

'Old system' hampers hydro repair workers

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said Emmerson. "We knew the state it was in. But we knew the province was forcing us to sell it so we didn't put money into it. It was like selling an old house."

Alan Manchee, spokesperson for Hydro One, said identifying the source of the problem was half the battle in Stouffville on Thursday.

"It was part of an old utility system," said Manchee. "The trouble source) couldn't be found."

When the trouble spot was eventually identified as an underground cable on North Street, it had already

blown a fuse at Hydro One's mobile transformer unit on the Tenth Line, forcing the repair crew to re-route service to another hydro station on Ringwood Drive.

"But we knew the province was forcing us to sell it so we didn't put money into it. It was like selling an old house."

"We attempted to find out where the problem was," said Manchee.

"We had to take all the circuits in the transformer out of use to find out what the problem was. It resulted in the partial power interruptions. Our crew did not know where to look for the problem."

The first sign of the latest trouble came at about 4:30 p.m. when half of the traffic lights on Main Street went out. Shortly after, the Whitchurch-Stouffville Fire Department was called to free a woman trapped in an elevator for 25 minutes at the Testa Villa apartments on Albert Street.

It wasn't long before the power failure forced some businesses to send staff home and stores and

restaurants to close.

With no electricity to run the ice plant, the Stouffville Spirit junior A hockey game at the Stouffville Arena was cancelled. The new indoor pool, library and fitness centre library was shut down for the evening. York Regional Police officers directed traffic at intersections on Main Street for three hours.

Whitchurch-Stouffville was one of about 120 utilities in Ontario to be sold following direction from the province. Hydro One owns and operates one of the largest electricity transmission and distribution networks in North America.



WAYNE EMMERSON: Mayor said town didn't put money into Stouffville hydro system before selling it.



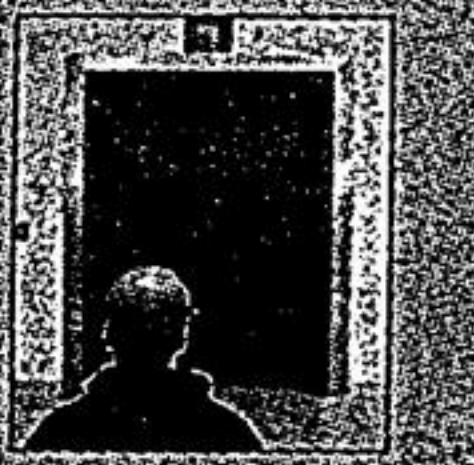
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10 minutes is a common wait time thrown around by taxi dispatchers. But, who are these taxi dispatchers and what are their qualifications?



The process of getting an office coffee takes approximately 4 minutes. (This factors in the time it takes to find a cleanish mug.)



You can spend 10 minutes a week just waiting for the elevator, regardless of how many times you press the button.

DISCLAIMER

All facts and figures were compiled by people who work at an advertising agency. They are professionals, however, not exactly in the field of research. Every effort to uphold the scientific integrity of this study, no matter how minuscule, was basically overlooked. For the most part, the data was obtained using the "guessimation" method. If you have any issues, concerns or discrepancies with the data, we welcome your comments at stopwaiting@rogers.home.com. We'll be waiting.

FAX
In any given year, business people spend approximately 2 hours staring at a fax machine. Note: At noon, some employees go directly from staring at one machine to another — the microwave.

Research indicates that you will spend 10.6 days a year stuck in traffic. Over the course of a lifetime, that could amount to 424 days. Some folks believe that the brake manufacturers are behind it all.

The bus comes every 5 minutes. However, if you're in a hurry, that time increases substantially.

It takes about 2-5 minutes to rewind a videotape. Which is only half as long as it takes to find the remote.

Waiting for your dog to do its business on a wintry morning can take up to half an hour. On the other hand, your dog will wait an entire day for you to come home.

Drying your hands in a public washroom takes an average of 1 minute. Using toilet paper to dry them is never worth the 30 seconds it will save you.

At the laundromat, you can expect to wait 65 minutes for clean clothes on an average Sunday night. Which is nothing compared to the time you wait for that elusive sock to reappear.

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The average time to wait on your local restaurant is 17.5 minutes. Unless, of course, you've made a reservation, which invariably takes longer.

Lighting barbecue inside garage causes \$45,000 damage

A dinner at a Ballantrae family home last weekend cost a whopping \$45,000.

When Whitchurch-Stouffville firefighters responded to a garage fire on McMullen Drive on Sunday, they identified the source of the blaze: a lit barbecue inside, said Deputy Fire Chief Tim Beckett.

"Lighting the barbecue inside is the wrong thing to do," he said.

The blaze destroyed contents of the garage, including garden equipment and tools. No vehicles were in the garage at the time of the fire, said Beckett.

The fire department was able to protect the rest of the new home from fire damage, added Beckett. No one was injured.

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