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Vol. 10 No. 18 A Metroland Community Newspaper Saturday, May 7, 1994 52 Pages \$1.00

## MP outraged

# Bhaduria sued by insurance company

ALAN SHACKLETON  
Tribune Staff

Markham Whitchurch-Stouffville MP Jag Bhaduria is being sued for \$15,000 by a Toronto insurance company.

Progressive Casualty Insurance Co. of Canada served Bhaduria with the lawsuit last Friday in connection with a dispute over claims resulting from a pair of car accidents.

Filed in Ontario Court (General Division) last week, the lawsuit alleges that Bhaduria received benefits for which he was not entitled as a result of claims he filed in connection with accidents in June of 1992 and February of 1993.

However, Bhaduria's parlia-

mentary assistant Joanne Dave said a deal had been reached with the insurance company's lawyer concerning the dispute, and she was shocked when the lawsuit was served.

"The bottom line is they came up with a claim that there was a \$1,660 overpayment," she said. "Jag doesn't agree with that because they didn't take into consideration \$1,000 in medical bills. I was in touch with their lawyer and we agreed it was nonsense to take a person to court for \$1,660. I know Jag did not agree and wanted to fight on principle."

Instead, Dave said she came to an agreement with Progressive's lawyer that the \$1,660 would be repaid. "We had a deal to repay it and they said they'd take it."

As far as Dave was concerned, the matter had been resolved. "They had made a deal. We were taken by surprise," she said of the lawsuit.

Dave pointed out that the total amount of money paid to Bhaduria by Progressive was approximately \$5,500, and she has no idea why the company is suing for \$15,000.

"Where the heck does \$15,000 come from," she asked.

Dave suggested the higher amount brought the case out of small claims court, which is handled at the Provincial Court level, up to the General Court level where it would inevitably get more media attention. "If we find out you (the company) were influenced by the media in any way,

you (the company) will have the biggest lawsuit ever," she said.

However, lawyer Rob Gray of Iacono, Brown Barristers, who is representing Progressive denied any deal had ever been agreed to.

"There was no deal, we never had a deal. She (Dave) was making suggestions but when she didn't follow through, my instructions were to follow through with a lawsuit."

He said the amount of \$1,660 as a repayment and a release form from Bhaduria clearing the insurance company of any further responsibilities had been discussed as a possible settlement, but no formal agreement was reached. "She (Dave) suggested \$1,660 but I warned her that if we didn't get it, we'd go

ahead. When the cheque wasn't in my office Wednesday (April 27) afternoon, we had no choice but to follow through with the lawsuit."

Gray said the lawsuit is for \$15,000 because the insurance company had numerous expenses above the amount paid to Bhaduria in connection with the claims.

He also said allegations that the lawsuit was filed to embarrass Bhaduria were unfounded. "As far as I know, small claims court is just as much on the public record as you go into any court in this province it's on the public record — unless you're Karla Homolka."



