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# Weekender

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## First big storm buries Stouffville

TRACY KIBBLE  
Staff Reporter

The first snowflake floated innocently to the ground Thursday morning.

Thirty-six hours later, Whitchurch-Stouffville got steadily hit and wound up with more than 35 centimetres of snow.

We're not alone. Most of Southern Ontario battled the early winter storm, already being called the worst in three years.

The town's public works department were inundated with telephone calls yesterday, mostly from angry residents complaining they couldn't get out of their snowed-in driveways, said employee Diane Carnrite.

Carnrite told *The Weekender* that snowplow operators were called in at 2 a.m. yesterday and were still at it by afternoon.

The town was busy plowing Hwy 47, Bethesda Sideroad, Vardorf, Warden and McCowan Rds., with nine machines working around the clock.

"We weren't even going to worry about subdivisions until the main roads looked in pretty good condition," Carnrite said.

And that would be a constant battle for workers all day yesterday as the morning's 22 centimetres heaped up to more than 35 centimetres by last night. Stouffville Hydro Commission engineer Walter Metcalfe said early yesterday morning that the department had so far been fortunate since no power lines had been downed. Metcalfe said extra staff was to be on call in case expected high winds caused any problems, he said.

Weather experts reported to say this storm could reach an all-time record for the worst 24-hour blizzard in Metro and surrounding areas.



### Rescue team

## Lake neighbors fight against time to save drowning dog

TRACY KIBBLE  
Staff Reporter

A heart-warming drama unfolded Tuesday morning in quiet Musselman Lake like a

segment on Rescue 911.

And thanks to a group of local heroes, who fought against time to save a drowning dog, grateful Lakeshore

Road resident Angie McMunn has her best friend 'Reggie' home safe and sound.

The chain of events began at about 7:30 a.m. along the south shores of the lake freshly glazed with a thin layer of ice.

Angie had let Reggie outdoors for his usual scout around the property before she headed into work.

The dog, a two-year-old, medium-sized collie, had not returned several minutes later so Angie, keys in hand, asked her son, Chris to make sure Reggie was inside before he left the house.

"I sort of knew something was wrong when she hadn't returned, because she always comes right back," Angie said.

Meanwhile, Harley Spilsbury and his dog, Belle, were braving cold winds along the lake at about 7:40 a.m. when he heard "screams" coming

from the Glendale Beach area.

"Everything went down really, really fast after that. I thought the screeches sounded like a seagull at first," Harley said.

He bolted toward the shoreline where he spotted a frantic dog who had just plunged into the freezing water through a half-inch layer of ice about 35 feet from shore.

Harley bolted home, tied up his own dog, grabbed a rope, and ran to neighbor, Bev Gottschalk's house for assistance.

Eager to help, Bev quickly dialed the home of well-known animal expert, lover and volunteer Lori Welsh. Meanwhile Harley, realizing the dog wouldn't last long in the freezing water, rushed back to the beach to "size up the situation."

"I knew we had to do something real fast - her nose was

just resting over the edge of the ice," Harley said.

Welsh, a former employee of Markham Animal Control, rehabilitates wild animals and helps out when she can at the Toronto Humane Society. When Bev called at 7:45 a.m. to tell her a dog was drowning in the lake, she didn't waste any time. Before leaving her house she called her best friend, Jane Schell, to meet her at Glendale Beach.

Within minutes, Harley, Lori and Jane had joined forces on the shore to help in the rescue.

Jane stayed on the scene and yelled re-assuringly to a now-exhausted Reggie, while Lori and Harley scouted the area for a boat.

After a few minutes they came across a 12-foot aluminum vessel and "borrowed" it from a neighbor. After attempting to drag the boat 20

(See page 3)



Musselman Lake neighbors network to rescue 'Reggie' from icy water Tuesday morning. From back left: Harley and Ruby Spilsbury, owner Angie McMunn, Jane Schell, Lori Welsh, Reggie, Bev Gottschalk, and Kevin Welsh.

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