

# York force needs communication upgrades

BY RICK VANDERLINDE  
STAFF WRITER

They say lightning never strikes the same place twice - but York Regional Police aren't taking any chances.

Last summer, two of the force's radio antennas were knocked out after lightning struck a King Township tower.

It was the first time in 25 years that lightning has crippled the force's radio transmissions.

"I don't know if it was because of El Nino or what, but it's never happened to us before," Insp. Bruce Herridge said.

When the lightning struck, radio transmis-

## POLICE

sions were compromised for about two days while the antennas were replaced.

The force plans to make sure it doesn't happen again by placing redundant antennas at a lower level on the tower.

If the top antennas are knocked out, the others will take over.

It's part of an overall plan to boost the force's radio transmission capabilities in the face of increased "white noise" in the atmosphere.

"The market has been flooded with cellular phones and pagers and that's causing some noise problems for us," Herridge said. "It's not so bad that it's violating (federal) standards, but it is creating low-end noise."

An added problem is the proliferation of subdivisions in the region's south end, causing signals to bounce around.

"It's not just skyscrapers that can cause the problem," Herridge said. "Low-lying buildings are a problem, too."

About \$500,000 has been set aside in this year's budget to fix the problem. But the cure may cost more.

York Region's radio system was one of the

first of its kind in the country. Since its design, similar systems have been installed in Hamilton, Toronto and Peel. But those systems included enhancements that weren't available to York Region at the time.

York police only use voice radio in emergency situations, when quick communications to all cars are required.

Mobile computers aboard all cruisers are used to obtain and transmit data. A third communication line - cell phones - are also available in some cruisers.

York's police services board will decide how the force's radio system will be improved.

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## Ex-chief makes court appearance

Bryan Cousineau's case remanded until June 22

Former York Region police chief Bryan Cousineau made his fourth court appearance on breach of public trust charges last Tuesday.

Cousineau appeared before Judge Terry O'Hara for about 30 seconds to have his case remanded until June 22 at the request of the defence.

Before the appearance, the Crown attorney and a lawyer representing Cousineau briefly met in O'Hara's chambers for a pre-trial conference.

Cousineau was charged with five counts of public breach of trust by the OPP on Feb. 5, following an 11-month investigation.

He is charged with:

- accepting a \$125,000 consulting fee from Magna International in December 1995;
- using two on-duty police officers to install a hot-tub at his Newmarket home;
- the personal use of a police laptop computer;
- the personal use of police cellular phone;
- the personal use of a police telephone calling card.

Cousineau took early retirement from the force hours before his arrest.

### Saws stolen in heist

Police are searching for suspects who made off with \$2,000 worth of equipment from a local lumber yard sometime Friday night.

Culprits gained entry to the Woodbine Ave. business by smashing the front door window, police said.

Two saws worth \$1,000 each, were stolen. Damage is pegged at \$350.

Anyone with information is asked to call 881-1221 or CrimeStoppers at 222-TIPS.

## Join us for Church

**WIDEMAN MENNONITE CHURCH**  
10530 Hwy. 48 - North of Major Mackenzie Phone: 640-6219  
Pastor Lawrence Burkholder 294-0649  
**Sunday, May 31, 1998**  
9:45 am - Christian Education  
10:45 am - Morning Worship  
7:00 pm - Christian Peacemaker Team  
Everyone Welcome

**VIVIAN BAPTIST CHURCH**  
473-3543  
On Hwy. 48 at Vivian Rd.  
Pastor Robert Okum  
Holding forth the doctrines of grace.  
9:45 a.m. - Sunday School  
11:00 a.m. - Morning Worship  
7:00 p.m. - Evening Service  
Everyone is Welcome

**STOUFFVILLE BAPTIST CHURCH**  
A Fellowship Church  
6273 Main Street  
Pastor - Rev. Gordon Bickle  
Asst. Pastor - Gordon MacCormack  
**Sunday, May 31, 1998**  
10:00 a.m. - Bible Class  
11:00 a.m. - Rev. Gordon Bickle  
"The Victorious Decon"  
Wednesday  
2:00 p.m. Bible Study & Prayer  
We are saved by God's work...  
not by good work.  
We Care

**STOUFFVILLE UNITED CHURCH**  
34 Church St. N. 640-1163  
Rev. Robert Nightingale  
Sunday, May 31, 1998  
10:30 a.m. - Worship Service  
Sunday School from Baby Fold to the  
Grade 8 level  
Everyone Welcome

**BLOOMINGTON GOSPEL CHURCH**  
South of 47 Highway formerly Bloomington Rd.  
Pastor - Dr. John Howarth  
**Sunday, May 31, 1998**  
9:45 am - Sunday School  
11:00 am - "Two Thousand Years Better"  
Acts II:44  
6:30 pm - Evening Service  
Everyone Welcome

