

Comment Page

Editorial

Implementation of 911 imperative to safety of residents

York Region's latest update on implementation of a 911 emergency telephone system couldn't come at a better time. Unfortunately, the much-needed system is still off in the distance. That isn't good news for the families left homeless last month after a fire swept through apartment units above the Savex store on Main St. Nor is it good news for the Markham family whose 911 phone call from that area resulted in a delay — the phone call was rerouted from Toronto to Vaughan.

Markham Fire Chief Ken Beckett says that delay increased damage in the fire from \$20,000 to \$200,000.

Instances such as these starkly illustrate the need for 911. It's a system taken for granted in larger urban centres, and that attitude is often transported to smaller areas like Whitchurch-Stouffville.

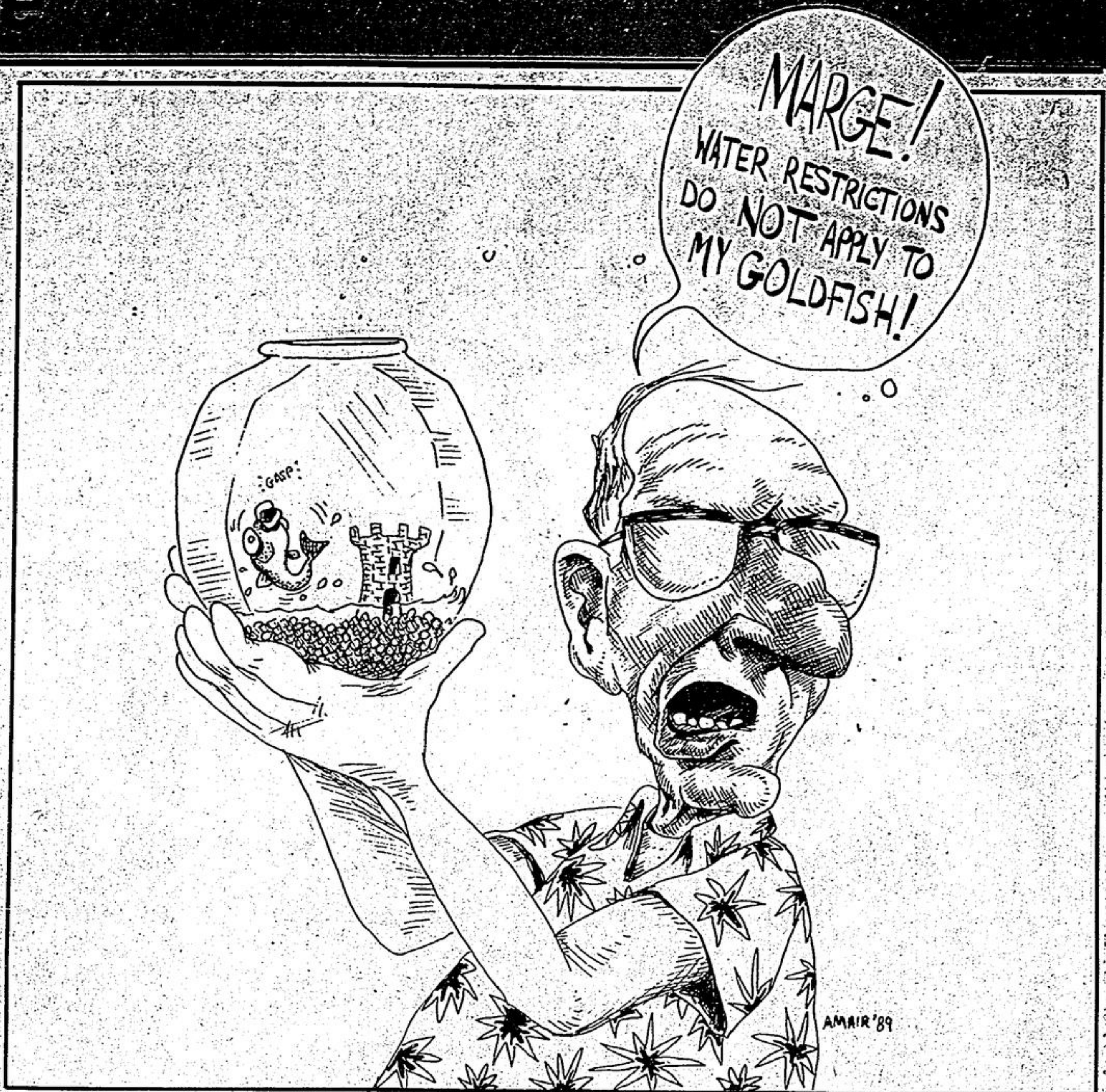
Two points must be reinforced: residents in Stouffville, Uxbridge and surrounding areas in York and Durham must know the proper seven-digit number for emergency services.

