

Weekender

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MARKET VILLAGE CHIROPRACTIC AND DR. GEORGE TRAITSES Doctor of Chiropractic are now accepting individuals and families as patients at their new office in MARKET VILLAGE at Kennedy and Steeles For an appointment please call 940-8778

Town set with rural 911 signs

TRACY KIBBLE Staff Reporter

An emergency addressing system for York's incoming 911 service is in sight for rural Stouffville residents.

The Town will use the fire hall as a depot for rural homeowners to pick up their house number signs this summer.

The numbers will allow emergency service crews to accurately pinpoint house locations during emergencies.

The Town will provide the signs at a cost of \$10 per household for all rural homes, that will then be posted by the owner on their rural street.

During the months of August and September the fire hall will be manned by Town staff or students who will be on hand to provide homeowners with the signs.

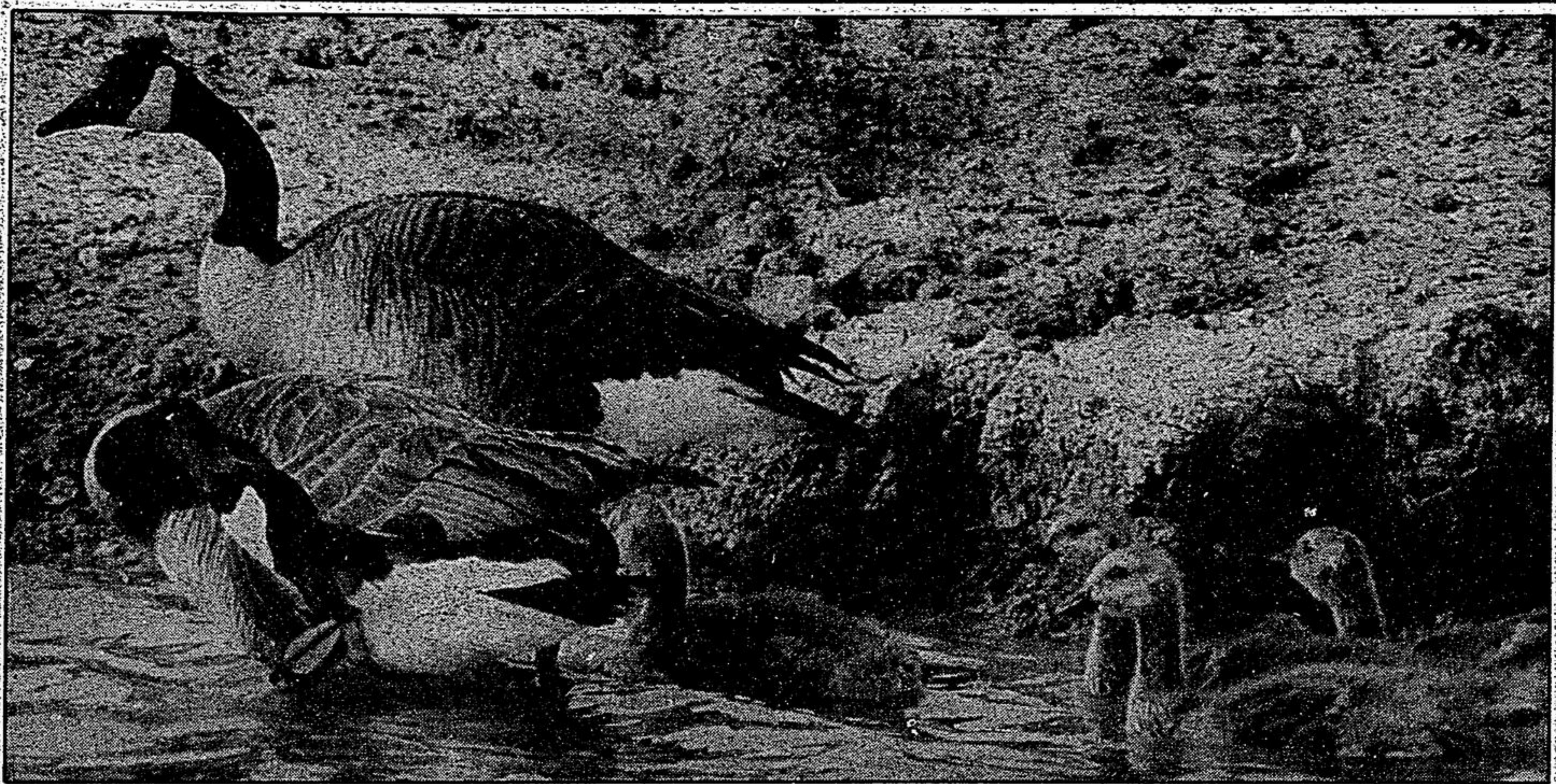
And in spite of Ward 1 Councilor Margot Marshall's concerns the hours for pickup are too long, Town CAO Bob Panizza said he wanted to make it convenient seven-days-a-week for residents to obtain them.

