

Church given heritage status by council

A heritage property designation was awarded to a Stouffville church Tuesday.

Whitchurch-Stouffville council supported a call for heritage status to Stouffville Memorial Christian Church located on Main St. Council was told tonight that the Congregationalists first organized themselves

in Stouffville in 1842 and built their first church, a frame building on the south side of Main Street in 1847.

The existing church, on the northeast corner of Main and Stouffville Streets was built in the 1870s at a cost of \$7,500. At the time of construction the church had seating for 300.

Portable phones probed

Town staff has been ordered to hand in financial statements linked to 114 portable telephones, Whitchurch-Stouffville Council decided last Tuesday.

The call for the telephone check came from Ward 3 councillor Margot Marshall. Council asked for telephone statements covering all of 1994.

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Region

York welfare cases up slightly

By MIKE RUTA
Staff Reporter

Close to 9,000 welfare cases were recorded in York Region at the beginning of the year, up slightly since

the last count, officials reported.

York's Social Services department reported that there were 8,716 cases listed for general welfare assistance at the end of '94, com-

pared to 1,966 in December of '89.

Meanwhile, Ontario's welfare caseload numbers increased slightly in February, government officials have reported.

Community and Social Services Minister Tony Silipo said that general welfare assistance increased by one per cent, while the number collecting family benefits in Ontario increased by 0.2 per cent over January.

In total, 344,000 households or 607,000 individuals in Ontario received government assistance.

The February over January increase for the province reflects the seasonal fluctuations typical of social assistance at this time of year, said Silipo.

The total caseload increased in February by 4,218.

"The increases in the past four months from November

until now, are significantly lower than in the same period last year, and, in fact, lower than they have been since 1988," said Silipo.

Province-wide, there are approximately 21,000 fewer households on social assistance since March of '94.

In February, the number of households receiving social assistance was 672,191, representing 1,332,153 individuals, including heads of households, spouses and children, Silipo said.

"Though the numbers increased slightly in the month of February, we remain confident that our efforts are clearly paying off, resulting in improved

employment and training opportunities for the people of Ontario," said Silipo.

The cabinet minister noted that social assistance caseloads remain "well below" the March '94 levels, as a result of "case file investigations, better management of the province's social assistance system, and the government's job creation efforts through programs such as jobsOntario Training.

As well, the jobLink Ontario program, geared specifically to people on social assistance, will continue in this direction, as part of the government's initiatives to help people off social assistance."



Luck of the Lions

Lions Guy Castonguay, Mel Gornik and John Faulkner were in the spirit of the Lions Club's casino Saturday in aid of the York Durham Heritage Railway.

Photo/STEVE SOMERVILLE

Convenience store robbed

A knife-wielding man forced a Stouffville convenience store employee to lie on the ground while he cleaned out the cash register.

At about 8:20 p.m. last Wednesday, a man came into the Woodbine Avenue Super Variety carrying a

large wooden handled knife. He had the 36-year-old store clerk lie on the floor while cutting the telephone wires and removing \$600 from the cash register.

He then fled from the scene on foot.

The suspect is described as white, 25 to 29 years old, six

foot to six foot three inches tall, with acne, a slim build, collar-length dirty blond hair, wearing jeans, a jean jacket, leather shoes and panty hose over his face.

Anyone with information is asked to contact York Regional Police at (905) 773-1221 at CIB ext. 7541.

Education

RC school board setting its budget

The York Region separate school board is expected to approve its 1995 budget this Wednesday.

The meeting is set for 7 p.m. at the Catholic Education Centre in Aurora.

The board's budget was to have been finalized at a March 2 meeting, but debate on further cuts lasted well after 11 p.m., forcing another session with trustees.

Mobility asks for \$5,000

The 233 users of the Whitchurch-Stouffville Mobility Transit are keeping their fingers crossed in the hopes that local council will approve a \$5,000-funding request.

At the first annual meeting of the Whitchurch-Stouffville Mobility Transit held last Monday, officials were reminded that the group's operating budget for this year will total \$35,500.

Marg Britton, group spokesman, said although the Ministry of Transport and fund raising both help to offset the cost, it's hoped that local council will agree to authorize the \$5,000 when striking the municipal budget this spring. "We're keeping our fingers crossed," said Britton.

Mobility Transit has a contract with a local taxi company. In its first year of operation, the clients, all residents of Whitchurch-Stouffville, used the transit, "an average of eight times," said Britton.

Youth faces numerous charges

A 15-year-old boy has been charged with robbery and three counts of threatening death.

According to police, at about 2 p.m. Saturday two 14-year-old boys and another 15 year old were sitting in the bleachers at Memorial Park.

They were approached by the suspect who demanded money from one of them.

The boy then started to push one of the younger boys around and search his pockets, police reports indicated.

He found the victim's wallet, took \$10 out and threw it to the ground.

Before walking away, he allegedly threatened to kill the boys if they told anyone what happened, York police told *The Tribune*.

The clients make between 200 and 250 trips a month. "This service does much to keep the people independent," said Britton. "And, it certainly gives the care givers a break."

The clients apply to use the special transit service. "We have seniors listed, while some of our users are younger people who are disabled. Getting them all out and about is important," said Britton.

Fund raising will always play a critical part in keeping the mobility transit service in town. Plans for a May golf tournament are going very well, said Brit-

ton. At the meeting, held at Parkview Village Auditorium, the Whitchurch-Stouffville Mobility Transit appointed a new executive made up of President Wilfred Morley, vice presidents Marg Britton and Heather Andrews, secretary Joanne Turcotte and treasurer Wayne Feasby. The board of directors also includes Anne Gagnon, Tom Perry, Elizabeth Lightfoot, Ivanka Bradley, Tim Rochazewich and James Winters.

The group also recognized retiring board members James Sanders and Jean Anderson.

—Joan Ransberry



Centre opens

Jennifer Bell, the first child born at Markham Stouffville Hospital, officially opened the new Childbirth Centre at the hospital on Sunday.

Photo/LORI EMMERSON

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