**Springvale Baptist Church**  
Stouffville Rd. at Kennedy Rd.  
887-5651  
Senior Pastor - Bob Flemming  
Associate Pastor - Bill Thornton  
Associate Pastor - Brian G. Simcoe  
Student Ministries - Heather Thornton  
Worship & Music Co-ordinator - Sharon Russell  
Visitation Children's Ministries Co-ordinator - Sharon Russell  
**Sunday, May 31, 1998**  
8:45 am & 11:00 am  
Pastor Bill Thornton  
Interview with John & Judy Clark  
9:45 am - Sunday School  
6:00 pm - "The Up Side of Down"  
Pastor Flemming  
For Wednesday program information, please call 887-5651

**Parkview Village**  
12184 Ninth Line South, Stouffville  
**Sunday, May 31, 1998**  
7:00pm - Worship Service  
Ed Klassen (harplist)  
Services held in the Village Auditorium

**THE ANGLICAN PARISH of CHRIST CHURCH**  
254 Sunset Blvd., Stouffville  
The Rev. Robert A. Shields 640-1461  
**May 31st, 1998**  
The Day of Pentecost  
8:00 Holy Communion  
10:00 Choral Eucharist with Church School & Nursery provided  
Seniors Service: Wed., June 3rd 10 am  
Everyone Welcome!

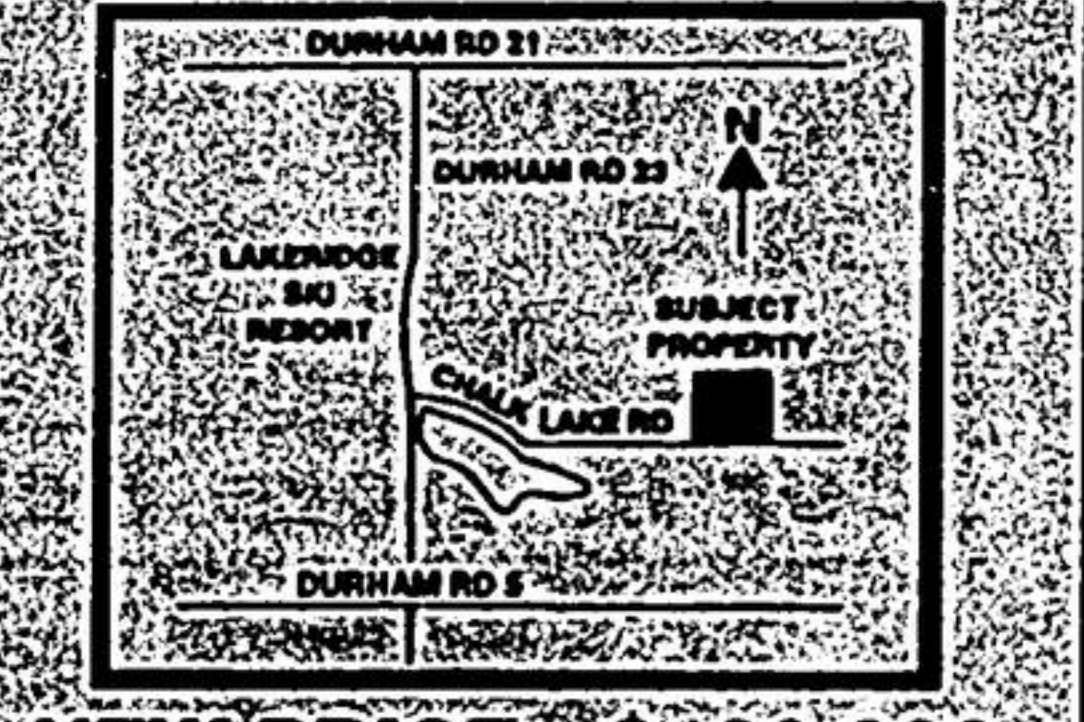
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**TOWN OF WHITCHURCH-STOUFFVILLE**  
**NOTICE**  
BALLANTRAE/MUSSELMAN LAKE WATER SYSTEM MANDATORY CONNECTION BY-LAW  
Residents are reminded that connection to the municipal water system must be made prior to July 1, 1998, in accordance with Mandatory Connection By-law No. 97-141-WS  
Apply at Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville Treasury Department, between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday to Friday, for an Application to Connect to Services.

**TOWN OF WHITCHURCH-STOUFFVILLE**  
**NOTICE**  
THE SECOND INSTALMENT OF REALTY TAXES WAS DUE MAY 22, 1998  
PAYMENT MUST be received in the Treasury Department no later than 4:30 p.m. May 29, 1998 or penalty will be added.  
**Town Office Hours**  
Monday to Friday 8:30 am to 4:30 pm  
640-1900 895-2423  
Box 419, 19 Civic Avenue, Stouffville, Ontario, L4A 7Z6  
Ruth Armstrong,  
Tax Collector A.M.C.T., C.M.T.C.