

# Welfare demands in York Region way up this year

TRACY KIBBLE  
Staff Reporter

Welfare caseloads in York Region are up nearly 50 per cent - a "conservative" figure - says York Region's Community Services Commissioner Peter Crichton.

Mr. Crichton also says the \$13 million approved welfare budget for 1990 shows one per cent of the population is collecting social assistance, and indicates the situation has not been as severe since 1982.

He adds: "I understand there is a connection" between 1982's economic slump and this year's growing demand for social assistance.

He says whether the government recognizes "an official recession or not, just ask someone on the street, or the small and medium businessman, or layed off plant workers."

In light of the increasing number of people collecting social assistance in the region, the commission is asking York to hire an additional 10 workers.

The commission's "ability to cope" is decreasing, as shown in a report submitted to York Region's Community Services Committee, Crichton says.

The report indicates one worker should be handling about 90 cases, but figures show York's social assistance workers are handling 140 cases each, he says.

"The biggest single factor is unemployment. York is a growing region and we can expect as it grows that a proportionate number of people will need assistance," Mr. Crichton says.

Figures from July 1989 show 299 people who are considered employ-

able are collecting assistance, while another 1,500 cannot work due to medical reasons, he says.

The July 1990 figures - up by nearly 50 per cent from last year - show 742 employable people collect welfare, while another 1,900 need the assistance and cannot work.

He says the figures will likely rise due to a bill being passed in the federal senate which will shorten the length of time people can collect unemployment insurance benefits.

But in comparison to neighboring regions, York is weathering the demand, Mr. Crichton says.

"Durham Region is being hit the

hardest," while York is just a little better off than Peel Region, he says.

"As caseloads rise, our ability to check on clients reduces, and in turn the time on assistance increases," he adds.

"The trend will continue and our caseloads are increasing each month. If the economy doesn't pick up we can expect the numbers to rise," Mr. Crichton says.

York Region's Community Services Committee supported hiring 10 additional workers and recommended the annual \$485,000 cost to Council with a stipulation the province approves additional subsidies.

## Stouffville singing sensation takes tops

Whitchurch-Stouffville's Lawnie Wallace recently won the Ontario Open Country Singing Competition at the Canadian National Exhibition Aug. 26 - beating out 38 competitors for the title.

Lawnie, 13, has been wooing local residents while singing at the Legion, the Antique Car Show, local weddings, the Whitchurch-Stouffville Museum and the recent BIA Midnight Madness celebration held on Main Street in Stouffville.

The successful singer, after wooing judges at the Canadian National Exhibition, now has \$500 in her pocket and is on her way to Hamilton with a \$2,000 recording contract at the Grant Avenue Studios.

Lawnie won the title after singing "Cry" and "Rose of San Antone" by Patsy Cline.

Before taking the stage at the CNE, Lawnie entered and also won the Canadian Open Singing Competition in Simcoe County July 6, 7 and 8 for her version of Patsy Cline's "Sweet Dreams."

She, along with her family, would like to thank Whitchurch-Stouffville Mayor Fran Sainsbury, the Whitchurch-Stouffville Museum, the Business Improvement Area of downtown Stouffville, the Legion Ladies Auxiliary and businessman Don Anderson for giving her local support and confidence.

## Transfer plan under fire

The transfer of plumbing inspection responsibilities from York Region to the municipalities is a big mistake and the move will cause serious health and plumbing problems for York residents, regional officials were told Thursday at council.

Whitchurch-Stouffville independent plumber Tom Winters, in a 10-minute presentation to council, warned the officials "the ground work has not been done," to warrant the change.

Mr. Winters, a member of the Ontario Provincial Plumbing Inspectors' Association, was referring to a recent Regional Health Committee report that recommended that the nine York Region municipalities assume responsibility of all plumbing inspections. Dan Gunn of the York Region Plumbing Inspection Branch also said "forcing the small municipalities to take this on will regress the situation, adding potable water supplies, the environment and the livelihood of independent plumbers would suffer.

"You are putting the whole system in jeopardy," Mr. Gunn said.

Mr. Winters said "York Region has the best plumbing inspection system I've seen in my travels across Ontario."

