

Town water restrictions in effect

A water shortage in the Whitchurch-Stouffville area could occur if dry weather continues and residents fail to acknowledge water restrictions when watering their lawns, the town's engineering co-ordinator says.

"We are not in a critical situation yet, but if we run into a critical situation, we will have to shut down," Paul Whitehead says.

Stouffville's water supply comes from three reservoirs located throughout the town. When water levels in each reservoir reach a critical point, residential water supply is automatically cut off.

Under the restrictions, citizens living in odd-numbered houses can water their lawns on odd-numbered days. Even-numbered residents can water their lawns on even-numbered days.

All residents must water between 6 a.m. and 9 a.m. or 6 p.m. and 9 p.m.

A penalty of up to \$1,000 could be levied against those who fail to follow the time restrictions.

Bylaw enforcement officer Keith Saunders says he handed out more than 80 leaflets last weekend.

"Hopefully the message will get through to people," he says. "We're politely asking them to comply."

No ambulance strike

A potential strike by Uxbridge/Stouffville ambulance attendants has been averted.

A one-year agreement between ambulance owner/operator Peter Carell and the Ontario Public Service Union, which represents the company's 15 ambulance attendants, was reached last Friday afternoon.

"A new one-year agreement has been signed," Mr. Carell said in an interview. "There will be no strike."

The new contract is the first the attendants have had since March 1988.

Prior to the contract, attendants had been upset over job security and worker rights. They had threatened to strike if a new contract was not signed.

Mr. Carell said the union supports the new contract, but adds there have been grumblings among attendants over the length of the deal.

"Some people are upset that it's only one year," he said. "I am too."

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Region moves to get 911 on track

JULIE CASPERSEN
Staff Reporter

911 is on the way.

York Regional Council adopted a plan last week that would allow residents to dial the three-digit emergency number for police, fire or ambulance assistance.

But people moving into Whitchurch-Stouffville from places already using a 911 system can create a lot of confusion, says Whitchurch-Stouffville Fire Chief Bill Brown.

"It's (911) going to make it easier for us to find a location, not only for fires but for any kind of emergency," said Chief Brown yesterday.

And York region fire officials agree the system can't be put in soon enough.

York Regional Council agreed the plan has the following merits:

- 911 is an easy to remember telephone number less likely to be forgotten during stress than the seven-digit emergency numbers now used in the region.
- The concept is easily learned by most people, including children.
- No coins are needed to dial 911 from a pay phone.
- Dialing 911 identifies the call as emergency priority.

Normally, a 911 centre is co-located with a police centre and staffed by police personnel, says Doug Alliston, regional communications engineer. In this set up, if calls come in requiring fire or ambulance services they are transferred, a step that will be eliminated in York Region.

"We're doing something a little different here," said Mr. Alliston, a member of York's 911 task force.

The emergency services communications centre will be located in the new regional administrative centre in Newmarket, and will provide centralized, computer-aided dispatch for regional police and fire.

Regional employees will operate the phones, and these attendants will decide the type of service required.

However, transfers to ambulance services will be necessary with calls being routed to the central ambulance communications centre in Barrie.

In a report to regional council, the task force estimates the access time in a 911 system will be reduced by 562.5 minutes per week in the region, based on an anticipated 1,500 calls weekly.

With the 911 centre in the administrative building taking calls, the one police and four fire dispatch centres currently operating will not be needed.

The centre, scheduled to open in late 1991, will provide direct, computer-aided access to fire services.

Funding of the 911 system and emergency services communications centre will be a regional responsibility. The total one-time cost of the 911 system, including the fire dispatch costs, is \$3,134,997.

Each municipality will pay an annual operating cost, with Whitchurch-Stouffville's portion being roughly \$60,940.

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9th Line 'in need of repair'

MATT NICHOLLS
Correspondent

Lives could be lost if the 9th Line is not repaired before the Markham-Stouffville Hospital opens in January, an ambulance spokesperson said this week.

"In its current state it's unusable," Uxbridge/Stouffville Ambulance Service owner/operator Pete Carell said in an interview.