"In the event people are driving through the town, we want to make it convenient for them. We could hire summer students to sit in the fire hall on the weekend, which would not be costly and this would also provide some student employment," he said.

Rural property owners can pick up their signs Monday through Wednesday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Thursday and Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 8 p.m., and weekends from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. during August and September. Posts will also be available to residents who request them.

Council will pass a bylaw requiring all rural properties to post the house numbering signs provided by the Town.

It was also recommended staff patrol the Town after the distribution period to ensure all signs are properly posted.



photos/SJOERD WITTEVEEN

This Canada goose was struck by an arrow earlier this week. Here the injured bird picks at the protruding weapon in an attempt to dislodge it. The goose is still able to swim, walk and aid in the caring of nestlings with his mate (at right). It is illegal to hunt the Canada goose, say ministry officials.

Arrow attack maims goose at golf course

TRACY KIBBLE Staff Reporter

Workers at a Stouffville-area golf course are crying fowl this week after spotting an injured Canada Goose swimming in a pond with a target arrow embedded in its tail.

The goose had been shot with an arrow, and the pointed weapon remains stuck in the bird's body, as he swims around the pond at The Mandarin Golf & Country Club (formerly the Windmills Golf & Country Club) located on Kennedy Road south of the 19th Avenue.

"Although an arrow stuck in the rear end may not be the most pleasant thing, it does not appear to be hindering him. He can still swim and eat," says Tracy Smith, acting fish and wildlife supervisor for the Natural Resources ministry.

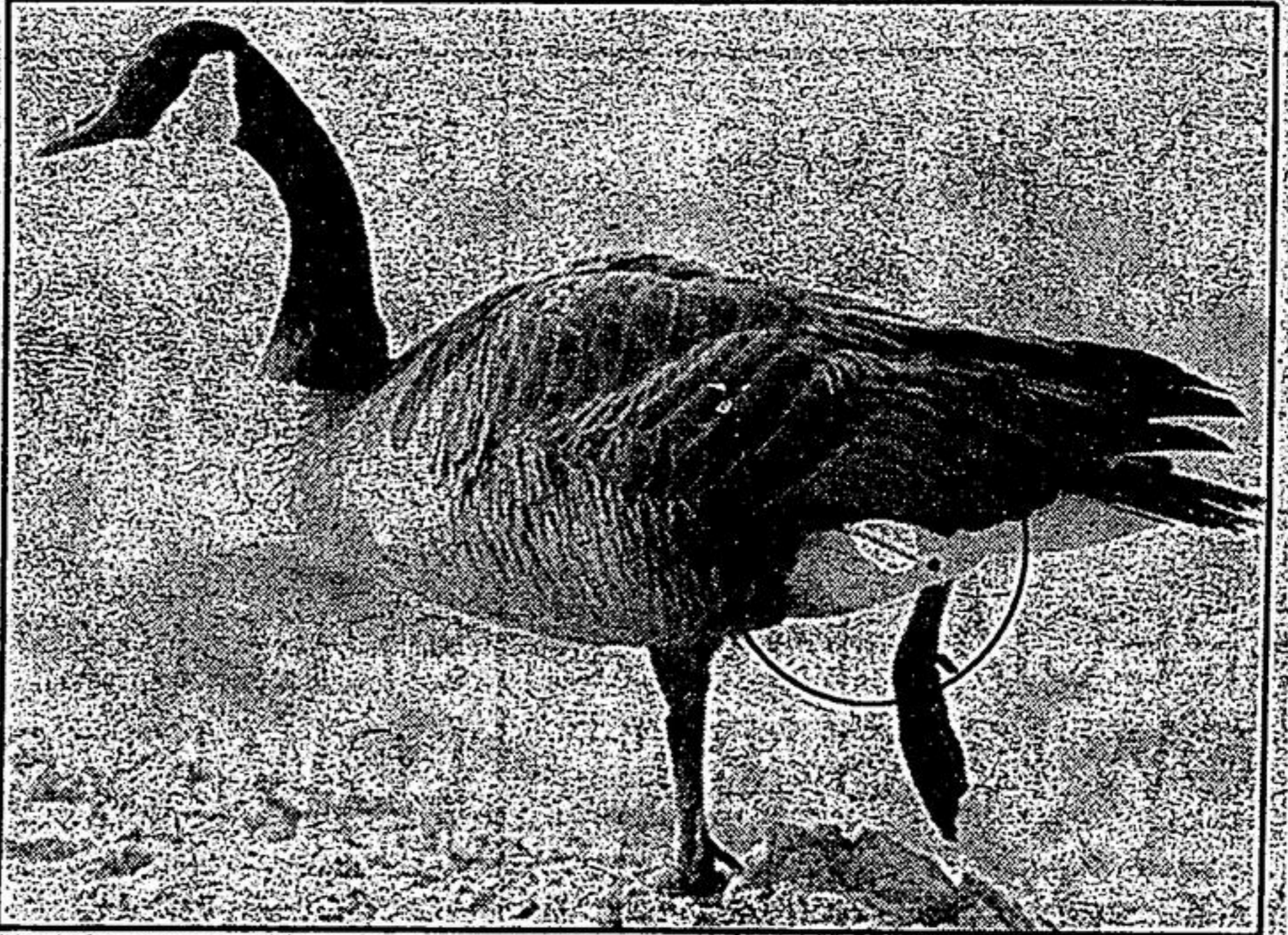
The golf club is currently closed for construction and under new management, but geese and other wildlife often settle in for the summer months during spring migration.

