

Gas quest creates jam

BY LINDA JOHNSON
Staff Writer

Early in the morning when so many communities were still in darkness, the word went out.

Richmond Hill had what so many people needed: gasoline.

It didn't take long for the intersection at Major Mackenzie Drive and Bayview Avenue, where three gas stations were open for business, to become one of the most congested spots in town.

Within hours of the lights going back on, drivers from across the Toronto area had formed line-ups at the three stations so long they were stretching north and south on Bayview and west along Major Mackenzie, blocking side streets and regular traffic.

Bobby and Sylvia Helmet, who drove from North York when they learned some stations here were open, sat in their van, about seven cars back in one of three lines of cars entering the Shell station.

They estimated they had already waited about an hour.

"But God knows how long it's going to last," said Mr. Helmet, looking at the cars ahead of him.

"It's a disaster," he added. The couple said a blackout on such a scale was the fault of political leaders.

"They spend money on stupid ways. They could have prevented these things from happening. It is the 21st century," Mr. Helmet said.

But Dave Bellerby, sitting a bit closer to the pumps, was more laid back.

The Newmarket resident was at Yonge Street and Hwy. 401 when the blackout struck. Low on gas, he borrowed some from a landscaper and drove home on a mixture of gas and oil Friday morning, he used his lawnmower gas to drive to Richmond Hill.

"It's no big deal," he said, smiling. "Though it was not too good when the power went out."

Manon Guay had so far waited about 50 minutes in the line-up. She had decided to get away from the power failure and spend the weekend in Quebec. She was concerned there wouldn't be gas along the 401.

"It's hard without power — everything is powered, we're so spoiled," she said.

For Kim Massai of Aurora, the blackout meant spending part of her vacation in the sweltering line-up.

But her car's tank was low and she had no choice, especially because her engine sometimes cuts out when gas is low.

"Hopefully, I'll make it to the pump," she said with a laugh. "It has put a little bit of a damper on my holidays."

But she said she's happy to see how responsibly people have acted in the emergency.

Toronto resident Kenneth Wong came all the way from Eglinton Avenue and Birchmount Road after trying unsuccessfully to find gas Thursday.

"It was terrible. It took a couple of hours to get back home, all on the back roads. It takes a long time that way but it's better than this," he said, pointing to Major Mackenzie.



Adolescent Depression

Child & Adolescent Family Services of Markham Stouffville Hospital is currently recruiting teens to participate in its **Mind & Body Adolescent Depression Group**. The group incorporates elements of Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT) with Body Combat™. CBT has proven to be effective in the treatment of depression. Body Combat™ is a high-energy group exercise regimen involving elements of boxing, karate, kick-boxing, and Tai Chi. Our goal in combining Body Combat™ with CBT is to evaluate the benefits of regular exercise combined with therapy.

Who: 16-18 Year Olds Who Are Struggling With Depression

When: Tuesdays (4:15 – 5:45) & Thursdays (5:00 – 6:30)
From September 30 – December 18, 2003

Information Night, September 16, 2003 (Auditorium)
5:00 – 6:00 Teens; 6:15 – 7:15 Parents

Where: Markham Stouffville Hospital
Child & Adolescent Family Services Group Room

How: Family physician referral is required.
(Have your physician mention: Dr. Cooperman's Adolescent Depression Group)

For more information, contact
Dr. Jessica Cooperman, C.Psych. at
(905) 472-7373 x 6187.



Registration

Rhythmic Gymnastics

Beginning Sept. 8, 2003
Registration Sept. 20-21 - 6 - 9 pm
• Fitness • Fun • Dance • Play
• Learn hoops, balls, ribbons & rope
190 Bullock Rd; Unit 11, Markham
905-642-5383

Centre for Music & the Arts
Music Lessons • Drama Classes
Art Classes
New students receive \$100 Off the price of tuition.
Receive an additional \$100 off upon registration of new student referred to us by you!
Offer expires Oct 31/03.
www.artsintegra.com 905-471-3001

MACKLIN HOUSE DAYCARE
REGISTRATION IN PROGRESS
2501 Denison Street, Markham
TODDLER, PRESCHOOL, KINDERGARTEN
& SCHOOL AGE PROGRAMS
• Full & Part Time Programs
• Professional, Qualified Staff
• Enriching Programs including reading, writing and math readiness
• Nutritious Home Made Meals Provided
** Government Subsidy Available
Transportation to and from School available
LIMITED SPACES
Call (905) 472-6201

I can read to my mom!

Research shows that children who read earlier do better in school and in life. Oxford's Little Readers program will help your preschooler get ready for school...and life. Lasting success is built on a solid foundation.

www.oxfordlearning.com
Steeles Ave. & McCowan 416-321-1646
16th Ave. & Hwy. 48 905-201-2700
Hwy. 7 & Kennedy 905-513-8186

LITTLE READERS ACADEMY

READING WRITING MATH MUSIC ART COMPUTERS

Registering Now!

CHILDREN'S ART CLASSES
LEARN TO DRAW & PAINT
in a Fun & Nurturing Environment
MARKHAM & STOUFFVILLE
Markham Class location @
Loblaws, McCowan & Bullock
Stouffville @ 6358 Main St. Stouffville
CALL OLGA SENYK 905-640-7956

MARKHAM MINOR HOCKEY HOUSE LEAGUE FINAL REGISTRATION
Cost: \$400 per player.
Space is limited.
Place: Centennial Arena Lobby
Time: Sat. August 23rd
10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

NORTH MARKHAM NURSERY SCHOOL
REGISTER NOW
for the 2003-2004 School Year
AGES 2-1/2 to 4
Located in the...
Markham Missionary Church
5438 Major Mackenzie Drive East
(Intersection of McCowan Rd. and Major Mackenzie), Markham
For more information...
Ellon Barnett, E.C.E., Supervisor
Nursery School Phone: (905) 294-0707
School Operates
Monday to Friday Mornings Only
9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.