"In an emergency situation we can't use it because there are too many bumps that would be transmitted to a patient. It is particularly bad if the patient has a back injury," he said.

The new hospital on 9th Line north of Hwy. 7 is now nearing completion.

Currently, ambulance workers don't even consider using the 9th Line because it's too dangerous, Mr. Carell said.

"If we get a call for the 9th Line, we drive all the way over to Hwy. 48 and go down to the 16th concession and across," Mr. Carell said.

"We just don't use it at all," he said. "It could cost lives."

"The problem is the municipality of Markham," he said. "The question we ask is 'how good a neighbor is Markham going to be?'"

The Town of Markham is responsible for maintaining the 9th Line north from Steeles Ave. to just north of the 19th concession. Stouffville must maintain the 9th from the 19th north to Main St.

Mayor Fran Sainsbury said she has been fighting to get the 9th Line fixed for four years.

"It was not good planning," she said.

Markham council failed to include 9th Line repairs in its 1989 budget, and the hospital will open before a new budget comes out in 1990, she said.

"I just hope they make it a priority in their 1990 budget," she said.



Team work

Jamie Richardson (left) of Silverline Estates Landscaping gets a helping hand from 20-month-old Brayden Dockerty while putting the finishing touches on the Dockerty's O'Brien Ave. home in Stouffville. Brayden matched Mr. Richardson's skills hammer for hammer.

Dead at 62

Stan Miller was friend to all

Stan Miller, a well-known lifelong Stouffville resident known for being "all fun and baseball," died Saturday at York County Hospital in Newmarket after a battle with cancer.

He was 62.

Mr. Miller, who enjoyed a career as a minor league professional baseball player and who was nicknamed "Hoke," "Arch," and "Long Tom," was ill earlier this year with cancer, but family members thought it had been cleared up.

Mr. Miller's recent setback came "out of the blue," according to his wife, Mary. "He went so fast," she told the Tribune Monday. "I'm never going to stop missing him." The Millers were married 32 years.

The Albert St. resident had retired from Gormley Aggregates last winter, and was given a retirement party by the company May 31.



STAN "HOKE" MILLER
'Fun and baseball'

Mr. Miller turned pro in 1952, with the Deland Red Hats of the Florida State Baseball League, where his 15-4 won-lost record, and his .280 batting average helped his team to the league title.

In recent years, Mr. Miller had played on the old timers' team in the Stouffville Men's Monday Night Baseball League.

He became known for his original sense of humor, and his participation in good-natured pranks and hijinks.

Mrs. Miller says her husband was forever entertaining friends with his wit and good nature. "They'd ask me how I put up with him," she recalls fondly.

In an interview with the Tribune last March, he had said he always tried to find the bright side in life. "Why cry when you can laugh? If you don't enjoy what you are doing, then it's a short life," he said.

Mr. Miller is survived by his wife, and his mother, Laura Miller of Elm Rd., Stouffville; his brother Jim Miller of Oshawa, and his sisters Jean Halsted of Stouffville, and Betty Sphilmann of Oshawa.

There will be a memorial service at the Stouffville United Church tomorrow at 8 p.m.

But above all else, Mr. Cook added, he was well-liked. "He was a good mixer. He was a friend of everybody. I have nothing but good memories of him."

Bob Hassard, another Stouffville resident who played with Mr. Miller on the Red Sox, was equally shocked at the news of Mr. Miller's death.

"What can I say? He was all fun and baseball. We always enjoyed his good humor," said Mr. Hassard.

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Hospital gets \$7.2 million

An extra \$7.2 million was tacked onto the capital funding for Markham-Stouffville Hospital last week.

The Ministry of Health approved the funding, earmarked for major equipment and furnishings, telecommunications systems and construction items.

The money brings the total provincial capital funding to \$43.6 million. The ministry is footing two-thirds of the bill. The responsibility of the remaining one-third falls on the hospital board and the community.

Construction of the 244-bed hospital, at Hwy. 7 and 9th Line, started in July 1987 and it is scheduled to open early next year.

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