

CAS elects directors

JULIE CASPERSEN
Staff Reporter

The York Region Children's Aid Society elected 11 directors last week, positions left empty since most of the 19 directors walked off the job last summer.

The directors resigned after the CAS was refused \$8.5 million by the province, propelling the society into a \$900,000 shortfall.

After the June 1991 walkout, the Minister of Community and Social Services set up the Children and Family Services of York Region (CFSYR) to manage the organization but failed to formally dissolve the CAS, said Sharlyn White, a member of the society. Four of the seats are appointed by the region and two others are filled by directors who did not resign last year.

More than 30 per cent of the CAS membership turned out to

vote, White said. But before the newly elected board can take the reins, a judicial review must be completed.

The CAS wants a review of the decision by former Minister of Community and Social Services Zanana Akande to appoint a new board. The application asks for a restraining order be placed on the CFSYR in managing the society, and states Akande did not give notice of her plan to the CAS which deprived the society its right into a hearing.

This board now has control of the society. A CAS press release said the provincially appointed board "does not represent the will of the community since they were not elected."

White said the review application is now before the courts and a June date has been set.

Fire dept. 'at capacity': Chief

Whitchurch-Stouffville fire brigade answered 420 emergency calls last year, local officials learned last week.

The local fire department responded to 71 false alarm calls in 1991 - the second highest number of incidents since 1989, and still on the rise, a report shows.

Structure fires, on the decline since 1989, totalled more than \$2 billion in damage, while brush and grass fire calls climbed from 11 in 1989 to 19 in 1991, the report shows.

Fire chief Bill Brown and deputy fire chief Murray Emmerson worked a reported 556 combined overtime hours, in which they attended training sessions, meetings, court hearings and night emergency calls in excess of normal office hours, the report shows. Brown reports the staff is currently "at capacity" and will need to be increased "in the near future" with the implementation of the upcoming 911 emergency response system.

He added that record-keeping methods will also need to be improved in order for the department to maintain useful information data for firefighting safety and the 911 system.

"We're at our limit," Brown told The Tribune. He noted in his pre-budget annual report that aging equipment, the increasing number of false alarms, staff shortfalls, and large rural estate homes with no firefighting water supply, top the chief's list of concerns for the year ahead.



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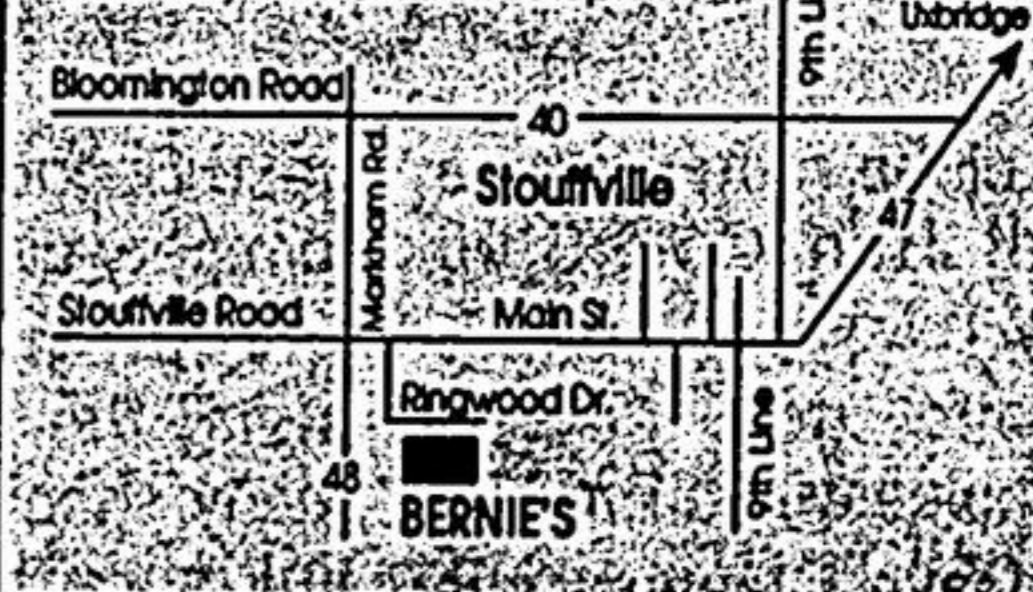
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