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Welcome home hug

Val Stapley gave son Shane a warm hug Saturday at their Bayberry St. home in Stouffville to welcome him back home after a two-month stay in Toronto's Hospital for Sick Children. Shane, who suffered burns to 45 per cent of his body in an accident in June, was released from hospital Friday. Despite the severity of the burns, doctors say Shane is expected to fully recover from his injuries. He's up and around, and is ready to celebrate the rest of the summer. A short visit home last Saturday gave Shane a idea of the community's support and a golf tournament has been organized for Aug. 22 at the Firefighters Rolling Hills Golf Club to help cover the cost of his expenses.

Groups call for action by feds on abortion issue

MATT NICHOLLS
Correspondent

The federal government's lack of action on the abortion issue shows a severe breach of responsibility and respect for Canadian rights, local pro-life and pro-choice activists said last week.

"Ultimately the law must come down through the federal government and that is why there is such a mix-up (across the country) at this time," Jerry Young, an active member of the pro-life group the Campaign Life Coalition said in an interview last week. "Up to this point they've been avoiding the issue and that will have to change."

Mr. Young, 56, and his wife Marie, 51, have been actively involved in the pro-life movement for the past five years.

In January and March of last year, the couple spent a number of hours outside Henry Morgentaler's abortion clinic in Toronto to help stop abortions from being performed.

Mr. Young said many politicians are "trying to make everyone happy" and most are concerned with how a decision could affect their political career.

"It's a very touchy thing for a politician due to the split in the issue," he said.

But the federal government "must get off the back benches" and pass a law, because the provinces need leadership on the issue, Mr. Young said.

Robin Rowe, national spokesperson for pro-choice group The Canadian Abortion Rights Action League — which officials say has about 25 members in Stouffville — agreed that the federal government has shirked its responsibilities on the abortion issue.

Ms. Rowe, speaking on behalf of local members, said new abortion legislation is "imperative at this stage" to help stop "the injunction phenomenon" that has surfaced in the recent Barbara Dodd and Chantal Daigle cases in Ontario and Quebec.

"Only the federal government has responsibility for abortion and it has to be made clear that a province cannot interfere with that decision," Ms. Rowe said.

Uxbridge resident Karen Attridge, another active pro-choice supporter, agreed that new legislation must be passed soon.

Ms. Attridge said a law must be passed "to ensure a woman has the right to choose" for her self.

Building officials go mobile with phones

Getting in touch with members of the town's building and bylaw enforcement committee will be much easier in the future, thanks to a new state of the art car phone communications system.

The new communications system was installed approximately two months ago after being approved by Whitchurch-Stouffville Town Council. The system consists of three transportable car telephones and one fixed telephone unit.

The new telephones, made by Diamond Tel, enable building and bylaw enforcement committee employees to keep in touch with each other and members of the public when they're away from the office.

"I find them very helpful because so many people are trying to see me every day," Bylaw Enforcement Officer Keith Saunders said in an interview. "If I have a question on a site that needs to be answered, I can just get in touch with someone at the office right away."

Mr. Saunders said the three



KEITH SAUNDERS
Going mobile

transportable units are handy because they can be carried from site to site.

"Sometimes you're in the middle of a farmer's field and you need to call in," he said. "And you can't go looking for a pay phone."

The telephones also have a built-in answering service that records messages if the phone isn't answered immediately.

"There haven't been any problems with them yet," Mr. Saunders said. "and so far we're very happy with them."

Demand soft

Pharmacies stock new painkiller

MATT NICHOLLS
Correspondent

Stouffville residents suffering from severe headaches and muscle pain may have a new way to rid themselves of their discomfort in the future.

A new line of non-prescription painkillers are now available across Canada, and a number of local pharmacies have stocked their shelves with the new products.

The new painkillers — sold under the names Advil, Acetaminophen, Mediprin, and Motrin IB — all contain Ibuprofen, an ingredient previously unavailable in Canada as a non-prescription drug.

