



STAFF PHOTO/SJOERD WITTEVEEN

Halli Dekker, 7, writes her name in the snow on the family van after delivering the Sun-Tribune Saturday. Weekend snow cut power to hundreds of homes in Whitchurch-Stouffville Sunday and Monday.

## Hundreds lose power in weekend snow dump

BY HANNELORE VOLPE  
Staff Writer

Heavy, wet snow and driving winds led to power outages in Stouffville from 11:30 p.m. Saturday night to around noon the next morning.

For others in town, the power went off for about two hours Sunday morning.

Traffic lights along Main Street stopped working intermittently through the day. Homes on Elm Road were dark for about 90 minutes in the morning.

In the west end of town, Shoppers Drug Mart had to close from about 10 a.m. to around 1 p.m. Sunday because of power outages, owner Paul Karas said.

The mayor's office received several calls from residents asking when power would be restored.

*By Sunday night, about 5,000 customers were without power in the area. Power was lost in another 1,000 homes by Monday morning.*

Eleven traffic accidents in Whitchurch-Stouffville were attributed to the storm, York Region Police spokesperson Kathleen Griffin said. However, there were no serious injuries.

One family in the rural part of the municipality built a seven-foot snowman Sunday, that began

melting Monday.

When works crews headed out to clear municipal roads, there were a number of equipment breakdowns due to snow and other factors.

Snow clearing equipment is kept ready to go until the middle of April, public works director Paul Whitehouse said.

More than 300,000 customers in Ontario were without power during the snowstorm, which dumped around 30 centimetres in areas north of Bloomington Road.

Markham, Whitchurch-Stouffville, King City and Richmond Hill were hardest hit. Some areas were still without power Monday, including about 30 customers in Whitchurch-Stouffville, Hydro One spokesperson Daffyd Roderick said.

Extra crews had to be called out as treacherous and sometimes impassable roads made for dangerous work conditions.

"We appreciate how well our crews have been treated by local people", Mr. Roderick said.

Many offered tea and other refreshments to crews working in the driving snow.

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Mr. Roderick compared this spring storm to one in 2003 that caused damage across the province.



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