

Hydro

Expect a \$100 rebate from local utility

By JOAN RANSBERRY
Staff Reporter

Each of Whitchurch-Stouffville's 3,000 Hydro customers will get a \$100 rebate next month while a rate reduction is expected in 1997.

The most radical change in the history of the electrical industry has resulted in an overall savings of \$320,000 since January, a Hydro official announced Thursday.

Nick Tatone, manager of Whitchurch-Stouffville Hydro,

said the local utility commission decided to give its customers a \$100 credit on either the Nov. 1 or the Dec. 1 bill. Cost-cutting measures introduced eight months ago certainly paid off, said Tatone.

The utility's restructuring includ-

ed the loss of six jobs, contracting the work out and automating.

Meanwhile, Tatone attributes part of the success story to the hard work carried out by the existing two Hydro employees Linda Brown and Neil Drudge.

Council

Gallery will be included in planned hall

By JOAN RANSBERRY
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If Whitchurch-Stouffville gets a new town hall-library complex, it will include the Latcham Gallery, council determined Tuesday.

Councillor Mark Kostandoff, a member of the library board, was successful in convincing council to take a hands-off approach to running the art gallery.

The library board will decide the space allocation for the gallery in the future.

Council has agreed, in principle, to build a new town hall adjacent to the library in the Main Street-Duffin's Creek area.

Exact details of the complex, including costs have yet to be ironed out.

The plan, however, calls for the council chambers to be housed in the art gallery under a shared-space scheme.

On Tuesday, Whitchurch-Stouffville council rejected a call from chief administrative officer Merling Dewing to reduce the size of the 1,200-square-foot Latcham Gallery to 400-square feet over the next three years.

Also, council didn't go along with the CAO's move to have Latcham Gallery operate on its own and away from the library board. Dewing recommended that the gallery stand as an independent and carry out its own fundraising.

Council then rejected a proposal that the financing for the gallery not exceed the 1996 budget figure of \$36,000.

It cost about \$85,000 a year to keep Latcham Gallery open year-round. Of that, about \$50,000 comes from fund raising and provincial grants.

Council simply received Dewing's recommendations and report.

The future of the 17-year-old art gallery has been the centre of a controversy for many months. The fight included a call for the resignation of

library board member and councillor Margot Marshall. After handing in her resignation, Marshall was replaced on the library board by Whitchurch-Stouffville Mayor Wayne Emmerson.

Library board chairman Monica van Maris declined comment on council's final decisions.

The board members will review local council's position at a Oct. 21 board meeting, said van Maris. An opinion may be offered to the media after the meeting, said van Maris.

Ken Jobe, a Musselman's Lake resident, said the activity surrounding the art gallery "has been handled badly on both sides."

Jobe stressed that many res-

idents of Whitchurch-Stouffville were saddened to learn, through *The Tribune*, that

something "as special as the art gallery was endangered." Jobe said he'd prefer to have

Latcham Gallery not share space with the new council chamber.

The plan could pose hidden problems, said Jobe.

Man charged in hospital threat

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a serious problem at a city hospital.

Police rushed to General Hospital and an emergency search was carried out.

"A suspicious package was found in the ceiling tiles," said Carter.

