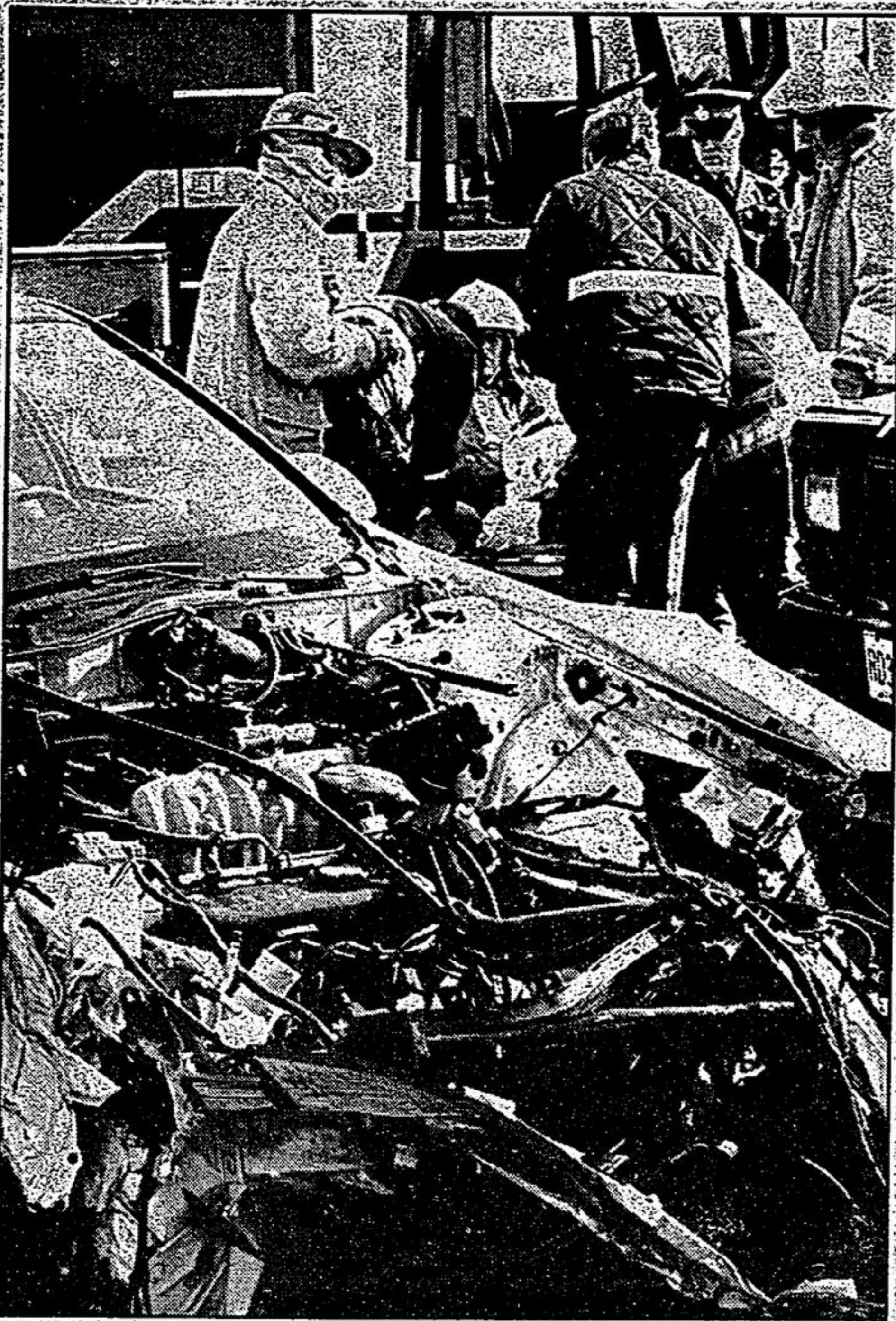


Four injured in crash



Photo/TRACY KIBBLE

A 64-year-old Georgina man is charged by OPP after running a red light at Hwy 48 and Bloomington Sideroad Friday at 3:45 p.m. A 42-year-old Newmarket man, heading Hwy 48 north is seen above on a stretcher behind his vehicle. He suffered major injuries after being struck by a westbound vehicle. Two Uxbridge residents, heading east, also suffered minor injuries after being struck while stopped.

Police want AIDS coverage

Does the life insurance policy of a police officer cover potentially fatal diseases contracted in on-duty encounters? This question was posed to Mutual Life of Canada by York Region Police Association President Paul Baily in a March 14 letter. The association wants to know if life insurance will be paid if an officer dies as a result of disease, such as AIDS or Hepatitis B, picked up while on duty. Baily also asked if the group policy covers on-duty officers killed in a "riot or an unruly mob scene." Mutual Life has yet to respond to the questions.

New bands

The Auxiliary Forces of the York Regional Police are trading in their hat bands. In 1980, when the auxiliary force was established, the police hats worn were decorated with yellow and black check hat bands. Metro Toronto, Peel and Durham have already changed the colors of their hat bands to red and black, the the York Region Police Services Board voted last week to follow suit. During a recent swearing in service of the Peel Regional Auxiliary Force, the York Region force of 56 members wore the only yellow and black bands. "I guess we all have to march in tune," Board Chairman Judge Donald Shearer said.