Mr. Smith says an officer visited the site Tuesday and found another arrow near the pond.

"It would be safe to say the bird took the arrow at the pond or nearby. Whatever occurred out there is the result of illegal activity against wildlife," Mr. Smith says.

He adds the attempted killing of the goose "is clearly not a hunting incident. Let's make that perfectly clear."

He also says that hunting the migratory bird this time of year is against the law and any holder of a Migratory Bird Licence can hunt the birds



from September to December "but not with an arrow."

The expert explains that in the spring, geese start to moult, or lose their primary feathers. During this time Canada geese lose their flight feathers and cannot fly.

"He's probably moulting right now. And either now or very shortly that bird will not be able to fly," Mr. Smith says.

But the ministry officer who visited the pond made the decision to leave the goose alone "until after the moulting season when he needs to fly. The officers felt they were putting too much stress on the bird trying to catch it, and we don't want it to attempt to leave," Mr. Smith says.

He says if the fowl leaves the pond with the arrow lodged in its back-side they may lose track of him.

Geese often find a home in the nearby pond, year after year, and Mr. Smith says something like this "should never have happened."

"People do some illegal things with wildlife, but we will make every effort to help the goose," he says.

Ministry officials say they'll continue to monitor the area.

Inspection complete

Rec Centre passes test

The Stouffville Recreation Complex was deemed "fit" and met all safety standards, according to Standford Engineering, the company hired to inspect the building for structural stability last month.

The Industrial Health and Safety Branch of the Labor Ministry ordered all municipal complexes, arenas and other public facilities in the province to be inspected as part of a prevention program to avoid "human disaster."

The ministry had requested all Ontario municipalities before a May 15 deadline to hire a professional inspector to ensure all safety regulations are being met.

Prior investigations into nine previous collapses and disasters in some arenas, claiming human life and injuring numerous young children, were due largely to structural deficiencies in construction, the ministry said in a report to Council in May.

But Whitchurch-Stouffville Recreation Director Marlane McKee-Wetheral said the engineering firm inspected the Recreation Complex at a cost of \$1,000 and deemed the structure fit.

Standford Engineering made only one recommendation to improve the guard rails in the seating area.

Ms. McKee-Wetheral said the suggestion will be looked at this summer.

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