

WHAT A PRINCE: Michelle Bishop holds this small frog which she and friends Sonya Huber and Elyse Holt discovered at Goodwood Community Centre while watching a softball game last week.

Photo by LORI EMMERSON

Trial seems without end to victim of 1995 car crash

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The healing was slow, the hospital stay spanned months and the intense therapy is still required.

Caroline's injuries were such that the one-time nurse will never return to her job at The Hospital for Sick Children.

"It took me a long time to decide to become a nurse. It takes a long time to accept that I can't go back. It killed Rocco and nursing was killed with it too," said Caroline.

On July 14, Caroline and her mother Barbara Carr of Stouffville sat in a Newmarket court and watched as the trial for a man charged in connection with the accident began.

Geoffrey Lam, 23, of Toronto, faces charges including dangerous operation of a vehicle causing death and bodily harm.

After the testimony of one witness was heard, the judge and the lawyers put their heads together and determined, much to Caroline's surprise and disappointment, that the trial would not resume until Dec. 15.

"Not only is it five months away but it's two years and six months from the time of the accident.

"This just keeps hanging over my head," said Caroline. "I don't find any closure. It goes on and on."

Caroline is especially worried that such a long delay will affect the outcome of the trial.

"I worry. It will be just days before

Christmas. Maybe the judge will be in the Christmas spirit and be more lenient than he would at another time."

The traffic accident saddened many. It had a profound effect on two Stouffville families, and friends and work colleagues felt the pain.

Rocco, who worked at the East End Service station, was well liked.

Caroline's mother questioned why the court takes so long to deal with its case load and pointed out that the waiting takes a toll on everyone.

Barbara said: "It just never seems to end.

"Now we have to wait 'til December... It's another Christmas..."

We won't pay Metro's welfare bill: YR chief

JORDAN H. GREEN
Staff Reporter

Taxpayers north of Metro will be paying into Metro's welfare rolls, according to a provincial plan announced yesterday.

The Greater Toronto Area (GTA) will share in Metro's welfare costs, while pooling the responsibility for children's services, public health and subsidized housing, according to the report, unveiled by municipal affairs minister Al Leach to municipal leaders at a private meeting Tuesday.

All of these programs cost more in Metro, according to the report.

The province's decision is final, already approved by cabinet.

Bystanders cheer as cats rescued from fire

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the high point. Both cats had been abandoned in Sunderland when I took them in."

Mingh and Monty were taken to Stouffville Animal Clinic where they're being treated for smoke inhalation.

Pickering Fire Chief Rick Pearsall said



ANIMALS RECOVERING: Dunkley family dog Hermes, centre, and the cats Monty and Mingh were rescued from the Saturday house fire and are recovering at the Stouffville Animal Clinic.

cause of the fire is linked to the storage area at the side of the house.

Firefighters fought the blaze for four hours. Except for a few photographs, the contents of the home were lost.

"We'll build again," said Dunkley.

Cause of the fire has not yet been determined.

with files from Jordan Green

Photo by JORDAN H. GREEN

Focklers celebrate 69 years of marriage

JOAN RANSBERRY
Staff Reporter

Family and friends of Joe and Lulu Fockler of Stouffville gathered together Monday to help the couple celebrate their 69th wedding anniversary.

