

# Power outages behind Hydro One lawsuit: Town

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everything we were supposed to do. We acted in good faith," said Mayor Emmerson.

Hydro One spokesperson Alan Manchee said Friday, "Hydro One values its good relations with the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville and it would certainly like to work with the town and resolve this issue."

Two months after taking over Whitchurch-Stouffville Hydro Electric Commission, residents of Stouffville experienced five power outages, totaling 30 hours during the month of August.

Mr. Kristoffy said the \$360,000 claim is linked to those power outages. It's disturbing that the frequency of these power outages occurred simultaneously with the purchase of Whitchurch-Stouffville Hydro by

Hydro One, the CEO said. Last August, Hydro One spokesperson Don McKinnis said that not all transfers from municipal-owned utilities to Hydro One went smoothly.

*"I think this case is directly linked to the transformer blowing up. But, then again, transformers blew up in other parts of Ontario, too."*

Soon after taking over the local electrical service, Hydro One had its first blackout. McKinnis explained that the first major out-

age was caused when a fuse blew and, in the second outage, the transfer station blew up.

"It cost Hydro One hundreds of thousands of dollars to repair it," said Mr. Kristoffy. "I think this case is directly linked to the transformer blowing up. But, then again, transformers blew up in other parts of Ontario, too." Whitchurch-Stouffville was one of about 120 utilities in Ontario to be sold. "We had no choice but to sell," said Mayor Emmerson. "The province directed us to sell. We couldn't survive as a small utility."

The Whitchurch-Stouffville Hydro Electric Commission served 3,500 customers, in the community of Stouffville. The rest of the municipality, including the rural area and the hamlets, has been served by Ontario Hydro for years.

A year ago, Hydro officials

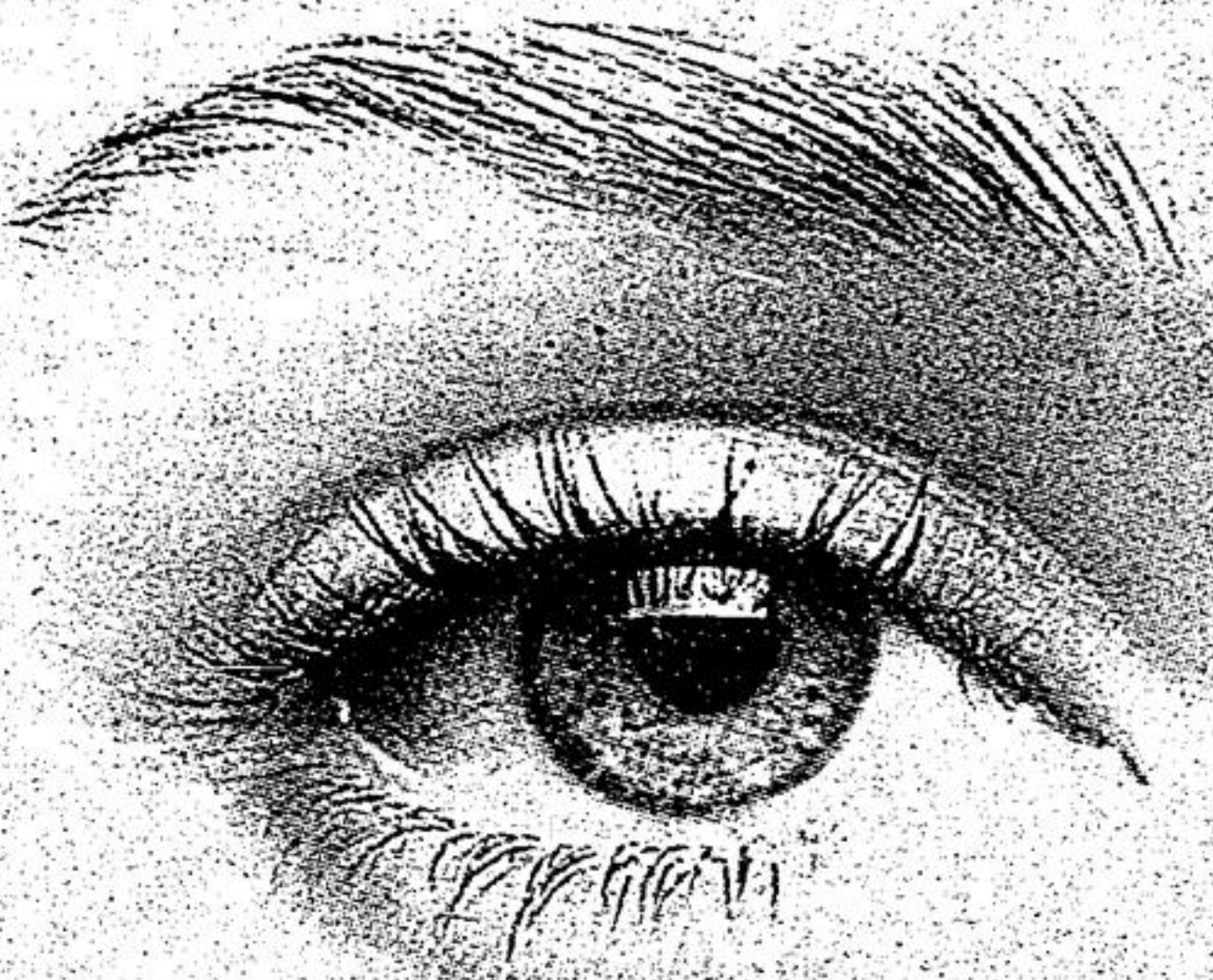
said that a Hydro One crew was given an outdated town mapping system to work with and that schematic drawings of the

circuits within the town were not up to standard and caused a delay in the electrical crew restoring power.

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