

AROUND THE REGION

Vandals destroy public property

BY LISA QUEEN
Staff Writer

Vandals destroyed a van used to take seniors and disabled residents to doctors' appointments and shopping trips while it was parked at East Gwillimbury's town hall Monday night.

Jim Knox, president of ADAPT (Association for Differently Aabled People Together), parks three of the agency's four vans in specially marked spots at night. He takes the fourth one home.

On Sunday night, vandals targeted one of the vans, breaking windshield wipers, snapping off the radio antenna and smashing exterior mirrors.

Just 24 hours later, they vandalized the vehicle again. But this time, it was demolished.

The vandals smashed windows, twisted the doors off their hinges, jumped on the tailpipe so hard that it ruined the muffler, pulled wires from underneath the hood, stole the phone and destroyed the frame.

The suspects also ripped flowers out of the town hall gardens and vandalized a storage shed.

ADAPT paid \$44,000 for the van 10 years ago. Knox estimates it's worth about \$10,000 now — but it will cost much more than that to repair or replace it.

Trying to remain optimistic, Knox said the incident could have been worse.

"I was hoping to replace the (destroyed) van later this year, but not like this," he added.

Hydro worker burned by live wires

A Vaughan Hydro worker is still in serious condition at Sunnybrook Health Science Centre after he came in contact with live wires while trimming trees Monday afternoon.

York Regional Police Sgt. John Sheldon said Naz Arsenault, 45 of Scarborough, was trimming trees at a height of 20 feet from a cherry-picker in the Hwy. 7 and Wigwoss Drive area around 2:40 p.m. when he came in contact with live hydro lines. He was taken to hospital in critical condition with life-threatening injuries.

He was thrown from the bucket but was held by his security line.

"His clothing ignited into flames," Sheldon said, adding that Arsenault suffered serious burns.

He was taken to Etobicoke General Hospital and then transferred to Sunnybrook.

Police were only 100 metres down the road when 911 was called, Sheldon said. When officers arrived on scene the clothing fire had been extinguished. Police and hydro workers removed Arsenault from his safety harness.

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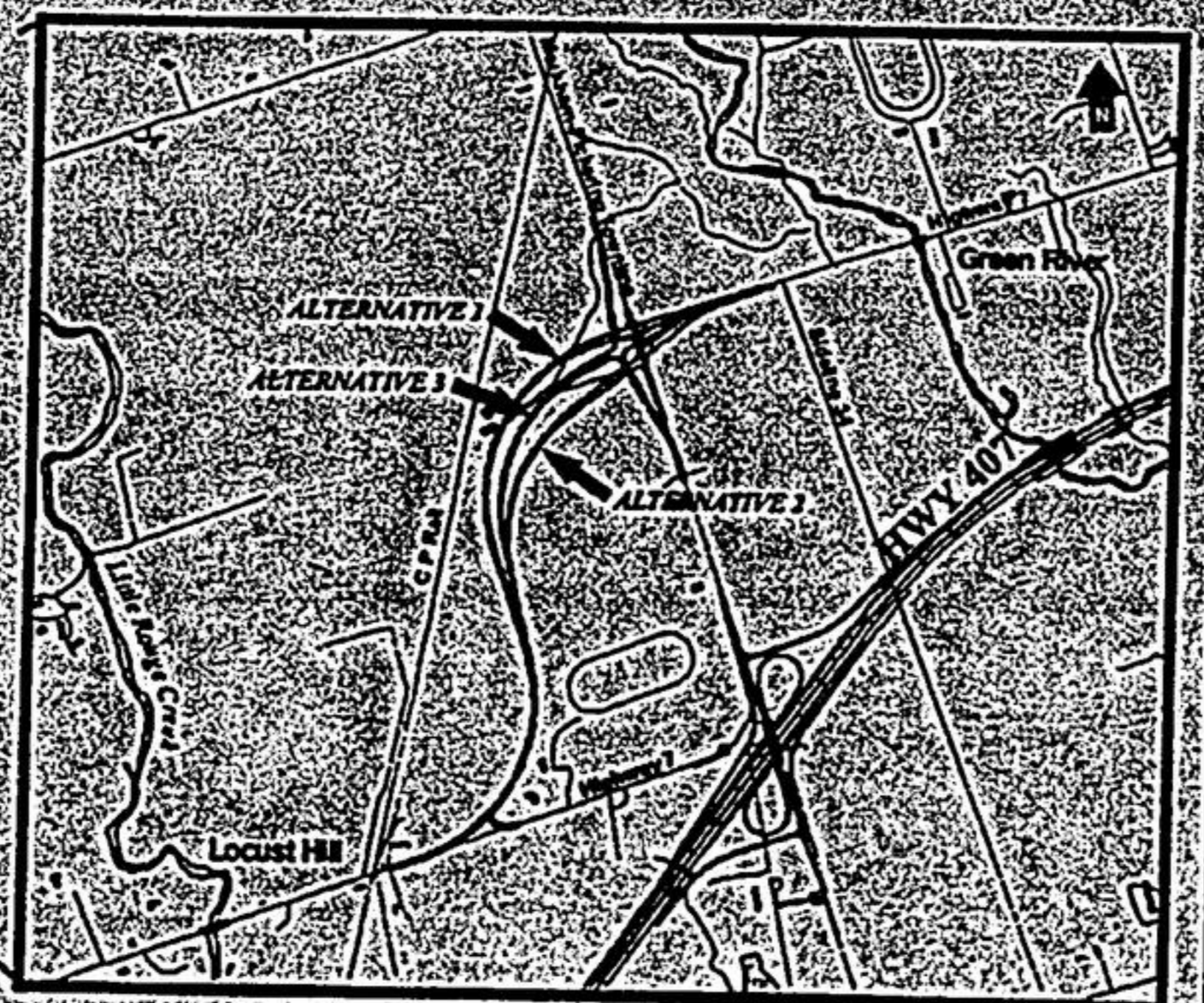


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**HIGHWAY 407 ETR EAST PARTIAL EXTENSION
NOTICE OF TECHNICAL WORKSHOP
REALIGNMENT OF HIGHWAY 7 BETWEEN LOCUST HILL AND GREEN RIVER**

The 407 ETR Concession Company Limited (ETR) is the private sector entity which has the obligation to develop, design, build, operate, maintain, repair and toll Highway 407 from the Queen Elizabeth Way in the City of Burlington to Highway 7 east of Brock Road in the Town of Pickering. The initial stage of the East Partial Extension project involves construction of a 4-lane toll highway easterly from Highway 48, with transition to a 4-lane arterial road facility from west of Brock Road to Highway 7 east of Brock Road by August 2001.

In accordance with the Conditions of Approval for Highway 407/Transitway (Markham Road Easterly to Highway 7 East of Brock Road) specified under the Environmental Assessment Act (Order in Council No. 1704/98), ETR invites interested parties to attend a technical workshop to address the issue of the realignment of Highway 7 between Locust Hill and Green River (please refer to accompanying key plan). Three alternatives have been developed to address key issues, including impacts to properties in Green River, impacts to a wooded area in Green River and safe operation of Highway 7 and York Road 30.

The workshop session will provide additional information on the realignment alternatives and provide opportunities for public input into the design of the realignment project. This workshop will take place on July 26, 1999, from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. at the Pickering Recreation Complex, 1867 Valleyfarm Road, in the Town of Pickering.

For further information please contact: Mr. Lloyd Torrens
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Fax: (416) 231-5356



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