But under new legislation passed by the federal government this

spring, Ibuprofen has been redefined as a non-prescription drug, making it available to consumers in over-the-counter sales.

"These drugs could revolutionize the painkiller market," Helen Carty, a spokesperson for McNeil Consumer Products said in an interview last week. "We think they can grab a 20 per cent share of the market within the next few years."

Ms. Carty said pharmacists believe the new painkillers will reduce the side effects many people get after taking ASA, used in products like Aspirin, and acetaminophen, used in products like Tylenol.

"Some people experience nausea, and other forms of discomfort with these drugs," Ms. Carty said. "These new painkillers virtually wipe out these side effects."

And a 500 mg dose of a painkiller containing Ibuprofen is more effective than a similar dose of a drug containing ASA or acetaminophen, Ms. Carty said.

Ibuprofen is not a new drug. It was developed in the early 1960s and was first introduced in Canada as a prescription drug in 1973. It has been a non-prescription drug in the U.S. since 1984.

Ms. Carty said it has been a strong performer in the U.S. market since 1984, and she thinks the same trend could show up in Canada.

But many local pharmacists aren't sure of the drug's potential just yet.

"We've had some people requesting it so far, but they have to ask the pharmacist for it," said Aiken's Pharmacy manager Rob Croxall. "So far I haven't had a lot of people come in and ask yet, but I think the demand will pick up. It has had a lot of advertising in the states, and its only been on the shelf here a week."

Widdfield Drugs Ltd. Pharmacist Nicholene Wilson said "not many people know about the drug" and sales so far "are not as great as they thought they would be."

But Ms. Wilson said she thinks the drug will do well in the future.

"Canadians tend to follow the American market," she said. "I think they will do well in the future."

Storm lashes Stouffville

A severe summer storm packing heavy rains and strong winds ripped through Stouffville Saturday uprooting several trees and knocking out power in some areas.

The storm hit, which hit in the late afternoon, dumped several millimetres of rain on the area in a short period of time.

Heavy winds knocked a tree onto a house on Victoria St. and power was knocked out on Elm St. shortly after the storm.

Stouffville Fire Chief Bill Brown said the fire department received a number of calls after the storm, but none were serious.

"There were trees down all over the place," Mr. Brown said. "And we had a few power outages in the area."

No injuries were reported.

"It seems the trees fell just like pulling weeds out of your lawn. I guess when the ground

Angry resident battles flooding

MATT NICHOLLS
Correspondent

A Stouffville couple are looking to the Town for answers after their house was flooded during a heavy storm last week.

Gord and Cindy Norwood who live on Warden Ave. across from the Emerald Hills Golf Club are seeking compensation from the town after their yard and basement were flooded in the storm.

The Norwoods live beside a new development, and they believe the town's engineering consultant failed to plan a suitable drainage system in the area to accommodate a large rainfall.

"I feel a little let down by Giffels (the town's engineering consultant)," 40-year-old Gord Norwood said in an interview last week. "They haven't done what they were hired to do and they haven't protected my interests. It's up to Giffels to suggest this won't work and they shouldn't be finding out now that it (the existing drainage system) is not going to work."

Mr. Norwood has been building his house beside the new development for four years and said he was never contacted about the drainage situation.

