

Manslaughter verdict in high-speed Markham collision

BY ROGER VARLEY
Staff Writer

A Scarborough man was found guilty of manslaughter last week in connection with a horrific Markham crash two years ago that killed a Newmarket mother of two young children.

Petro Pak To Lam, 28, will be back in Newmarket court April 4 for sentencing after a jury returned a verdict of guilty on charges of manslaughter and criminal negligence causing death in the May 2000 incident.

Superior Court Justice Alfred Stong described the verdict as "proper" given the evidence and Mr. Lam could now face life

imprisonment on both charges under the Criminal Code.

He was the driver of what police described as a "souped up" Honda that struck a vehicle driven by 29-year-old Andrea Pike.

Mrs. Pike, who worked as a bank teller in Richmond Hill, was transported to Markham Stouffville Hospital, where she died from her injuries.

She was survived by her husband and two young sons, aged three and five at the time.

Mr. Lam suffered two broken legs and a broken neck in the collision and spent three months in hospital; police were waiting for him when he was released.

A reconstruction of the accident by York Regional Police indicated Mr. Lam's car was travelling 170 kilometres an hour in a 70-kilometre zone when he T-boned Mrs. Pike's car as she tried to make a left turn out of a plaza at Woodbine Avenue and Riviera Drive.

That speed converted to 47 metres a second or the length of a football field in two seconds.

A week after the accident, police blitzed the crash area, looking for possible witnesses.

More than 1,000 cars were stopped and four witnesses to the horrific crash were located.

— With files by Kathleen Griffin

Region spends big bucks to study salamander

BY JEFF MITCHELL
Staff Writer

York Region's \$95,000 search for the Jefferson salamander continues, even though preliminary studies have yet to reveal a single specimen.

But a local biologist said there's an abundant amphibian population that needs to be protected as new roads are built.

The region's works department has approved spending up to \$89,270 to complete a study to determine if the long-awaited extension of Bayview Avenue in Richmond Hill will affect the rare amphibian and, if so, what should be done to protect it.

The region has already spent \$15,000 on preliminary work and studies, conducted last autumn, aimed at tracking the salamander's seasonal migration patterns. Drift nets and collection buckets were set up along the road allowance last fall; not a single salamander was bagged.

"This... is a joke, right?" was the rhetorical response from Richmond Hill Mayor Bill Bell, chairperson of the committee, when the expenditure came up for approval last Wednesday.

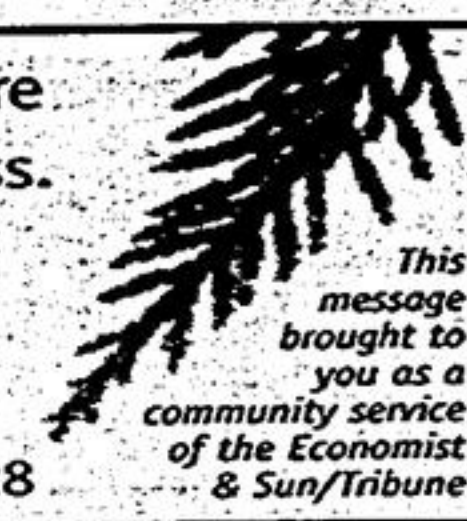
It's no joke. The region is committed to determining how the construction of Bayview between Stouffville

See CONSTRUCTION, page 12.