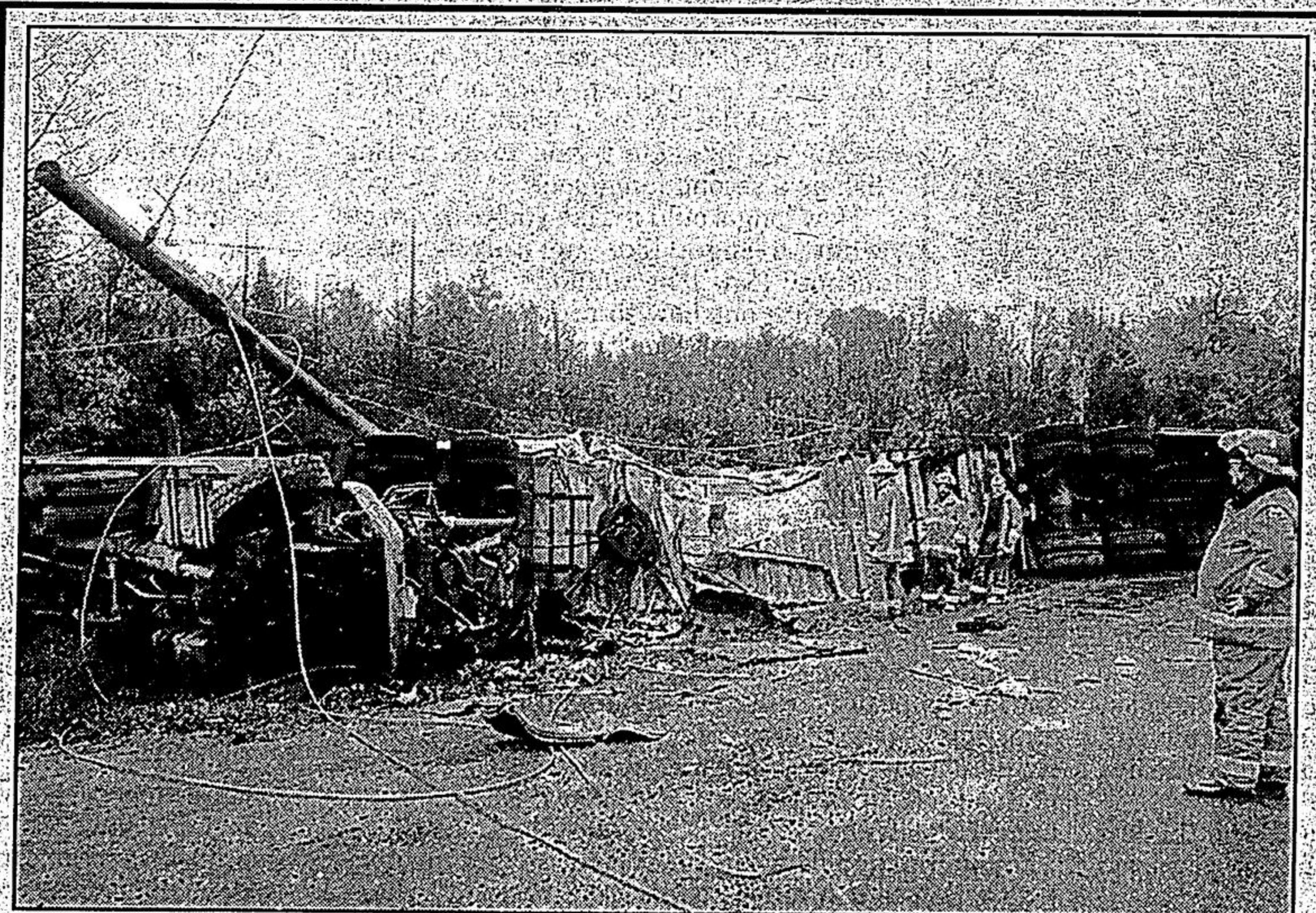
The police department's explosive disposal unit was called in.

The package was removed

off hospital property. "An examination showed the package contained explosive material," said Carter.

Groulx was charged with mischief and interference with property, possession of an explosive with intent to commit an indictable offense and breach of recognizance.

Police are not releasing any further details at this time, said Carter.



Injuries in truck accident

A tractor-trailer and a dump truck collided violently Wednesday about 8 a.m. on Aurora Sideroad at Warden after the tractor-trailer ran a stop sign, York Regional Police say. The driver of the dump truck, Chris Donnelly, 45, was flown by air ambulance to Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre, where he remains in fair condition. The driver of the tractor-trailer, Lew Davis, 20, of Lefroy was treated and released at York County Hospital. Const. Brad Joice said the investigation is continuing and charges are pending.

Photo/SJOERD WITTEVEEN

Bricks will help build new ice pad

Stouffville's Wall of Fame II campaign has been launched to raise money to give the new "no frills" ice pad some frills.

While a construction crew is busy erecting the \$1.1 million ice pad at the Stouffville Recreation Complex, a special committee is just as busy building a brick structure known as the Wall of Fame II.

Orders are being taken now for the bricks for the wall.

Wall of Fame II will be housed in the front lobby of the new facility.

Susan Harmsen, spokesman for the Second Ice Pad Fundraising Committee, explains that bricks are being sold for \$250 each.

Bricks will carry individual names, family names, business names as well as names of service clubs and churches.

The committee takes the orders and looks after the engraving.

There's plenty of room on the wall. "We could sell more than 500," said Harmsen.

Anyone interested in being included in the Wall of Fame II, call 642-2989.

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