

Increase in welfare caseload doesn't mean recession: official

Food banks busier than usual, volunteers say

BY JEFF MITCHELL
Staff Writer

York Region's social services commissioner says two consecutive months of increased welfare claims don't add up to a recession.

But volunteers who run the

York Region Food Network say they have gathered enough anecdotal evidence from food banks to conclude people have been affected by an economic downturn for months.

"We have seen quite an increase at the food banks, all of them across the region. Our numbers are higher than they've ever been," said Roseanne Rodgers of the York Region Food Network.

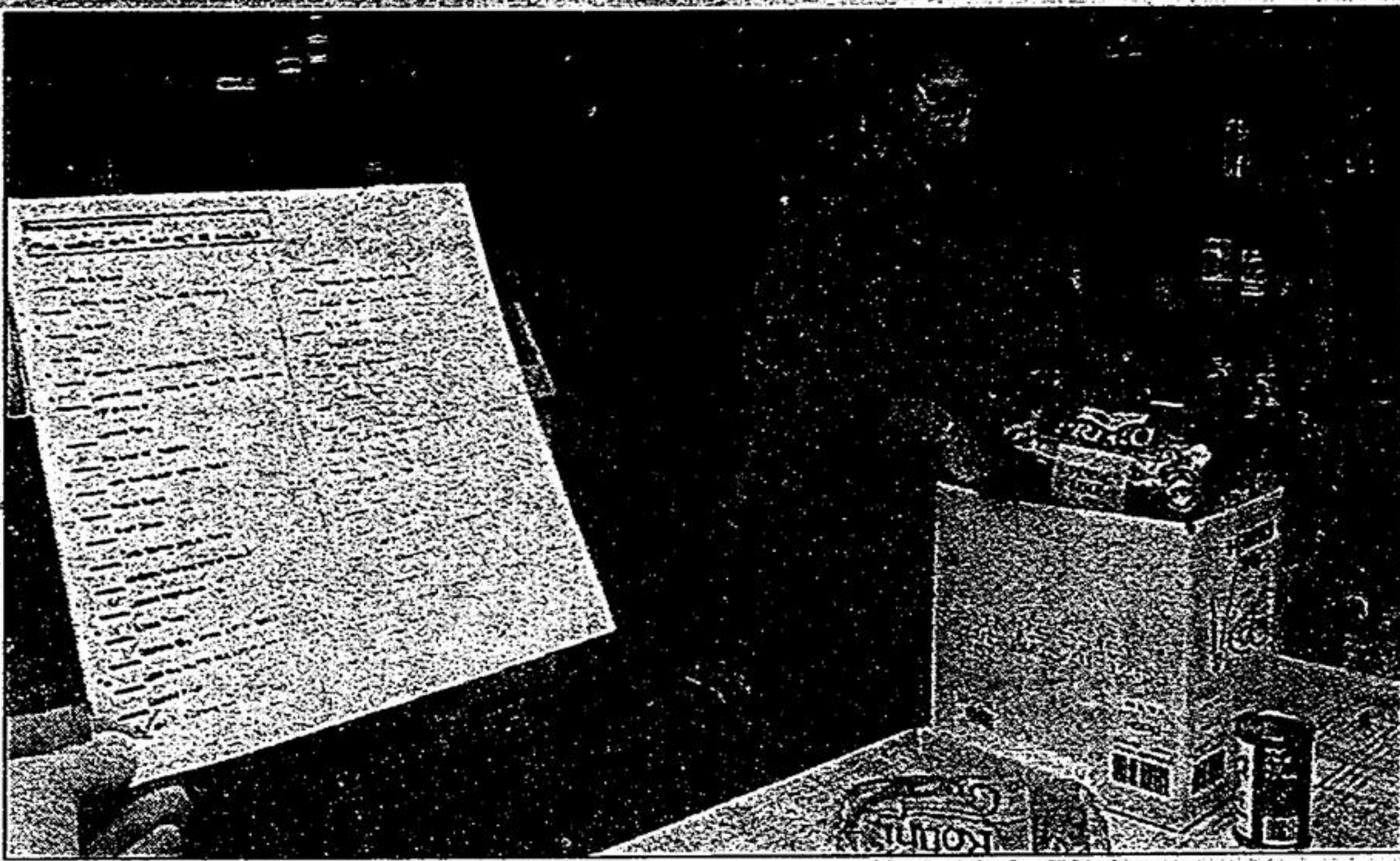
Higher demand has been

reported at food banks throughout the year, including during the summer when there is typically a downturn, said Rodgers.

"For us, that's a definite trend. We can see we are definitely in a recession. I think it's a valid conclusion."

Welfare caseloads in York Region increased in August and September, after a year-long

See RESERVE, page 11.



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Food bank volunteers around York Region, like Marjorie DeVries, have seen an increased demand from local families.

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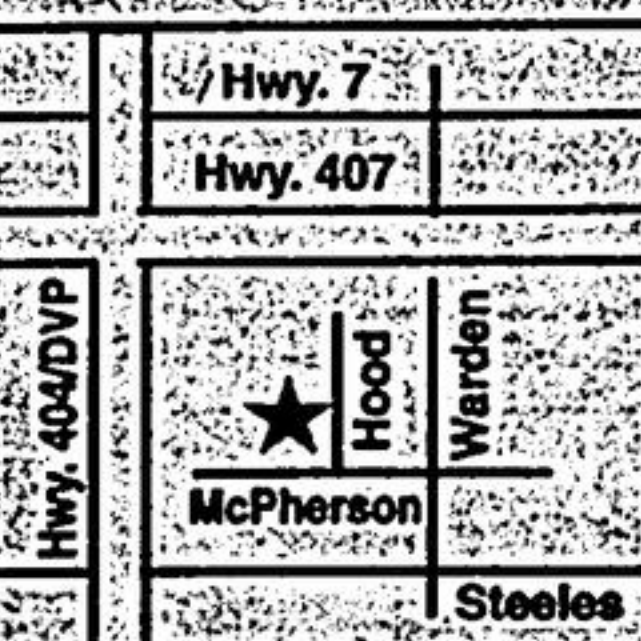
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