The Stouffville businessman also pointed out plumbing inspections were originally started by health inspectors and doctors, questioning the move to release the health department of the longstanding commitment to check plumbing.

"A small municipality won't be able to afford the job. The municipalities will suffer, the plumbing will suffer and health will suffer," Mr. Winters said.

He also urged Markham, Vaughan and Richmond Hill officials - anxious to undertake the responsibility - not to take the matter lightly urging them to "please protect the small municipalities," he said.

Officials will look into the matter further before making a final decision.

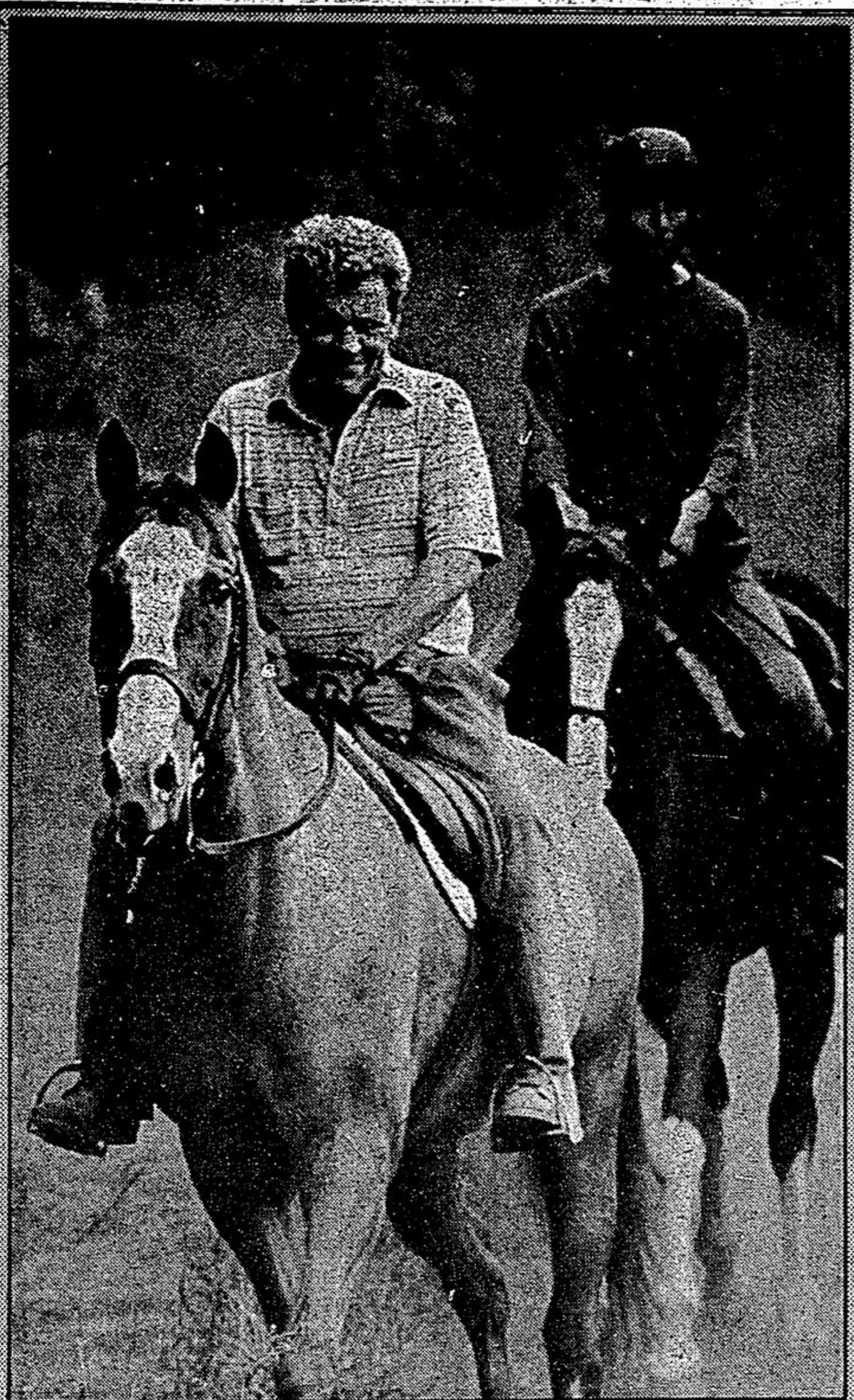


photo: SJOERD WITTEVEEN

## Happy trails

The York Region Forest provided the perfect backdrop for a leisurely afternoon of horseback riding last week for Gary Veater, riding General Lee, and Naomi Siegel, riding Sunset. The equestrian enthusiasts were snapped at Aurora Sideroad and 7th Line.

## Mayor fears Stouffville landfill

TRACY KIBBLE  
Staff Reporter

Whitchurch-Stouffville Mayor Fran Sainsbury fears the search for a temporary landfill site in York Region will lead to her municipality, she said last week.

The mayor believes current moves to ship clay from a Gormley area aggregate operation to line the Keele Valley Landfill in

Vaughan will result in a look to this area for a temporary dump here.

She says Vaughan officials knew if a further burrow pit was dug at Keele they would be faced with another expansion. This, she says, led to the idea of shipping clay 26 miles from Gormley Aggregates.

Now Whitchurch-Stouffville has an open pit - a pit that is lined

with "perfect" lining for a dump, Mayor Sainsbury said.

But York Region Chairman Eldred King is on record as saying Vaughan, Markham or Richmond Hill could just as easily be chosen to house the temporary site as are smaller municipalities like Whitchurch-Stouffville.

York Region is bound under an agreement with the Solid Waste Interim Steering Committee to search for contingency landfill sites in the face of the Greater Metro Area's mounting garbage crisis.

And that, says Mayor Sainsbury, could point to Whitchurch-Stouffville.

"If a landfill site is situated here, on the borders of the Oak Ridges Moraine, people will think the whole project is a farce."

She also said a landfill site in Whitchurch-Stouffville will "totally freeze this municipality" as far as development and growth.