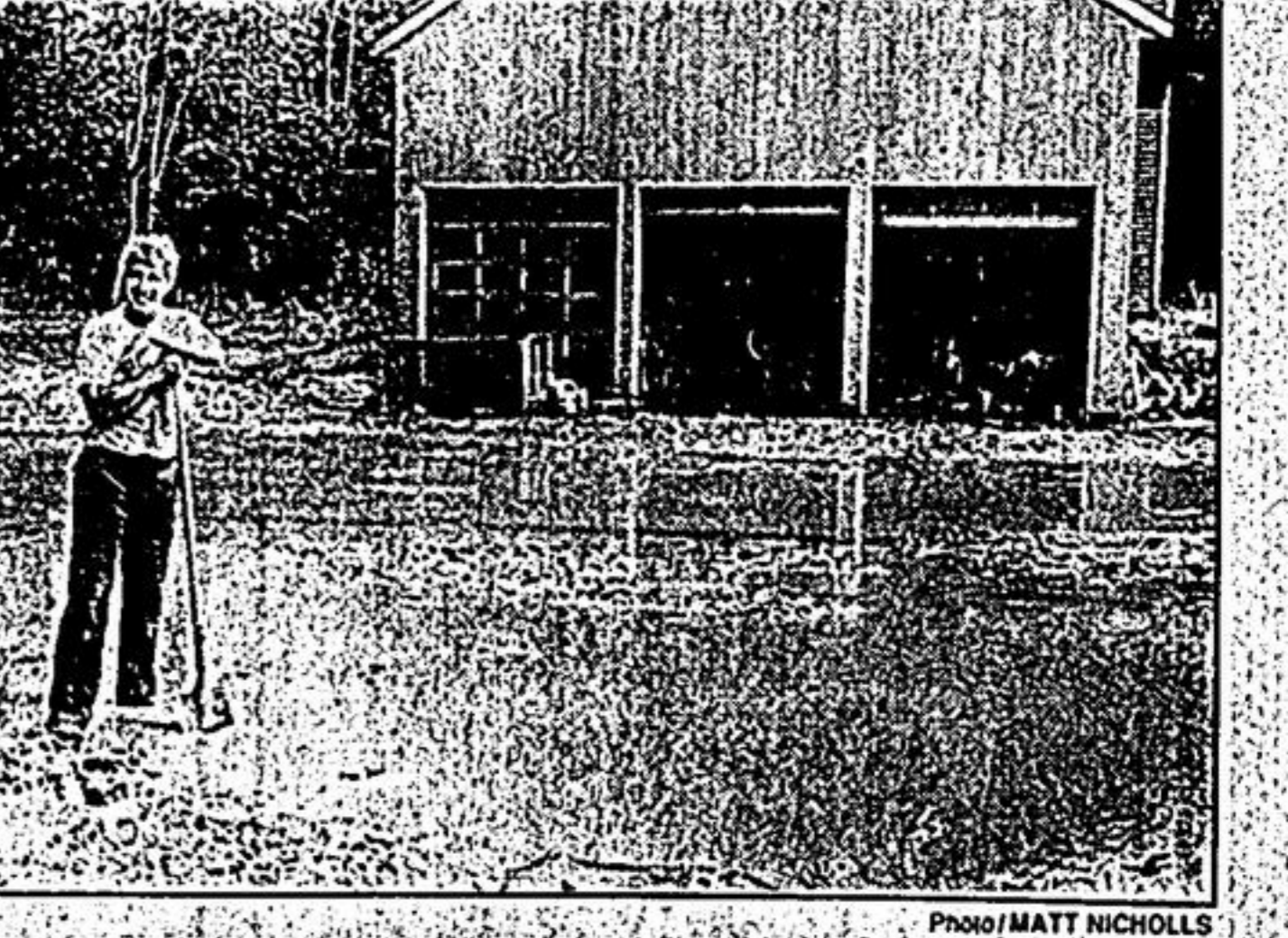
He said two new culverts were recently installed across from his home to help deal with the drainage problem, but a ditch to hold the water was not built.

"The town has brought in a back hoe and helped clean up and they have been kind in their assistance," Mr. Norwood said. "But I just want to know why it happened in the first place."

Ward 3 Councillor Nick Tatone said he will help the Norwoods gain compensation for their loss.

"I really think we should do something for him. I will definitely fight for him because he's a resident in my ward."

"I'm not sure who's responsible for the problem, but we will help them when we know for sure."



A flooded yard greeted Stouffville resident Gord Norwood last week after a heavy rainfall. The Warden Ave. homeowner says improper drainage resulted in about \$15,000 worth of damage to his property. Town officials have been helping to clean up the mess.

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