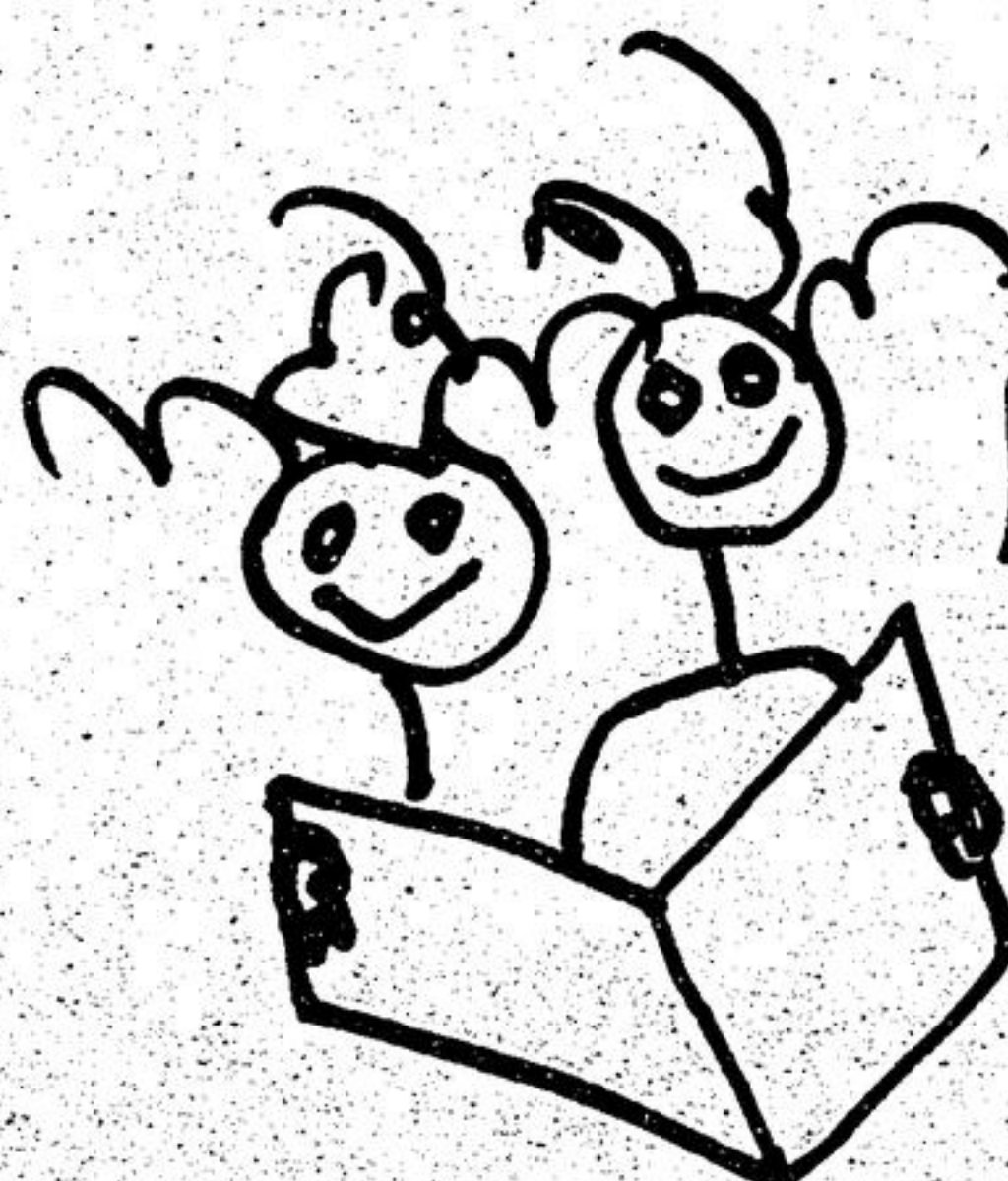
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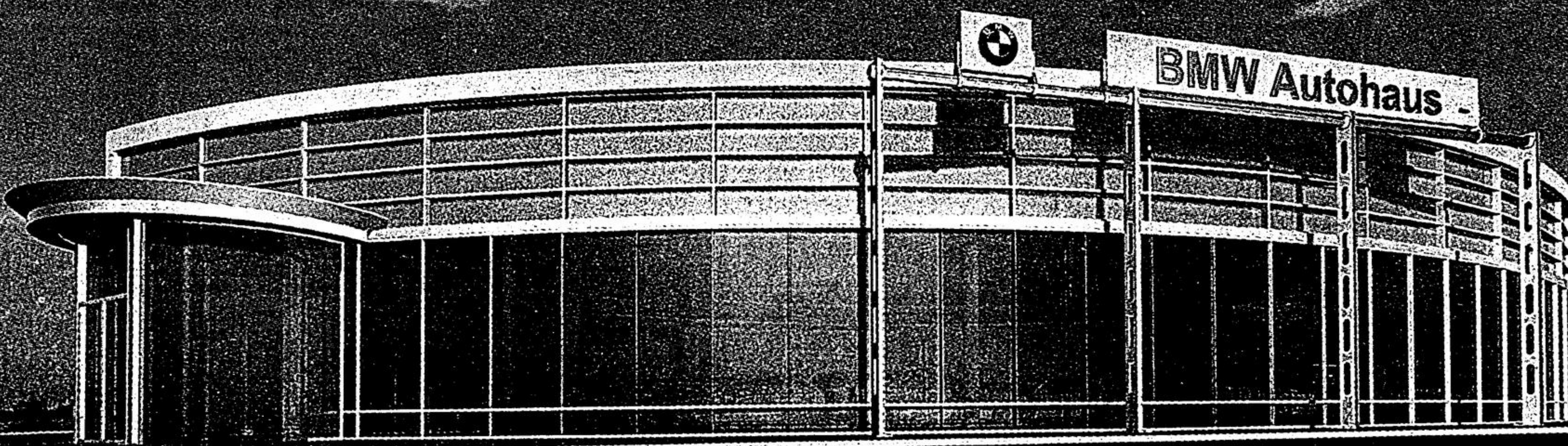
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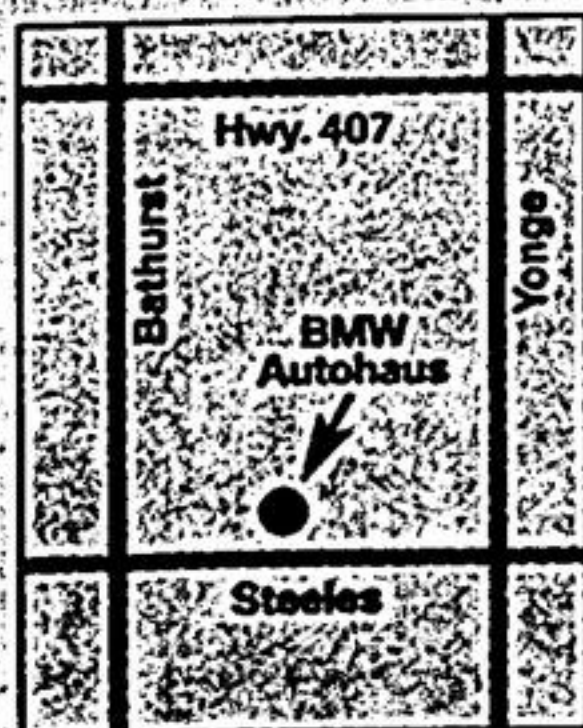
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