

Flyer WATCH

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ECONOMIST & SUN Stouffville Tribune
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Clark is honourable, say local Tories

BY JEROME WATT
Staff Writer

While he may have done a good job for the party, many York Region Progressive Conservatives are glad Joe Clark is moving on.

"The announcement of Joe Clark resigning came as a surprise. I think it's time for change," Thornhill MPP Tina Molinari said. "I think Joe Clark is an honourable man and saw that."

The federal Progressive Conservative leader announced Tuesday he'll step down as the head of the party next year, barring a snap election.

Mr. Clark was first elected as Tory MP for Rocky Mountain riding in Alberta in 1972.

Mr. Clark has done well in raising the profile of the PC party, Vaughan-King-Aurora riding president George Timpson said, but it's time for a new leader.

"I'm very glad Joe took the position he did," he said. "I think it's really wonderful he's taken the stand that he has. I think it's very responsible of him to stay on if there is a snap election."

Mr. Clark's decision didn't come as a surprise for Mr. Timpson. "I think I saw it coming," he said. "It's not much of a surprise. I think he's realized he's done the best he can."

With a leadership review originally scheduled for Aug. 24 in Edmonton, Mr. Clark's decision to step down has cleared the air so the party can tackle policy

issues at the national general meeting, Mr. Timpson said.

Mr. Timpson said he hasn't made any decision on who he'd support to replace Mr. Clark.

With a new leader in place, the possibility of forming bridges with the Canadian Alliance are better, Mr. Timpson said.

"We're going nowhere fast," he said, commenting on both parties competing for right-wing voters. "By co-operating together, I think the future could be very exciting."

Alliance leader Stephen Harper has proposed several ways the two parties could work together.

Mr. Timpson said he's not opposed to a merger and he's heartened by the suggestions.

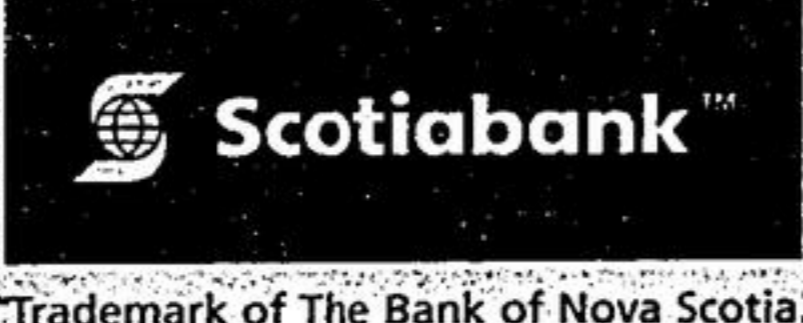
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Watermain break puts squeeze on 16th Avenue

BY KATHLEEN GRIFFIN
Staff Writer

A ruptured water main on 16th Avenue, just west of Hwy. 48, caused the closure of two lanes for almost three days last week as regional road crews worked to fix it.

A subcontractor checking the alignment of the trunk sewer being installed along 16th Avenue inadvertently drilled holes into the existing water main, breaching it, explained Paul Jankowski, director of design and construction for York

Region.

The break caused flood conditions for a 600-metre stretch along 16th, reducing the road to two lanes of traffic, one each way.

York Regional Police aided in traffic control when the rupture occurred — about 2 p.m. Wednesday — but there were no reported snarls or serious jams as a result, said Acting Staff Sgt. Bisson Ramdewar.

"The tunneling is going on continuously 100-to-150 feet underground," said Mr. Jankowski. "Every so often we

have to dig holes down to allow the alignment of the tunnel to stay on course."

And that's when the mistake was made, although no serious flooding occurred, he added.


"The water pooled on the surface and ran through the curb lane to an adjacent manhole. There were never big gushes of water flowing in the curb lane," Mr. Jankowski said.

"The lane was closed more for the construction and repair vehicles than for the water flow."

Regional workers expected to complete repairs by late Friday.



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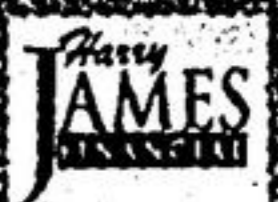
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