, leading police to believe the two incidents were unconnected.

The youth arrested has been charged with four counts each of armed robbery, disguise with intent to commit an indictable offence and use of a firearm in the commission of an offence.

The youth is scheduled to appear in court in Newmarket on June 14.

Council 'wish list' maps future needs

By BRUCE STAPLEY
Correspondent

While Whitchurch-Stouffville Town Council pencilled in millions of dollars for a new civic centre, pool, fitness centre and library addition in its five-year capital forecast last Tuesday, the eventual reality of the projects is still uncertain.

The long-range forecast, which had been requested by York Regional government, was put together by town officials for Council's approval. It outlines all major capital spending priorities for the town until 1993. The only significant addition to the "wish list" was a decision to add an extra \$200,000 for roads and fitness centre. Spending in reconstruction between 1990 and 1993 would include \$2.2 million for the library addition; \$850,000 for a

Allan Darling, the town's budget control officer, explained that the 1989 forecast had been taken directly from the Town's recent capital budget.

"The forecast for the next four years is based on input from the town's department heads," he told the Tribune.

Major expenses for 1990 include a proposed \$2.45 million expenditure to build a new administrative centre, \$3.12 million for Ballantrae and Musselman's Lake water projects and \$400,000 for a new fire hall in Ballantrae. The year 1992 would see \$495,000 spent on a new fire truck and \$3.5 million for a new pool and fitness centre. Spending in 1993 would include \$2.2 million for the library addition; \$850,000 for a

'If the Region of York can put a 155,000 square foot facility on a 12-acre parcel of land, then maybe we don't need such a big plot of land for a 20,000 square foot building'

central garage and sand dome and a new pumper for the fire department.

Whitchurch-Stouffville Mayor Fran Sainsbury was the first to admit items like the new administration building are yet to be finalized.

"We need to take a breather and see whether we need it," she

said in a Tribune interview. "Some of our options, like the old creamery and the property where the old arena stood, have slipped away. If the Region of York can put a 155,000 square foot facility on a 12-acre parcel of land, then maybe we don't need such a big plot of land for a 20,000 square foot building."

Ward 5 Councillor Doug Alles, who is the town's planning committee chairman, said the town should wait and see if a new administration building is needed.

"We do have to look at crowding in the present administration centre," said Councillor Alles. "But if the town doesn't grow, then we would have to consider the feasibility of a new facility."

He also suggested there was a possibility that money allocated to the pool and fitness centre could actually end up going towards another recreation project.

"How those funds get allocated remains to be seen," he said. But Ward 2 Councillor Nick Tatone expressed his disapproval

with the five-year spending forecast being voted upon so quickly.

"It was a piece of staff work and we tried to put it through in 10 minutes," he complained. "There should have been a full day for throwing this around."

Councillor Tatone also questioned the need for the new administrative centre. "Once we put some automation into the existing offices, we can cut down our staff by a few people," he said.

Ward 4 Councillor Wayne Emerson, meanwhile, was pleased with the spending blueprint.

"I think it's great. It tells us what we're doing for the next five years in terms of capital spending projects," he said.