Residents must also be aware that 911 is indeed still just in the planning stages and won't be a reality for another two years.

It's a long wait, but one that will benefit the emergency crews which depend on quickly pinpointing trouble spots so they can more readily dispatch assistance.

In the meantime, residents have to rely on the current emergency framework that's in place. Post emergency phone numbers on or near the phone. Encourage children to note those numbers.

When in place, 911 will reduce response times and save lives. Stouffville's annual contribution to the operation of 911 — about \$60,000 — is a small price to pay for safety.



The Tribune
ESTABLISHED 1888

STEPHEN HOUSTON Editor
PATRICIA PAPPAS Publisher
DEBORAH WELLER Advertising Manager
JENNIFER HUTT Distribution Manager

RETAIL ADVERTISING: Susan Berry (Manager Charles Canning)
REAL ESTATE CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING: Joan Marshman (Real Estate Manager Dorothy Young)
DISTRIBUTION: Sandy Kiteley, Arlene Maddock
BUSINESS OFFICE: Manager Chris Bertram, Doreen Deacon

NATIONAL SALES REPRESENTATIVE: Metroland Corporate Sales 493-1300

The Stouffville Tribune, published every Wednesday, Friday and Sunday at 54 Main St., West, Stouffville, Ontario, is one of the Metroland Printing, Publishing and Distributing group of community newspapers which include: The Acton Free Press, Ajax-Pickering News Advertiser, Aurora Banner, Barrie Banner Advance, Brampton Guardian, Burlington Post, Etobicoke Advertiser, Georgetown Guardian, Georgetown Independent, Kingston This Week, Markham Economist and Sun, Milton Champion, Mississauga News, Newmarket Era, Oakville Star, Ottawa-Whitby This Week, Richmond Hill News, Scarborough Mirror, Topic Newsmagazine and Willowdale Mirror, Woodville Mirror, Woodville Press, Thornhill-Vaughan Liberal, Scarborough Mirror, Topic Newsmagazine and Willowdale Mirror, Metroland Printing, Publishing and Distributing is a division of Harlequin Enterprises Ltd. Single copies 50 cents. Subscriptions: \$23 (year in Canada; \$60 (year elsewhere). Member of the Canadian Community Newspaper Association, Ontario Community Newspaper Association, Ontario Press Council and Saturday Newspapers of America. Second class mail registration number 0996.

640-2100 649-2292



Visiting the U.S. eh!

I love the Canadian in me

It's great being Canadian, eh? Last week, I packed up all four pairs of summer shorts, found a new deck of cards to go with my battered old cribbage board and loaded a friend's car for three days of sun and fun in the good ol' U.S.A.

Our destination, a mere three-hour drive from Toronto, was Alexandria Bay in upstate New York.

It's one of those towns that thrive during the summer months — on both sides of the border — in the heart of the popular 1,000 Islands region.

Alexandria Bay (Alex Bay to those in the know) is nestled on the coast of the majestic St. Lawrence, and offers visitors a resort atmosphere in a small-town setting.

While there, it occurred to me how great it is to be Canadian. And it was fun to stump Americans with our Canuck accents.

But despite the fact that the Great White North is just minutes from the town we visited, we might as well have arrived from the Yukon.

I wanted to tell that nice woman from Rochester, New York that a belt on my snowmobile snapped on the ride in from the city when she wondered how the weather was in Toronto. I also considered being really foolish and asking her where I might catch a hockey or lacrosse game.