York Region is currently in the beginning stages of its Landfill Contingency Site Search, as a hired consultant studies land use in each of the nine municipalities.

An interim dump must be in place in York Region until 1996 at which time a long-term solution will be sought to serve the joining regions in the long term.

Although senior planner for the consultant Institute Environmental Research (1985) Inc., Mary Simpson, said last month there is no indication Whitchurch-Stouffville will be chosen as York's landfill site location, the town's mayor is skeptical.

"I'm still worried," she said.

## Local man goes missing

A 53-year old man is missing from the Whitchurch-Stouffville Christian Horizons Group Home and officials and residents in the Ottawa/Quebec area have organized an extensive search.

Belinda Burston, regional director of the Christian Horizon administration in Bradford, says Ian Moody was discovered missing Aug. 4 while camping with Christian Horizons staff at the Logosland Campground in Renfrew, just north of Ottawa.

Mr. Moody, a developmentally handicapped adult who works during the day at Participation House in Markham, has wandered away before, Mrs. Burston says, but has always been found in less than one day.

She says staff checked on Mr. Moody in his tent at the Christian campsite at about 7:45 a.m. on Saturday, Aug. 4, but when they returned at 8 a.m., "the flap on his tent was up and he was gone," she says.

Staff searched the camp to no avail and by noon the OPP was contacted. The police started an "extensive search with helicopters and tracking dogs in and around the campsite," Mrs. Burston says.

For two days police, Christian Horizons staff and residents searched the area.

A rescue team was also called from the Rideau Regional Centre in Ottawa and Mr. Moody's description was broadcast over Ottawa radio stations Sunday, Aug. 5.

The OPP received one sighting of the man at the campsite at 9 a.m. the same day he went missing, but there have been no sightings since, Mrs. Burston says.

"His disappearance has been extensively publicized and staff has gone back to the Ottawa area searching hostels and hospitals," she adds.

About 200 posters have also been distributed in the area and local truckers and bikers in the area are on the look-out for the man.

She says OPP in Ottawa think that someone may be giving Mr. Moody shelter because it's "odd he has not been spotted in three weeks," Mrs. Burston says.

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