

Emergency generators remained silent

BY MIKE ADLER
Staff Writer

Think you felt frustrated Thursday? Three hours after all of Ontario went dark, Larry Moffat was standing beside emergency generators in Markham that could power thousands of homes — and he couldn't turn them on.

"This is unprecedented, right

now," Mr. Moffat said with a wave at the 19 trailer-sized turbines his Vaughan-based company, Toromont Industries Ltd., had lined up along 14th Avenue in Markham.

The province recently ordered the natural gas-fired machines and seven smaller engines beside Toromont's Hwy. 7 headquarters in Concord to stand ready for the rest

of the year, able in 15 minutes to pour power into the grid.

But when the whole system failed, it was not safe to turn on any of the generators, at least, by Thursday evening.

"We're ready, but until they get some power into the grid to allow these things to operate, these things are on standby awaiting their call," the Toromont vice-president said at about 7 p.m.

Mr. Moffat expected the machines to be turned on as the grid was pieced back together in sequence but said that decision belonged to Ontario's Independent Electricity Market Operator, not Toromont or Markham Hydro.

"Otherwise, you have a risk of damaging a whole lot of valuable equipment," he said before boarding a motor coach that headed west.

Yesterday, the company was finally told to start its generators at 4:30 a.m. and keep them running.

"They continue to operate," Mr. Moffat said.

Rolling blackouts likely

BY MIKE HAYAKAWA
Staff Writer

Power was up and running throughout Markham Friday.

But that doesn't mean Markham has escaped the wrath of the power outage that began Thursday afternoon and still cripples parts of North America.

Two-hour rotating blackouts could still take place in the area, said Ed Benvenuto, manager of customer services for Markham Hydro.

"The people (of Markham) are still asked by the IMO (Independent Electricity Market Operator) to conserve energy," he warned.

Consumers are being asked to refrain from using air conditioners, pool pumps and appliances other than a refrigerator or freezer.

"Don't open your refrigerator or freezer any more than you need to," he said. "It should be good for at least a day."

As for how long the rolling blackouts could last, Benvenuto said it's under the IMO's control.

"We have a plan in place to identify what feeders in the area that we cover. If we're called to drop the powerload, it will take place in residential areas first."

"We will try to keep businesses and commercial areas running. Our intent is to rotate blackouts in residential areas."



STAFF PHOTO/MIKE ADLER

Larry Moffat wasn't told to turn on the portable generators in Markham until 4:30 a.m. Friday, more than 12 hours after York Region lost power. "They continue to operate," he said.

LOBSTERFEST THE TASTIEST TREAT IN TOWN

When it first opened 16 years ago, **The Corner House Restaurant** in Stouffville introduced a special event called **LobsterFest**. For one week during each month in summer, fresh Atlantic Lobster was flown in and served up fresh. The event was an instant hit with local patrons and a tradition was born.

Sixteen years later, **LobsterFest** remains one of the biggest draws of the year at **The Corner House**. The busy restaurant hosts many events throughout the year, but **LobsterFest** is the clear favourite. "People like the fact that lobsters are flown in fresh and cooked here," says chef **Les Broadbent** of **The Corner House**. "It's a lot of fun for our customers and our staff." For one week each month, from March to October, **The Corner House Restaurant** features fresh Atlantic lobster as part of its daily menu cooked in several different ways, including **Steamed**, **Broiled** and **Thermidor**. Succulent lobster tails, seafood pastas, and vegetable combinations make this menu one to experience. This is a popular event, so when it's **LobsterFest** season book your table well ahead.

If you appreciate fine French, Cajun and Italian foods meticulously prepared to perfection, **The Corner House** is the place for you. A diverse regular menu of tasty entrees includes grilled or blackened fish, pepper steak, rack of



lamb and gourmet pizzas. Be sure to try the house favourite, **Brandy Snap Basket**.

The right ambiance is an important component of any fine dining experience and **The Corner House** has it all. Posters of jazz musicians and other artworks complement the bright new décor. Friendly staff is committed to making your dining experience truly memorable.

The Corner House Restaurant also offers at-home catering services. **Les Broadbent** and Manager **Jen Brown** (above) can help you personalize menu selections, as well as desserts and wines to complement the meal. Give them a call at 905.640.8494; the next time you plan an at-home gourmet dinner party.

To make reservations at **The Corner House**, call 905.640.8494.

Don't Get
Bitten.

Important notice to the residents of
Markham about **West Nile virus**

You may have heard reports in the media that the presence of West Nile virus has been confirmed in your community this season in the bird population.

York Region Health Services staff are working actively to control West Nile virus in York Region. The multifaceted control strategy includes extensive public education, mosquito, bird and human surveillance, and mosquito control activities.

Health Services continues to monitor the bird and mosquito populations in your area for West Nile virus. Traps to gather adult mosquitoes for testing have been set up at strategic locations and staff continue to test ditches and temporary or permanent standing water ponds for mosquito larvae, with larvicide applied if evidence of mosquito breeding is found. Also, the third phase of larvicide application to storm drain catch basins on public property across York Region is underway.

Even though the chances of being bitten by an infected mosquito are rare, I want to remind you about methods to protect your health and the health of your family. We firmly believe that prevention and protective measures remain the best protection against West Nile virus. There are simple and common sense precautions that should be taken.

Wear clothing such as long sleeved shirts, full-length trousers, socks, light coloured clothing and high boots for extra protection against mosquitoes.

Consider using a repellent containing DEET, as directed.

Minimize outdoor activities where and when mosquitoes are most active such as dusk, night and dawn.

Make sure screens on your home are tight-fitting and in good repair.

Mosquitoes breed in still water. Eliminate standing water around your property which may gather in pool covers, flower pots, children's pools, old tires and birdbaths.

For more information on **West Nile virus** or any health-related concern, contact York Region Health Services **Health Connection** at 1-800-361-5653 or visit www.region.york.on.ca.

Thank you for being a part of our West Nile virus control plan.

Yours truly,

Dr. Hanif S. Kassam
Associate Medical Officer of Health