Photo/ANNETTE BUCHKOWSKI

Bloomington brushfire

The summer-like weather on Sunday brought with it a negative aspect common to the warmer months. This grass fire was quickly dispatched by Whitchurch-Stouffville firefighters in the afternoon at Bloomington Sideroad and McCowan Road at the Sheriff Farm.

Stouffville told to join the ranks of non-smoking municipalities

TRACY KIBBLE
Staff Reporter

Whitchurch-Stouffville needs to protect its residents from second-hand smoke and should help Ontario reach its goal of becoming a smoke-free province, officials heard last week.

Ludwig DeSouza, of the Ontario Council on Smoking and Health urged council to "endorse the passage" of a draft bylaw, outlined by Town CAO Bob Panizza.

Lorna Turner, who urged council last month to enforce a non-smoking law, arranged for DeSouza to speak to council.

"Smoking is the single leading cause of death over AIDS, drug abuse and cancer. The weight of medical evidence in 1986 shows there are 4,000 chemicals in environmental tobacco smoke and 300 to 500 Canadians a year die as a result of second-

hand smoke," DeSouza said. He called Panizza's draft bylaw "wonderful" and stressed 61 municipalities in Ontario or more than 70 per cent of the Ontario population follow similar bylaws.

"It would be a challenge for you to join the ranks or go one step further, like Aspen, Colo. and become a smoke-free city," DeSouza said.

DeSouza added industries know how to market tobacco and said "cigarettes are the only legally available product that when used as directed, kills."

Councillors were concerned how a smoking bylaw would be enforced and Ward 1 Councillor Margot Marshall said the town could lose bookings at local public halls.

Panizza told officials business owners are responsible for the enforcement of the bylaw inside their establishment and added council should

"weigh the pros and cons" of passing the bylaw.

"You have to decide whether you are more concerned of how the businesses will react or of the community welfare," Panizza said. And Ward 6 Councillor Jim Sanders said council had a "responsibility to do this" and added residents would co-operate. The draft bylaw, expected to have been approved last night, limits smoking in retail shops, hairdressing parlors, banks, medical offices, and stairways. It also states restaurants must set aside 70 per cent of their seating for non-smokers.

Programs suffering, under budget cuts: teachers' association

JULIE CASPERSEN
Staff Reporter

The York Region separate board has increased administration at the expense of programs, charges the Catholic teachers' association.

York Catholic Teachers say the slicing of \$6.5 million from the budget cuts heavily into programs and staff and "jeopardizes the board's mainstreaming mandate."

Cuts to bureaucracy in the York Region Roman Catholic Separate School Board should have been "pursued with the same zeal applied to program-related reductions," association president Marshall Jarvis said, referring to the recent decision to terminate 78 full-time educational assistant positions this fall.

There are now 318 EAs on staff who work with special needs students in order to keep them in classrooms with children their own age.

"I think they've really shown where their priorities are," he said.

Jarvis, along with representatives of other employee groups, made presentation to trustees last month in an attempt to keep the axe from falling on programs and related staff, but said, "I think all the decisions were made long before anyone made presentations to the board."

Jarvis said bureaucracy has

increased by at least 250 per cent since 1986 compared to a 40 per cent hike in enrollment. Jarvis added that not only were cuts to administration not made, but the board is "contemplating a 10 per cent increase to these expenditures in its 1991 budget." But board Vice-chair Terry Ryan said administration was expanded at a time when it was "grossly understaffed" and "costing the board a lot of money." Before 1986 the board did not offer a complete high school system and needed the staff to deal with the expansion into secondary education.

"It was necessary growth to support the system," said Ryan, a Markham trustee.

"Every dollar we spend, whether in central administration or otherwise, goes to supporting the pupils in the schools in one way or another," Director of Education Frank Bobesich said. The next budget meeting is set for 6 p.m. April 10.

Trustees will be presented with the projected mill rate increase to balance the budget based on the cuts made so far. The proposed mill rate increase released previous to any budget cuts was 23.5 per cent, and despite the trimming of the budget, the increase will be in the double digits. The board will not release the increase proposed in the second draft until it is presented to trustees next Wednesday.

David Mainse to be guest speaker at banquet

David Mainse, the host of 100 Huntley St. will speak at the Stouffville Christian School Spring banquet. There will also be music by SCS students and a group from Springvale Baptist Church at the April 18 event. The event is being held at the Markham Suites Hotel. For more information, or reservations, contact the school at 640-3297.

Regions want out of welfare costs

York and Durham Regions are joining forces to pressure the provincial government to take on full responsibility of welfare.

Durham Region recently passed a resolution, endorsed by York last week, to request the Ontario government to "assume 100 per cent of the funding for general welfare assistance benefits to alleviate the undue tax burden on the real property tax base," the resolution stated.

Both regions agree general welfare assistance is a service and not property related.

Currently the province pays 80 per cent of welfare; the region 20 per cent. This does not include administration costs.

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