

Dry well owners lose appliances

Power outage leaves homeowners out thousands

BY HANNELORE VOLPE
Staff Writer

Residents in the Bethesda Road community have not only watched their wells run low and pond levels drop drastically this summer, they've been out shopping for thousands of dollars worth of new appliances.

Appliances in about eight homes were damaged at the same time when a power outage occurred in the spring.

Mr. Emery and his neighbours have had to replace or repair the damaged appliances out of their own pockets.

In April, the community lost power overnight during a bad storm. Once hydro crews got the power going again, several households on the street found that a power surge left them with damaged appliances.

Many appliances had to be replaced, Bethesda Road resident Bryan Emery said. He lost almost all of his kitchen appliances connected to one circuit breaker.

He had to replace his stove, satellite receiver, the TV in the kitchen and coffee percolator. He's had the

fridge repaired twice, but it still isn't working properly.

"Everything on that circuit in the kitchen was gone," he said.

More than one neighbour had computers destroyed.

Phoning Hydro One got Mr. Emery in touch with an insurance adjusting company. He and several of his neighbours, he said, filled out the required forms but didn't hear back until three months later — and then only at his prompting.

The insurance company stated that the fault didn't lie with hydro staff and that they thought the weather played a part, Mr. Emery said.

In the meantime, Mr. Emery and his neighbours have had to replace or repair the damaged appliances out of their own pockets.

Another local resident, Doug Pike, lost his microwave and a satellite receiver.

He called Hydro One and also sent a letter, outlining what happened, but hasn't heard back from them, he said.

Mr. Emery noted that the hydro professional people were on strike during that time. The strike is still on.

Mr. Emery be one of several residents who will pursue the matter with Hydro One.

The insurance company has asked residents to send in the receipts for the appliances, Mr. Emery said.

Hydro One did not respond to calls by The Sun-Tribune by press time.

Markham experiments with parking permits

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the city will begin an experiment this fall allowing residents to pay for a permit to park overnight.

"Each local councillor will select the area for the pilot and I'm hoping they pick my neighbourhood."

Ms Jackson said developers in Vaughan are now being advised to

include parking-restriction information in their purchase agreements with new home buyers.

Parking isn't usually a high priority when people are hunting for homes, said Richmond Hill's bylaw manager Rick McGee.

"They always look at the number of bedrooms, but not parking spaces," he said. "It's definitely a problem with newer developments."

Richmond Hill allows a small portion of lawns for parking, but Mr. McGee says it must not exceed 45 per cent of the frontage.

Markham experienced some initial problem in the Cornell development and decided to allow permit parking there, Regional Councillor Jack Heath said.

"Since we allowed the purchase of a six-month permit, only about 25 people applied," he said.

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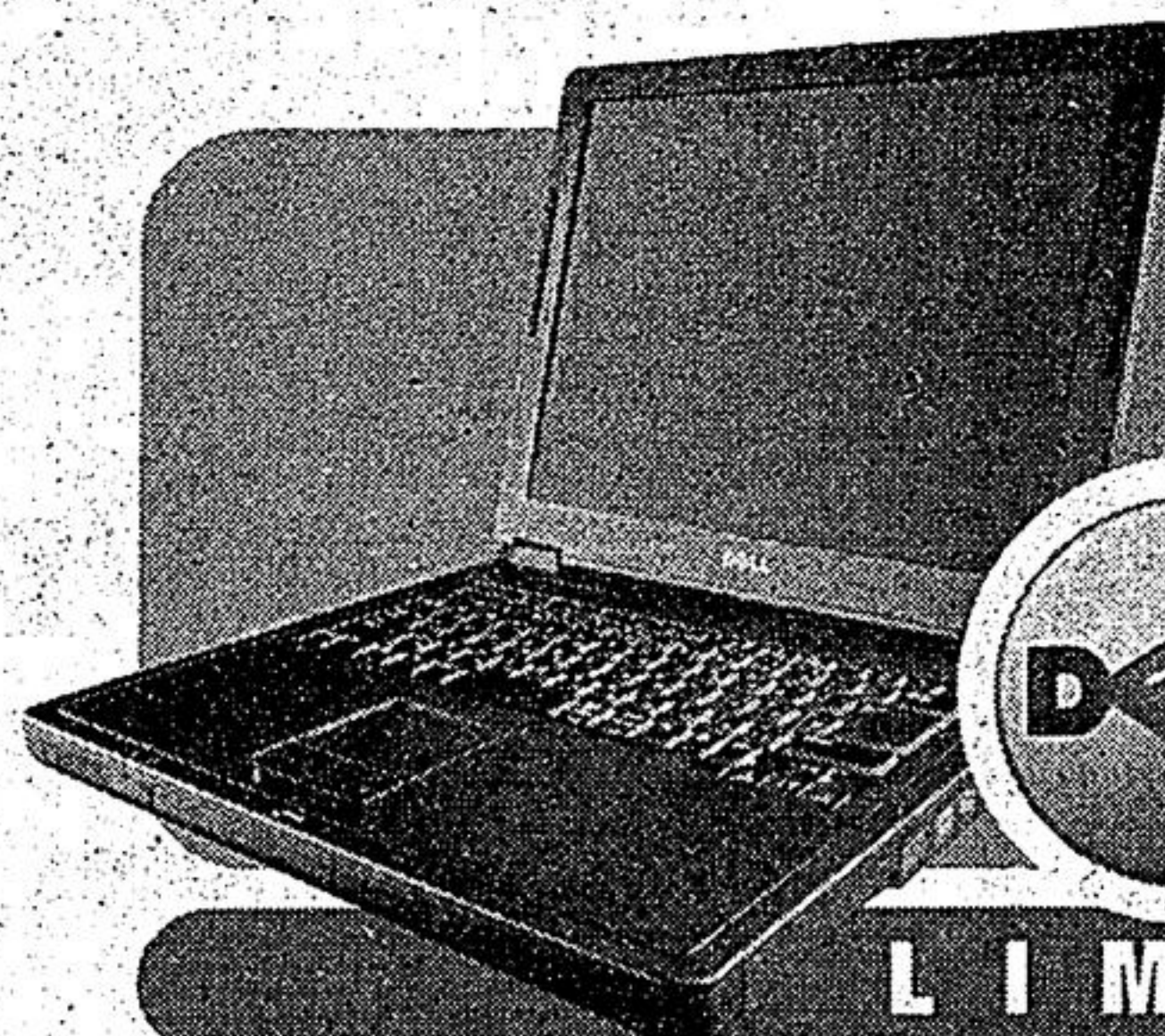
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