

INSIDE: Letters..... 6
Ransberry... 7
Sports..... 17
Classified... 20

3 History lesson:
Aboriginals have been
in York Region since the
end of last ice age.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

EVENT: 172nd York Region plowing match
WHEN: Saturday 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
WHERE: 120 Webb Rd. (northeast of Stouffville)



Who will tame Angus-Glen? Our guide to the 2002 Bell Canadian Open. See pages G1 to G16

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THURSDAY, AUG. 29, 2002

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Smog warnings may stretch into winter

Ministry gets clearer look at York Region air

BY MIKE ADLER
Staff Writer

Our smog season now lasts all year.

Adding "fine particulates" — airborne specks 28 times smaller than the diameter of a human hair — to the pollutants it monitors gives Ontario's environment ministry a clearer view of air quality in York Region.

It also means more air quality warnings in the Greater Toronto Area, including smog days in the winter months when ozone-based smog is not a problem, said Dr. Dave Yap, the scientist supervising the province's Air Quality Index monitoring network.

"There may be a day or two in the winter" when tiny particles (2.5 microns in size) are persistent and widespread enough to trigger a smog alert, Dr. Yap said last week.

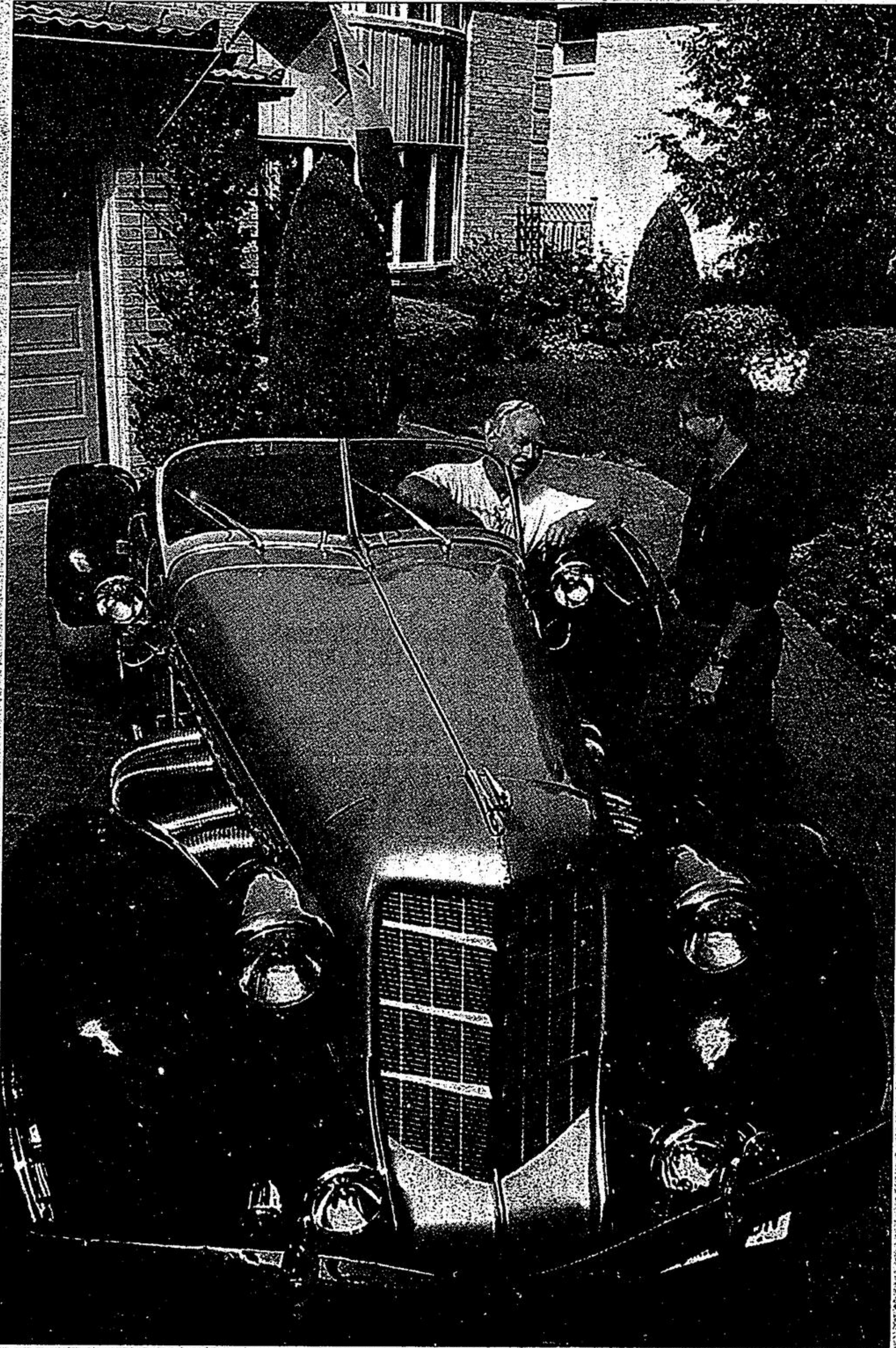
Traditionally, alerts have been issued from May 1 to Sept. 30, when ground-level ozone from cars, power plants, lawnmowers and other sources can build up and generate smog. York Region has had 15 smog alerts this year.

Fine particulates come from things like wood smoke, dust, aerosols and road construction.

The ministry had measured "suspended particles" as large as 10 microns at its AQI stations and in Stouffville, where equipment

See STOUFFVILLE, page 10.

Headed for the show



STAFF PHOTO/SJOERD WITTEVEEN

John Tough of Unionville (left) shows his 1935 Auburn Roadster to Dave Clubine, organizer of the Stouffville Missionary Church Classic Car Show. The Auburn will be one of the featured cars at the show on Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the church, 6500 Main St. Phone (905) 640-3911 for more information.

OPP may have hit-run vehicle

Ballantrae teen in coma; car examined, suspects interviewed

BY JOAN RANSBERRY
Staff Writer

The OPP may have a break in a hit-and-run case that left a 16-year-old Ballantrae-area youth clinging to life.

A vehicle is being examined at a forensic science lab and police are interviewing suspects in connection with Sunday's accident on Hwy. 48 near Aurora Road that has left Matthew Bobbett in a coma at Sunnybrook Health Science Centre.

Matthew is on life support having sustained severe head injuries, a broken neck and other internal injuries.

"Matthew's in a deep, deep coma. He's on a ventilator to put air into his lungs," said his father, Larry Bobbett. "But, the doctors think his spinal cord is still intact. He's chemically paralyzed. My son can't even roll his eyeballs."

While the single father holds a quiet and loving vigil at his eldest child's bedside in the trauma centre at the Toronto hospital, the OPP at the Aurora detachment go about their work. A suspect vehicle was found abandoned on Tuesday in Pickering and has been sent to a forensic science lab in Toronto for examination. As well, OPP investigators are interviewing suspects, said OPP Staff Sgt. Jan Idzenga.

On Sunday, Mr. Bobbett took another son, Adam, 13, to visit a friend in Pefferlaw, leaving Matthew home with the boys' youngest brother Jarrett, 11, at the family home north of Ballantrae. Matthew decided to visit his friends, Nick Morgan and Chris Meyer, who

See FATHER, page 15.

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