I wanted to recite the ABCs when I overheard a woman say to her dinner companion that Canadians always got stuck on the first letter of the alphabet when being taught in primary school.

I wanted to ask people what all the fuss was about George Bush, when Oliver North was the only interesting American I had heard of in recent months.

And I wish I had the nerve to stand up and tell our boat tour guide that Canadians have highways, not routes. The same guide referred to Canada as "a fine country" too many times during her monologue. The result, I'm sure, is that few people believed her.

Finally, I wish I could show Americans that although we are similar in most ways, we are indeed quite different.

At the simplest level — and quite apart from our use of the phrase 'eh' — we don't use the English language the same way.

However, I discovered that Americans are being unfair in the good-natured ribbing they often give us for using that famous phrase. They use the word 'huh' just as often in everyday speech.

Consider these two variations of the same sentence:

American person, commenting on a film he or she has just finished watching: "That was a radical flick, huh?"

Canadian person, commenting on same: "What a fine example of cinematic artistry, eh?"

Aside from all of that, and I'm sure some will argue that the very nature of my attitude is typically Canadian, we had a wonderful time and will likely return to Alex Bay for another holiday.

Seeing the islands — it's wonderful that the two countries share the beauty — is worth the trip alone. Extra attractions included a tour through Boldt Castle (which is a story unto itself), historic island mansions, establishments that took Canadian money at par, and duty-free privileges.

It doesn't matter that my southern friends know diddly about our country.

I don't care if they make jokes about the way we talk.

And it's okay if Americans make-believe Wayne Gretzky is now theirs.

After three days, it was nice to drive home in a mid-July blizzard on the north side of the border.

It's great being Canadian, eh?

Editor's mail

Festival chairman extends his thanks

Dear Editor:

I want to say thank you to Stouffville residents. You made our 1989 Strawberry Festival a great success!

I would like to thank my terrific committee for a great job, the committee looks forward to your ideas for next year's festival.

Our wrap-up meeting will take place on Tuesday, Aug. 22, 1989 at the recreation centre at 7:30 p.m.

Gary Fisher
Chairman 1989
Strawberry Festival

big thank you.

Thank you also to the Stouffville Tribune for the great coverage.

I would like to thank my terrific committee for a great job, the committee looks forward to your ideas for next year's festival.

Our wrap-up meeting will take place on Tuesday, Aug. 22, 1989 at the recreation centre at 7:30 p.m.

Today's farmers different

Dear Editor:

In a recent edition of the Tribune, Jim Roe had a letter about farmers. I farmed all my life near Stouffville, so I know what farming is all about.

The problem with farmers is they don't get together. Suppose corn was a profitable crop this year. Next year, they would double the acreage then the price would fall to where there's no profit at all.

Hogs are the same. Production would double and prices would drop to rock bottom.

I think the hardest work farmers do today is climb in the cab of their monster tractors, sit in a plush armchair, and turn on the stereo and air conditioner for harvesting hay.

They could have an \$80,000 investment. When I farmed, I had about \$700 invested.

I stood on my feet, used my back and arms and a three-tine hay fork. The hay was harvested with very little investment.

I did not have to go jogging for exercise, nor did I have a backyard swimming pool.

If a farmer can't make it on 100 acres, he won't do any better farming 500 acres. I farmed for almost 50 years four miles outside of Stouffville.

W.J. Winkler
Stouffville



Backs to the beach

A group of parents planted portable seats on the beach to keep a collective eye on their charges while taking in some sun and sand at Musselman's Lake. With a cooler of refreshments, bathing suits and suntan lotion, the group was ready for relaxation. They were caught red-shouldered last Thursday by our roving photographer.

We love your letters

The Tribune welcomes letters from readers on current topics. Letters should be 500 words or less and typed or neatly printed. They may be subject to editing for length at the discretion of the editor.

They must be submitted by noon Monday to appear in the Wednesday Tribune.

Letters may be submitted to the office at 54 Main St. W., Stouffville, P.O. Box 40/LAA/72A.