

Stouffville firefighters face new challenges

TRACY KIBBLE
Staff Reporter

Both the York Regional Police and the Whitchurch-Stouffville Fire Department report no major traffic accidents or fire calls during the Labor Day long weekend for the Stouffville area.

The last summer weekend is usually one of the busiest weekends of the year for both departments, especially since the fire department has taken on new tasks.

The Whitchurch-Stouffville Fire Department doesn't just fight fires anymore, says veteran firefighter and Fire Chief for the past four years, Bill Brown.

The Ministry of the Solicitor General's office has added four new mandates to the job description and duties of fire departments — their newest responsibility is learning training techniques involving hazardous materials emergencies.

"We are expected to be the first in to deal with and access any hazardous material calls including flammable liquids, pesticides or even an overturned tanker in the area," the chief says.

If a tanker turned over in town and leaked out a dangerous substance, Stouffville firemen would take control of the scene,

make any necessary contacts with Canotec (a chemical emergency company acting 24 hours a day), and if necessary, would be responsible for evacuating an area in danger, the chief explains.

Originally, a firefighter's job consisted of fire suppression only but now the added duty of fire prevention (public education and inspection of business and industrial fire safety) has also become an important step in preventing many fires.

Another responsibility put into practice by firefighters across the province is emergency

medical assistance knowledge which includes first aid and oxygen therapy expertise.

And because of the rising number of road deaths (totalling 18 already this year, according to York Regional Police Sgt. Norn Miles), the fire departments also play a major role in crash rescue involving expert use of heavy hydraulic equipment to free trapped victims from entangled car metal.

The Whitchurch-Stouffville fire department, a 30-man brigade of part-time firemen, deals closely with other departments like the police, ambulance and hydro crews.

"There is a cross-training process. We teach each other new and improved techniques."

Chief Brown likes the idea the ambulance and fire department share the same Main Street location which allows for better communication between the two.

"We also link closely with the Bandage 1 air ambulance attendants (stationed at Buttonville Airport). This speeds up the process for rescue," he says.

The department was quiet this weekend answering two calls only; one resuscitator call and a small shed fire that could have been doused without their assistance.

Keep children safe with streetproofing

JULIE CASPERSEN
Correspondent

York Regional Police urge parents to instill in their children

Longtime resident dies at 72

TRACY KIBBLE
Staff Reporter

Myrtle Selina (McCartney) Sandiford, a longtime Stouffville resident, died peacefully Wednesday Aug. 30 at Port Perry's Community Memorial Hospital.

Mrs. Sandiford, 72, was frequently ill for about one year and then became bed-ridden about three weeks ago, says her son, Ken Sandiford, co-owner with his brother Dick Sandiford of Stouffville's A & S Construction.

"Her poor system just wasn't strong enough anymore and she succumbed to pneumonia," Mr. Sandiford said.

Mrs. Sandiford is described by her son as "a superb mother who always made all our friends feel at home. She was a very dear lady."

The Sandiford name has strong roots in Stouffville's heritage starting more than 50 years ago when the young Sandiford couple, Myrtle and husband Harry, moved to Dickson's Hill.

They then moved to the 6th Line where the couple was happy and remained for 49 years.

Before Mrs. Sandiford's retirement eight years ago, the active and respected woman worked at the post office for 23 years.

She is survived by husband Harry (Sandy) Sandiford; sons Bill and his wife Anne of Port Perry; Ken and his wife Kathy; Dick and his wife Sally all of Stouffville; son Daniel of Toronto; daughter Norma-Jean and her husband Greg Wilkinson of Richmond Hill and her sister Jean McCartney of Bolton.

The grandmother of 10 was to celebrate her 73rd birthday Sept. 19. She and Mr. Sandiford would have also celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary this Saturday.

Funeral services were held in the chapel at O'Neill Funeral Home in Stouffville and Mrs. Sandiford was laid to rest at Stouffville Cemetery.

a healthy respect for potentially dangerous situations.

With children back at school, they need to learn how to be safe in their neighborhood.

The following is a list of points to assist you in keeping your child safe. If you cannot answer, "Yes," to all, the police advise you to discuss them with your children:

- Does your child know what to do if lost?
- Have you ever discussed with your child what abnormal behavior is?
- Have you ever taken a walking tour of your neighborhood?
- Do you know if there are any abandoned buildings, vacant lots, unit walkways or creeks that are subject to flooding in your area?
- Do you know your child's favorite play areas?
- Does your child know when to reject adult authority?
- Does your child carry personal identification and medical information?
- Can you account for your child's whereabouts hourly?
- Do you know the names, addresses and telephone numbers of your child's friends?
- Does your child know how and where to reach you at any time?
- Can you reach your child at any time?

Streetproofing is part of parenting, which requires work, thought and care, Staff Sgt. Rodney Sine of the community services bureau says.

New deputy treasurer to be employed

TRACY KIBBLE
Staff Reporter

The Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville will soon be hiring a deputy treasurer to assist in the duties of Treasurer Ed Blackburn, according to Mayor Fran Sainsbury.

The brand new position is warranted because of the increase in town growth, said Ruth Armstrong, the town's revenue supervisor and tax collector.

A deputy treasurer's job description is laid out according to municipal guidelines and the candidate must pass the Association of Municipal Clerks and Treasurers course.

"We are also looking for someone with an accounting degree," said Mrs. Armstrong.

Mayor Sainsbury said she always welcomes new faces to the town staff because they often "bring with them fresh new ideas."

Animal magnetism



Staff and residents at Stouffville's Parkview Home brought out their favorite pets last Thursday for an informal show. A host of animals, which included dogs, rabbits and hamsters, among others, turned out to strut their stuff. In the photo at left, Delia Potter snuggles up to her pet with all the love a true dog-lover can muster. Below, Florence Barrow gets a frog's-eye view of this amphibian behind the glass.



Photo/RICK MADONIK

Electrical fire damages home

An electrical fire in the Musselman's Lake area Tuesday morning caused \$7,000 damage before Whitchurch-Stouffville firefighters brought it under control.

According to Fire Chief Bill Brown, crews were called out to the Balsam St. address early Tuesday morning after a report of downed wires.

The Chief later reported it was an electrical fire in the house. It took local firefighters about 10 minutes to bring the blaze under control.

The house was empty when crews arrived and no one was injured in the incident, he added.

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