BHADURIA

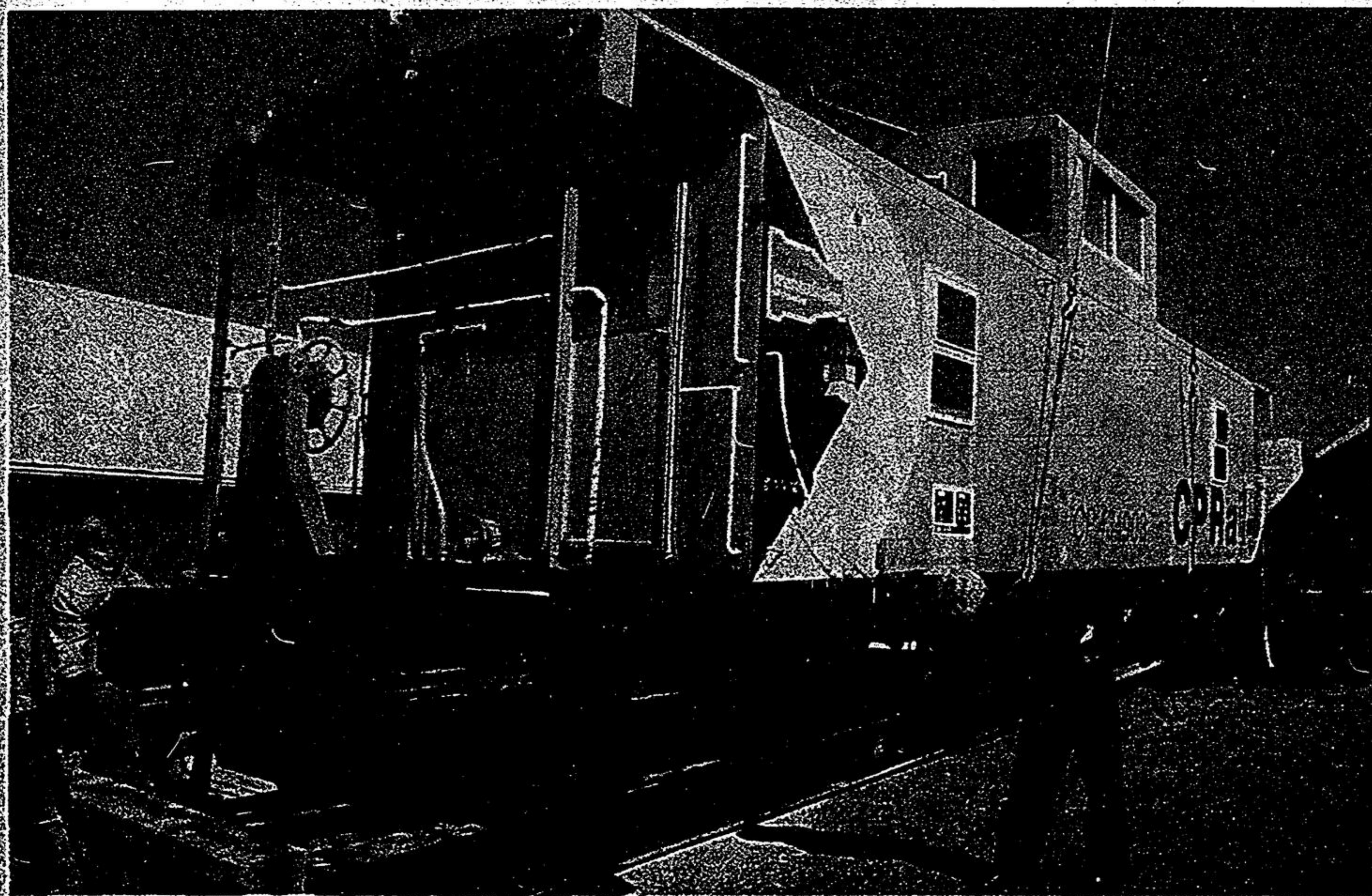


Photo: SJOERD WITTEVEEN

## All aboard!

The York Durham Heritage Railway is on track with its newest acquisition. Bruce Brillinger (centre) donated this caboose to the heritage railway and it was moved by flatbed truck to Uxbridge from

Stouffville on Tuesday morning. The caboose has been reconditioned and will be a welcome addition to the growing fleet of cars run by the railroad, possibly by next spring.

## Volunteers required for Classic

People wanting to volunteer to help out at the upcoming Chrysler Celebrity Classic can get their application forms at the Rec Centre or at the Whitchurch-Stouffville Library. Organizers are encouraging anyone over the age of 16 to get involved with the event, which will see 70 high profile sports and entertainment celebrities descend upon the Emerald Hills golf and Country Club from June 22-26.

Volunteers under 16 will be considered if they have a golf background.

The Classic, which boasts a \$200,000 prize purse, is being sponsored by the Big Brothers of Metropolitan Toronto and by Ronald McDonald's Children's Charities. The library will also be selling tickets for the Classic, with 50 per cent of the price of each ticket purchased going to help fund the Latcham Gallery.

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