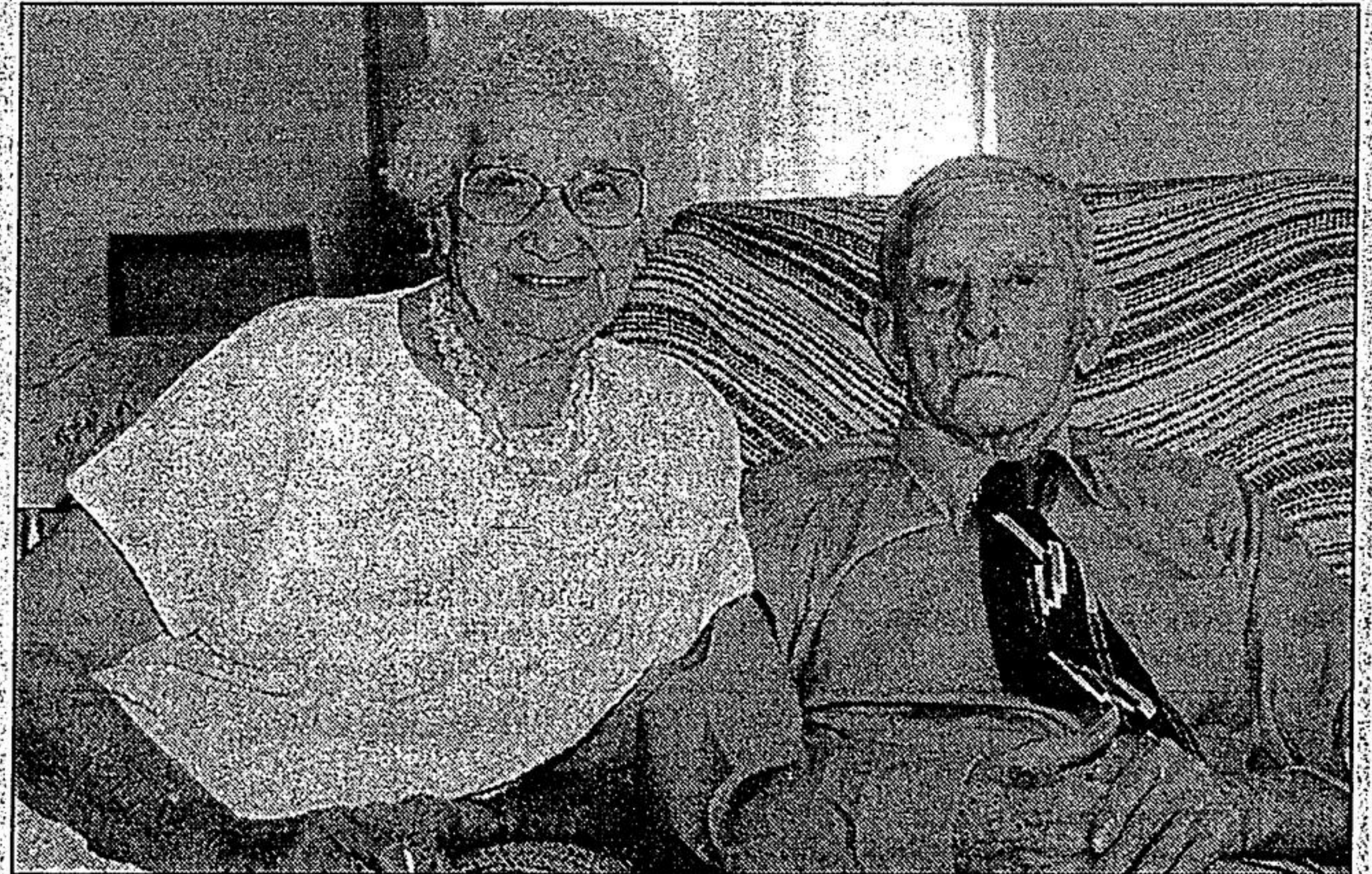
Joe and Lulu were married on Aug. 4, 1928 in Newmarket and made their home in Ringwood. The family, which has its roots in Ringwood, came from Pennsylvania in 1797.

Joe farmed, and for years worked for the former York County.

Lulu was a clerk in the Ringwood store for years.

The couple raised four children. Sons Clarence and Bruce and their families joined their parents in their Testa Villa apartment to mark the joyful event. During the day their daughters, the late Helen and the late Hazel were remembered.

The Focklers have 14 grandchildren and 20 great grandchildren.



TOGETHERNESS: Lulu and Joe Fockler celebrated 69 years of marriage last Saturday. The couple set up home in Ringwood following their 1928 wedding, and raised four children. The couple has 14 grandchildren and 20 great grandchildren.

Photo by CHERYL JOHNSON

rural areas.

"Well, I think at some point that area will be looked at by the Greater Toronto Services Board (GTSB)," said Shirley Hoy, Metro's acting chief administrative officer.

The GTSB is one of the recommendations from Milt Farrow's Getting Together Report on the GTA. Under the GTSB — which has a target start date of Jan. 1, 1998 — municipal services across the GTA will be pooled. The province's sharing plan was put in place to make the amalgamation of Metro's six municipal governments into one megacity work, according to King.

"It's in order to make sure the new life of Toronto works. It's the only place he (Premier Mike Harris) could find the money."

"It's certainly unexpected," said York Region's chair Eldred King. "It certainly is a reflection of the Anne Golden report. I always say the boards outside of Metro should not be responsible for Metro."

Although politicians from outside of Metro have been battling the province for months on the welfare issue, King believes some services should be shared. "I agree it is the core and there is no reason why we shouldn't share some services with Metro, like the zoo and the Hummingbird Centre," said King.

"If we're going to share their welfare, they can share our water bill," said King in regards to the region's plan to implement the so-called big pipe which will bring water and sewage services to